

Comprehension Workbook 1

Clothing in Antarctica

(Keeping warm)



Find out about the meaning of stories and articles

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Find out about the meaning of stories and articles

Weather around the world

Matches the requirements of the Literacy Strategy and designed to integrate with your normal subject studies. (This material is independent of any specific text book and can be used alongside any publisher's books including our textbook.)

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Clothing in Antarctica

My name is Dave and I'm a scientist. I study life in the Antarctic. This year, I am spending a year living at the Antarctic and doing research. I need to bring everything with me, so packing is very important.



There are no stores in the Antarctic when I can buy things I forget. Because it is very cold in the Antarctic, warm clothes are the most important. In the Antarctic, we dress in many layers of clothes. The layers help to keep the heat in so I don't get cold.

Here is how I get dressed to work outside in the Antarctic. First, I put on a thermal shirt and thermal trousers. These are made of a thin material that is also very warm. Second, I put on a long-sleeved shirt and wool trousers. The third thing I put on is a fleece sleeveless vest.



The fourth thing I put on is a pair of thin, waterproof trousers and a thick jacket. The fifth thing I put on is a thin jacket that is waterproof and windproof. Sixth, I put on two pairs of socks - one pair of thin socks and one pair of thick, wool socks. I also put on some heavy boots that are lined with fleece.

The seventh thing I put on is a warm hat. I also wear a scarf and sunglasses. The last things that I put on are two pairs of gloves - one pair of thin, waterproof gloves and then over these I wear a pair of very thick, warm gloves.

Now I am ready to go outside!



Understanding words

Before we can understand a story we have to know what all of the words mean. Let's try one...

a Write a sentence in which you found the word 'waterproof'.

b From that sentence, write what you think 'waterproof' means.

c Write a new sentence using the word 'waterproof'.

d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'waterproof'.

e Draw a picture of a piece of 'waterproof' clothing.



Finding key words

Next, we need to find the key words that tell us what the story is about...

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list like the one below. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym). You don't have to use all the spaces, but you should not use more.

Key word	Synonym (similar word)
Example: thin	slim

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Summarising

(the gist of the story)

To summarise means to rewrite the story in a shorter version using as many of our key words from Task 2 as needed.

1 Write a heading for your summary.

2 Now write the main idea in one sentence.
e.g. "This story tells us..."

3 Now add some detail to the main idea by writing more sentences after it.



**Finally,
can you rewrite your
summary to make it better?**

- 1. Look out for errors such as using the same word too often – use alternatives.**
- 2. Make sure you have summarised the author's purpose in your OWN words.**
- 3. Make sure your summary is in a logical order.**
- 4. Is your summary informative AND interesting to others?**

**There is
nothing wrong
with rewriting; even
the best authors
rewrite their
work.**

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Sequencing

Sequencing means getting the events in the right order. Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense.



Second, I put on a long-sleeved shirt and wool trousers.

The seventh thing I put on is a warm hat.

The last things that I put on are two pairs of gloves

The third thing I put on is a fleece sleeveless vest.

The fourth thing I put on is a pair of thin, waterproof trousers and a thick jacket.



Get to the facts

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the facts of the story.



1 How many layers of clothes does Dave need to wear?

2 Why is Dave in the Antarctic?

3 How many pairs of gloves does Dave wear?

4 What does Dave wear on his head?

5 What does Dave wear on his feet?



Whys and wherefores

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the meanings in the story and how it was written.



1 Why are warm clothes so important in the Antarctic?

2 Why does Dave need to dress in layers?

3 Why is packing important for Dave?

4 Why does Dave need waterproof clothes?



Opinions matter

Answer these questions to give your views and to develop the story.



- 1 What do you think would happen if Dave did not wear so many layers to go outside?
- 2 Why do you think Dave needs windproof clothes?
- 3 Do you think it takes Dave a long time to get dressed each day?
- 4 Do you think Dave wears fewer clothes inside?
- 5 Why do you think Dave needs goggles?



Talking it through

It often helps if a group of people get together and discuss a problem.



Discussion topic: Wearing many layers

How would you feel if you had to wear as many layers of clothes as Dave every day?



Make a story...

When you read a description it often gives you ideas about how the event might be described differently.



At the South Pole

You arrive at the South Pole base and the entrance to the base is a large lid in the ground!.

(Now imagine what the underground base looks like and why it needs to have a lid that shuts firmly tight...)

Clothing for Antarctica

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