

ICE NEWS

LIFE BELOW THE ICE



British Antarctic Survey

SURPRISED scientists have accidentally discovered marine organisms living 900m under the ice in the Antarctic.

The discovery of 16 sponges and 22 unidentified animals was made by researchers led by the British Antarctic Survey, who drilled through 900m of the Filchner-Ronne ice shelf looking for mud on the seabed.

They sent a camera down to take a look at what was going on and discovered the marine organisms, some of which could be unknown species, attached to a boulder.

“There’s all sorts of reasons they shouldn’t be there,” said one of the team. The discovery has led scientists to rethink the limits of life on Earth.

LONDON, UK



Getty

COLD temperatures caused the fountains in Trafalgar Square to freeze. Heavy snow brought a week of freezing temperatures to many parts of the UK.



WOW!

THE Met Office has revealed that the UK has had its lowest temperature in 26 years.

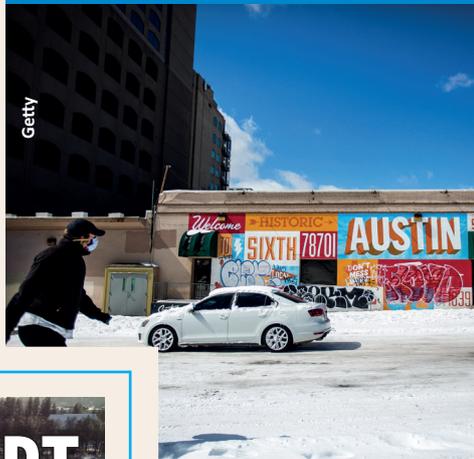


Getty

Temperatures as low as -22.9°C were recorded in Braemar, Aberdeenshire. Brrrr!

That’s colder than a domestic freezer, which will generally be set to -18°C!

USA



Getty

● Texas freezes

Texans are feeling pretty chilly this month, as the US state sees record-breaking low temperatures. Some parts of Texas hit -18°C last weekend and, for the first time ever, all 254 counties in the state are under a winter storm warning. President Joe Biden has declared an emergency in Texas, which allows the state to access disaster relief funds. Icy roads have led to huge car crashes, and some areas have had power cuts.

BRRR-ILLIANT ART



Getty

THIS amazing artwork has been created entirely from footprints in the snow.

A team of volunteers stomped their way through the white stuff to create this super cool snowflake design. They used just snowshoes and lengths of rope.

The whole thing took two days to complete and measured an impressive 160 metres across. It was created at a golf course in Helsinki, Finland, and could be the largest snow-drawing ever to be made in the Nordic country!

Artist Janne Pyykkö came up with the idea for the frozen fun.

ESSEX



Palmer and Partners

● Igloo for sale

An estate agent in Clacton-on-Sea listed an igloo for sale for a whopping £250,000. The joke advert by estate agents Palmer & Partners claimed the igloo was on the made-up North Pole Road, and was described as a “one bedroom house” which would make a “great first home”. Brady Rackham of Palmer & Partners said of the funny advert: “If it made people smile and laugh then it was worth it.”

ICE NEWS



GLOSSARY

- accidentally** – Not intended or planned
- boulder** – Large rock
- declared** – Confirmed and announced something
- domestic** – In the home
- estate agent** – A company or person who sells houses, building and properties
- marine** – Sealife
- organisms** – Tiny living creatures
- unidentified** – Not recognised
- volunteers** – People who willingly offer to do something

■ Consider all the articles

- 1a. Describe the common theme that links all of the stories.
- 1b. Why is this topic news worthy?
2. Match the **amounts** and **measurements** to the correct **description**.

250,000	The temperature of a domestic freezer in degrees Celsius
160	Lowest temperature in degrees Celsius recorded in the UK for 26 years
254	Price in UK pounds (£) an igloo was advertised at
-22.9	The width in metres of the snow art created from footprints
-18	The number of counties in Texas in a state of emergency due to the weather
900	The depth in metres that researchers drilled down under ice in Antarctica

■ Look at the article 'Life below the ice'

3a. Which different words were used in the article to describe what the scientists found under the ice? Tick all the words used:

- Marine organisms
 Objects
 Unidentified animals
 Life
 Fossils

3b. When describing the marine organisms found under the ice, one scientist said: "There's all sorts of reasons they shouldn't be there."

What do you think these reasons could be? (Hint: think about the conditions and habitat under the ice)

■ Look at the News in Pictures article from London, UK

4. What does the picture show? Explain what is unusual about this.

■ Look at the WOW! article

5. The article compares the record low temperatures to the temperature of which domestic appliance?

■ Look at the article 'Brrr-illiant art'

6. What play on words has the journalist used to create the headline of the article?
- 7a. How was the artwork created?
- 7b. What do you think about the artwork? What do you like about it/dislike about it?

■ Look at the article from Essex: 'Igloo for sale'

- 8a. What was the purpose of the igloo advert?
- 8b. What was the estate agent hoping would happen?

■ Think about all the news stories

9. What picture or sculpture would you like to make in the snow? Explain why.
10. Some people like the cold weather, snow and ice and other people do not. There are both good and bad effects of cold weather. List some arguments for and against the cold weather in the table below:

POSITIVES	NEGATIVES

ICE NEWS



GLOSSARY

- accidentally** – Not intended or planned
- boulder** – Large rock
- declared** – Confirmed and announced something
- domestic** – In the home
- estate agent** – A company or person who sells houses, building and properties
- marine** – Sealife
- organisms** – Tiny living creatures
- unidentified** – Not recognised
- volunteers** – People who willingly offer to do something

■ Consider all the articles

1a. Describe the common theme that links all of the stories.

.....

1b. Why is this topic news worthy?

.....

.....

2. Match the **amounts** and **measurements** to the correct **description**.

250,000	The temperature of a domestic freezer in degrees Celsius
160	Lowest temperature in degrees Celsius recorded in the UK for 26 years
254	Price in UK pounds (£) an igloo was advertised at
-22.9	The width in metres of the snow art created from footprints
-18	The number of counties in Texas in a state of emergency due to the weather
900	The depth in metres that researchers drilled down under ice in Antarctica

■ Look at the article 'Life below the ice'

3a. Which different words were used in the article to describe what the scientists found under the ice? Tick all the words used:

- Marine organisms
 Objects
 Unidentified animals
 Life
 Fossils

3b. When describing the marine organisms found under the ice, one scientist said: "There's all sorts of reasons they shouldn't be there."

What do you think these reasons could be? (Hint: think about the conditions and habitat under the ice)

.....

.....

.....

.....

■ Look at the News in Pictures article from London, UK

4. What does the picture show? Explain what is unusual about this.

.....

.....

■ Look at the WOW! article

5. The article compares the record low temperatures to the temperature of which domestic appliance?

.....

■ Look at the article 'Brrr-illiant art'

6. What play on words has the journalist used to create the headline of the article?

.....

.....

7a. How was the artwork created?

.....

7b. What do you think about the artwork? What do you like about it/dislike about it?

.....

.....

■ Look at the article from Essex: 'Igloo for sale'

8a. What was the purpose of the igloo advert?

.....

8b. What was the estate agent hoping would happen?

.....

.....

■ Think about all the news stories

9. What picture or sculpture would you like to make in the snow? Explain why.

.....

.....

10. Some people like the cold weather, snow and ice and other people do not. There are both good and bad effects of cold weather. List some arguments for and against the cold weather in the table below:

POSITIVES	NEGATIVES
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

TEACHER ANSWERS

AIM OF THE NEWS COMPREHENSIONS: News reports are unique non-fiction texts. Being real, they naturally engage students, and with the range of topics that are covered, help to develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of the wider world outside the classroom. The reports are ideal for short, focused comprehension or discussion activities. Along with the opportunity to find fascinating facts and appreciate the opinions of those involved, there is plenty to be inferred and deduced to understand in more depth what is being reported. Like authors, journalists play with language, so news 'stories' are rich nuggets of text to investigate and provide the opportunity for literacy programmes.

TEACHER ANSWER GUIDE: The teacher answers are intended to provide a quick reference guide. Suggestions are given for the 'Expected response' or starting point that pupils could give. The 'Development' then gives more in-depth ideas that students can work towards as they develop their reading comprehension skills.

For a list of the reading skills used, please email schools@firstnews.co.uk.

■ Consider all the articles

1a. Describe the common theme that links all of the stories.

READING SKILL – Make comparisons between texts
(NC 1e and 1f)

Expected response

- The articles are all about the cold weather.

Development

- The articles all share the common theme of ice, snow and extreme cold weather experienced in different parts of the world last week.

1b. Why is this topic news worthy?

READING SKILL – Infer information based on own knowledge (non-text-based inference)

Expected response

- The weather has become news worthy as it is unusually cold.

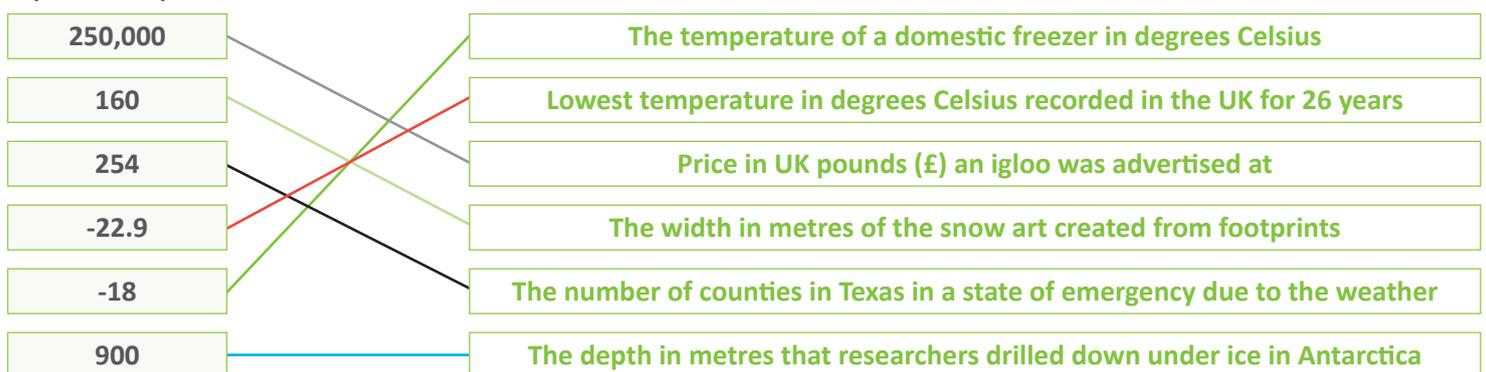
Development

- These stories about the weather have become news worthy due to the extreme temperatures and records set, or because they are unusual or unexpected.

2. Match the amounts and measurements to the correct description

READING SKILL – Find and explain information
(NC2a)

Expected response



■ Look at the article 'Life below the ice'

3a. Which different words were used in the article to describe what the scientists found under the ice?

Tick all the words used:

READING SKILL – Find and explain information
(NC2a)

Expected response

- Marine organisms Objects Unidentified animals Life Fossils

3b. When describing the marine organisms found under the ice, one scientist said: "There's all sorts of reasons they shouldn't be there."

What do you think these reasons could be? (Hint: think about the conditions and habitat under the ice)

READING SKILL – Infer information based on own knowledge (non-text-based inference)

Expected response:

- It is so cold under the ice
- It is so dark under the ice
- There is no food under the ice

Development:

• The living conditions and habitat deep under the ice are extreme and not considered suitable for living organisms. The temperature would be extremely low. It would be extremely dark and difficult to survive.

■ **Look at the News in Pictures article from London, UK**

4. What does the picture show? Explain what is unusual about this.

READING SKILL – Infer information and justify with evidence

(NC 2c & 8)

Expected response

- The picture shows a fountain. It is unusual because the water is frozen.

Development

- The picture shows a famous fountain/statue in London. It is unusual as the water has frozen.

■ **Look at the WOW! article**

5. The article compares the record low temperatures to the temperature of which domestic appliance?

READING SKILL – Find and explain information

(NC 2a)

Expected response

- A freezer

■ **Look at the article 'Brrr-illiant art'**

6. What play on words has the journalist used to create the headline of the article?

READING SKILL – Recognise the effects of language choices

(NC1e and 1f)

Expected response

- They have added in extra 'rr' to make the word brilliant sound like 'brrr' which is a sound made in cold weather. This describes the brilliant but cold artwork.

7a. How was the artwork created?

READING SKILL – Find and explain information

(NC2a)

Expected response

- By footprints and ropes

7b. What do you think about the artwork? What do you like about it/dislike about it?

READING SKILL – Develop opinions and provide justification of viewpoints

(NC 6, 7, 8)

Expected response

- A personal opinion. Pupils should state whether they like the artwork or not and give a reason.

Example answer

- I really like this artwork as it is such a clever idea and a unique way to create art. I would like to have a go next time it snows!

■ **Look at the article from Essex: 'Igloo for sale'**

8a What was the purpose of the igloo advert?

READING SKILL – Find and explain information

(NC2a)

Expected response

- To make people laugh or smile

8b. What was the estate agent hoping would happen?

READING SKILL – Infer information and justify with evidence
(NC 2c & 8)

Expected response

- He might have hoped that people would be fooled at first into thinking an igloo was for sale but see it was a joke and find it funny

Development

- Brady was hoping to make people smile and laugh. He wanted to fool people with his joke advert, but then to make them laugh with the way he described it as being a ‘one bedroom house’ on ‘North Pole Road’.

Think about all the news stories

9. What picture or sculpture would you like to make in the snow? Explain why.

READING SKILL – Develop personal ideas from reading news stories
(NC 6, 7 and 8)

Expected response

- A personal response. Pupils should give a reason.

Example answer

- I would like to make a footprint picture in the snow because I have been inspired by the article. I would create a picture of a robot because I like robots and I am really interested in them.

10. Some people like the cold weather, snow and ice and other people do not. There are both good and bad effects of cold weather. List some arguments for and against the cold weather in the table below:

READING SKILL – Infer information and justify with evidence
(NC 2c & 8)

Example answer

POSITIVES	NEGATIVES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It’s fun to play in the snow • You can make snowmen, sculptures and artwork • You can go sledging • You can go skiing • It looks very pretty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It can be dangerous as people may slip and hurt themselves • The ice can cause accidents • The bad weather can cause power cuts leaving people without heating and power • The cold temperatures can be dangerous and people can die from cold • Crops can be ruined • Buildings can be damaged