**Year 7 ILT Spring Term**

**Reading Comprehension 1- Living on Ice**

Read the passage carefully and then complete the tasks below.

When you hear the word ‘Antartica’ you probably think of ice and snow, freezing cold temperatures and penguins. You probably don’t think of home! But for 1000 to 5000 people annually Antartica, our seventh continent , is a kind of home.

Antartica is a massive place taking up about 4.5 million square miles. It is classfied as an continent since it is a land mass. The rough seas, the complete isolation and the difficult climate made it impossible for early normandic people to get to. Unlike the Artic, which has been populated by normandic tribes of hunters for thousands of years. Antartica was noticed by seafarers in 1820’s and had no human inhabitants at all until the 1950’s.

The main reason for a lack of human habitation is due to the ice that covers the land masses, this is one and half miles thick and as the sea builds up around the continent in winter, this causes it to double in size. The average temperature there is -60\* Fahrenheit. White nights means there are days where in the summer, day and nights have constant light, this happens in December. It is the opposite in June where the land is entirely dark throughout the day and night!

But what does this mean for the humans attempting to live there? Alongside the extreme cold temperature which can cause frostbite and hypothermia, nothing grows outdoors here. The high altitude causes sickness. Understandbly people would have found adaptation to the environment difficult. Yet the harsh environment and dark nights have made it a perfect setting for the observation of the solar system and studying ocean creatures like penguins and whales. The continent is used by several countries for scientific and research purposes only. Reasearch stations have been created with more prosaic requirements of human life.

**Living on ‘The Ice’ Comprehension**

1. Give three reasons for Antarctica remaining uninhabited for so long.
2. How big is the Antarctica?
3. Give one example of a way in which the Arctic and Antarctica are different.
4. Give two general facts about the weather in Antarctica.
5. What are white nights?
6. What happens in June?
7. Why have research stations been created?
8. Give two examples of the type of work you might do in Antarctica.
9. Name two ways in which the natural conditions of the continent might affect human beings.
10. What makes Antarctica so important to research?