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Science

Science

Earth Science

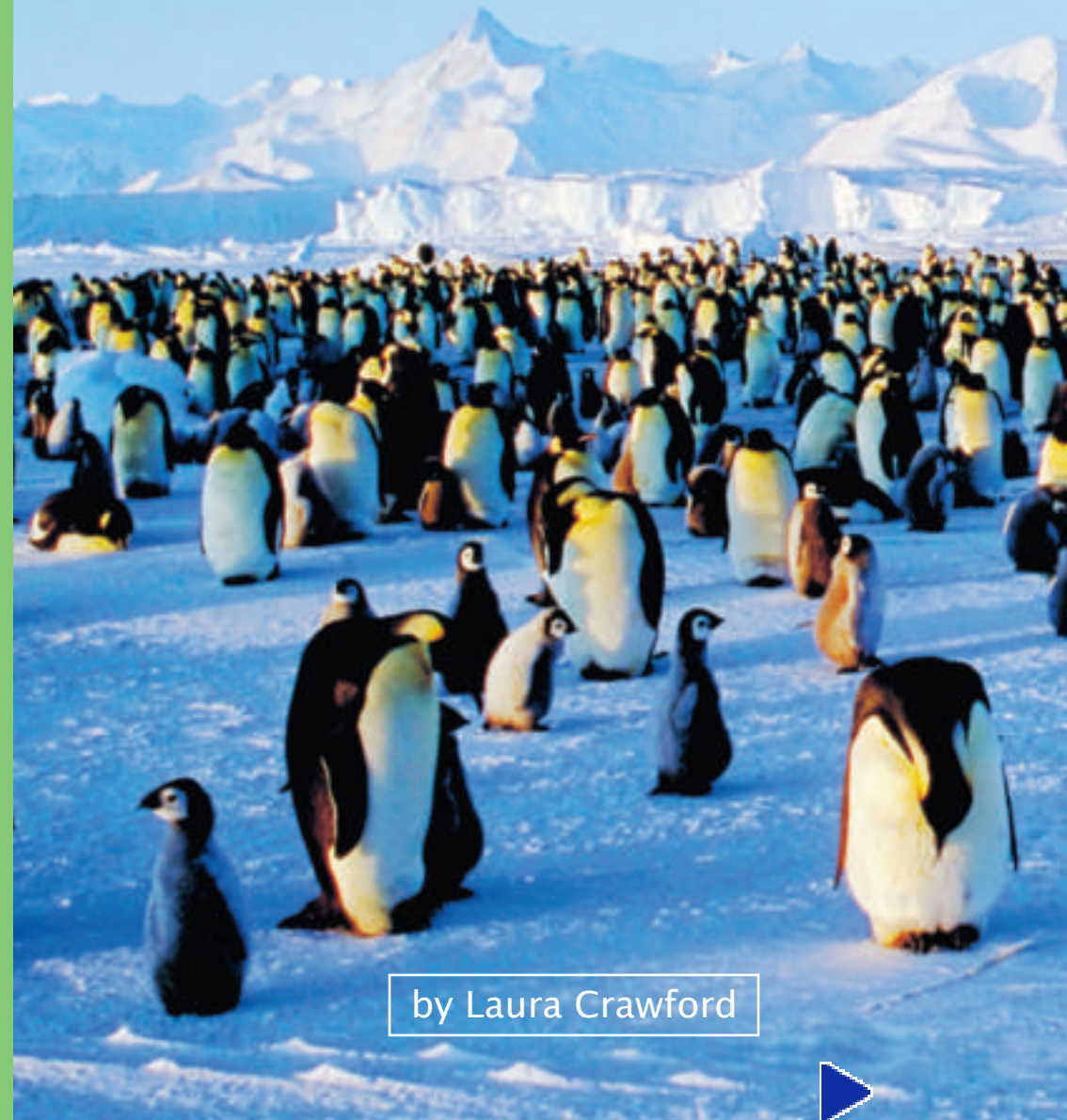
Antarctica: The Frozen Continent

Genre	Comprehension Skills and Strategy	Text Features
Expository nonfiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Main Idea and Details• Generalize• Graphic Organizers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Map• Captions• Diagram

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by Laura Crawford





Antarctica:

The Frozen Continent

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Antarctica is the coldest place on Earth. It is a frozen continent covered in ice. The South Pole is on Antarctica. The South Pole is the farthest south that you can go!

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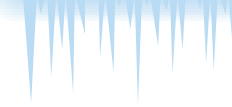
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Antarctica





Antarctica is very windy. It is also very dry. Antarctica is so dry that scientists call it a desert. The small amount of snow that falls there never melts. It is moved around by the wind until it freezes into ice.



Few people other than scientists have been to Antarctica. It costs a lot of money to send food and supplies there. But penguins, seals, fish, and whales live there year-round.



Orca whales



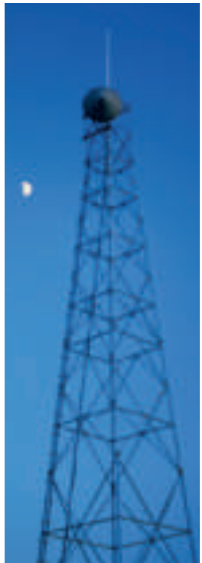
Leopard seal

Emperor penguin

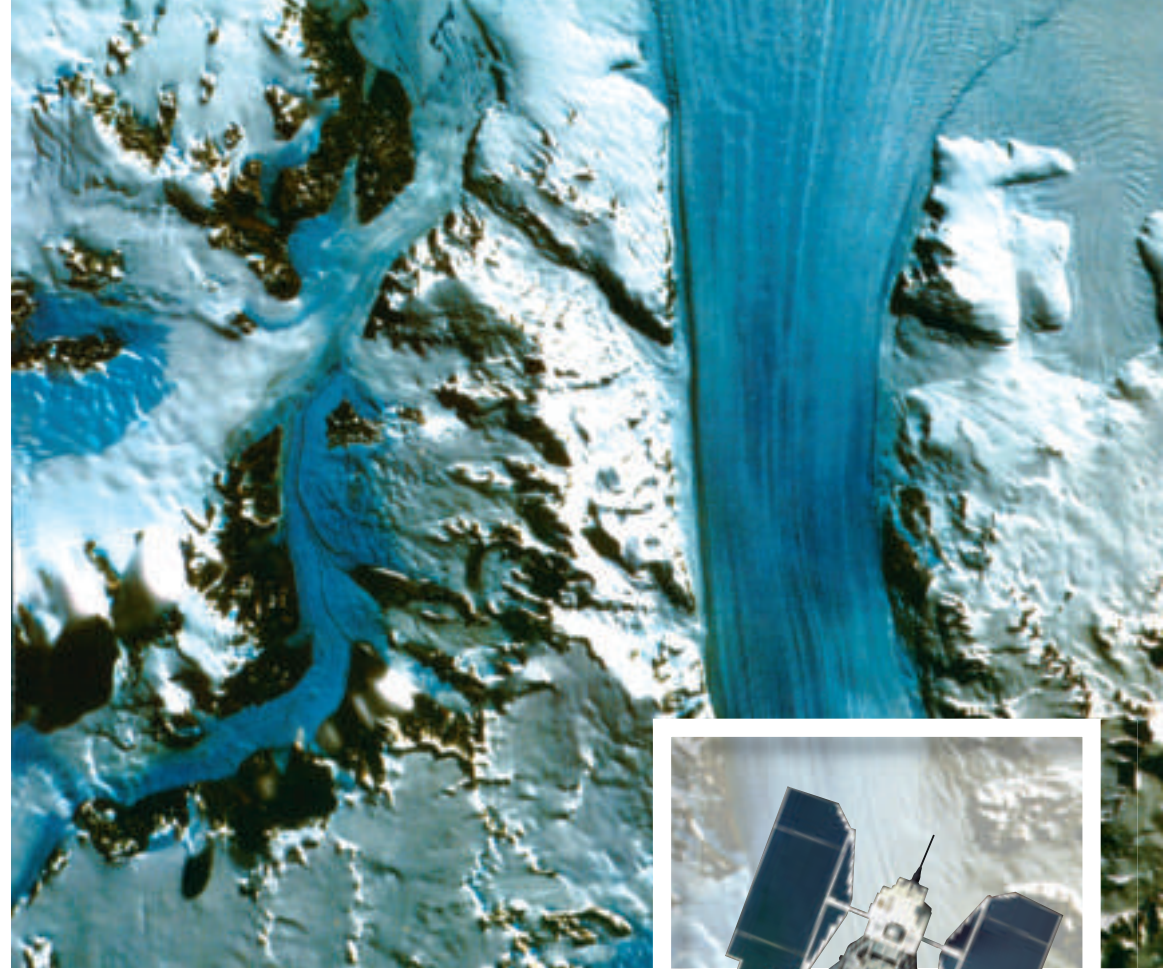




Scientists study the weather in Antarctica. They use a radio called an acoustic sounder. It sends beeping sounds high up into the air. The beeping sounds make an echo that tells scientists the wind's speed and direction.



Radio tower for acoustic sounder



Satellite photo of Antarctic glacier



Satellites help scientists study the weather in Antarctica. Weather information from the satellites is sent down to Earth.

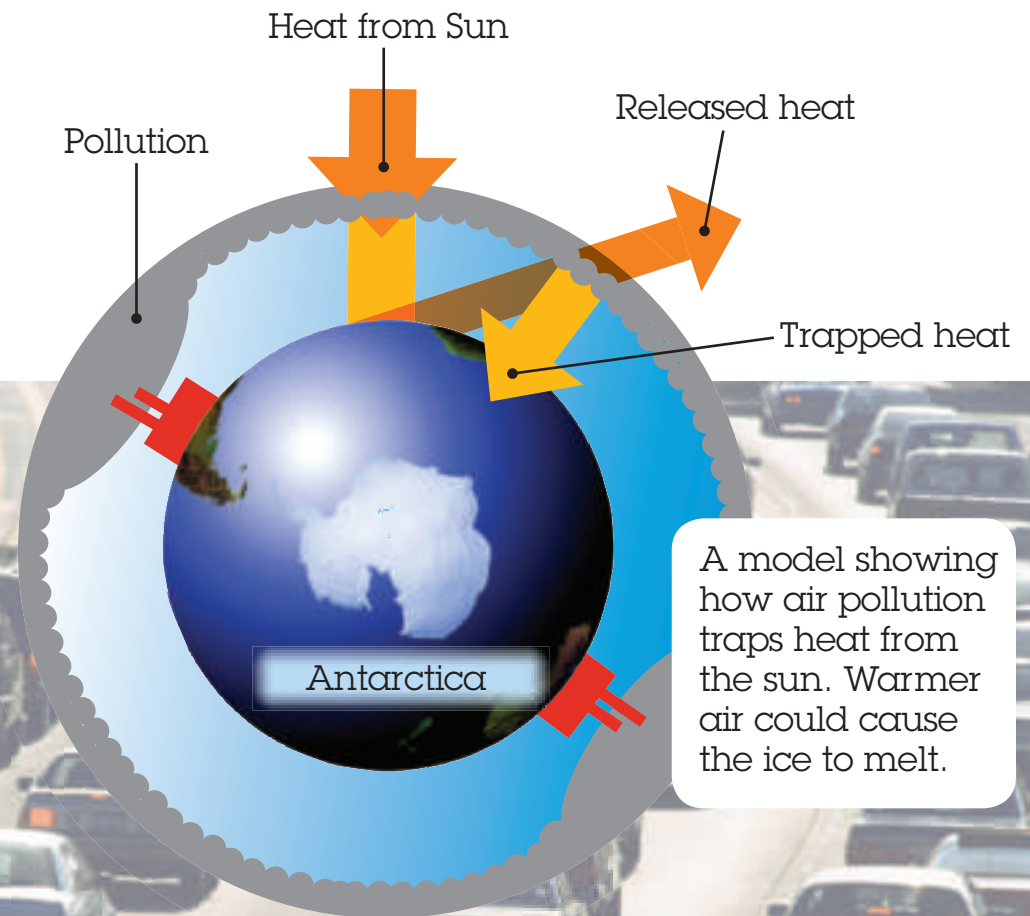




Antarctic weather balloon and research station



Scientists are learning about global warming on Antarctica. Global warming happens when air pollution traps heat inside the Earth's atmosphere. Some parts of Antarctica have become warmer. Other parts are growing colder.

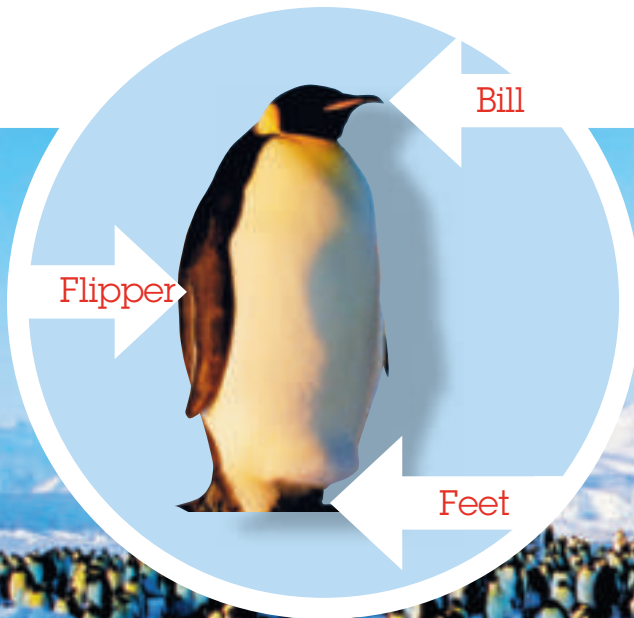


Scientists in Antarctica also study the weather with balloons. Each day, they launch the balloons into the air. Radios attached to the balloons record information about the air.





Emperor penguins spend their whole lives in Antarctica. Penguins cannot fly. But they are very good swimmers. They use their feet and flippers to swim. Penguins use their bills to preen, or clean and smooth their feathers.



Female emperor penguins lay one egg. The male emperor penguin takes care of the egg. He snuggles and cuddles the egg with his feet. Soon the chick is ready to hatch. It pecks at the shell until it breaks.





For emperor penguins, seals, fish, and whales, the climate in Antarctica is just right. Scientists will continue to study Antarctica's climate and watch for signs of change. In this way they are protecting the animals that make their home there.



Reader Response

1. What is the main idea of this book?
2. Use a graphic organizer like the one below to write about the three main ways that scientists study the weather and climate in Antarctica.

1.	2.	3.

3. Find the word *preen* on page 10. How did you know what it means?
4. A model is a drawing that helps you understand an idea. What are you able to learn from the model of global warming on page 9?

