



Grade 2

# Weekly Assessments



Read the article “The Arctic and the Antarctic” before answering Numbers 1 through 5.

## The Arctic and the Antarctic

It is easy to think the Arctic and Antarctic are a lot alike. In some ways they are alike, but they are different in many ways.

The Arctic is at the top of the world. It is the area around the North Pole. The Antarctic is at the bottom of the world. It is the area around the South Pole.

### Weather

Both places are very, very cold. Both the Arctic and the Antarctic are covered with ice. Much of that ice never melts. You may be surprised to know there are not many snowstorms in either place. Bits of ice blow around and look like falling snow.

### What Is Under the Ice?

One very big difference is what is under the ice. Water is under most of the ice in the Arctic. Land is under most of the ice in the Antarctic.

How can that be? Most of the Arctic area is the Arctic Ocean. The ocean’s water freezes to make the icy Arctic surface. However, there is some land in the southern parts of the Arctic. The Antarctic is a large continent. It has plains, valleys, and mountains. They are buried under ice.

### Plants and Animals

The Arctic is warmer than the Antarctic. Small plants grow on Arctic land throughout the summer. The Antarctic has almost no plants. It is just too cold! A few small plants grow there each summer.

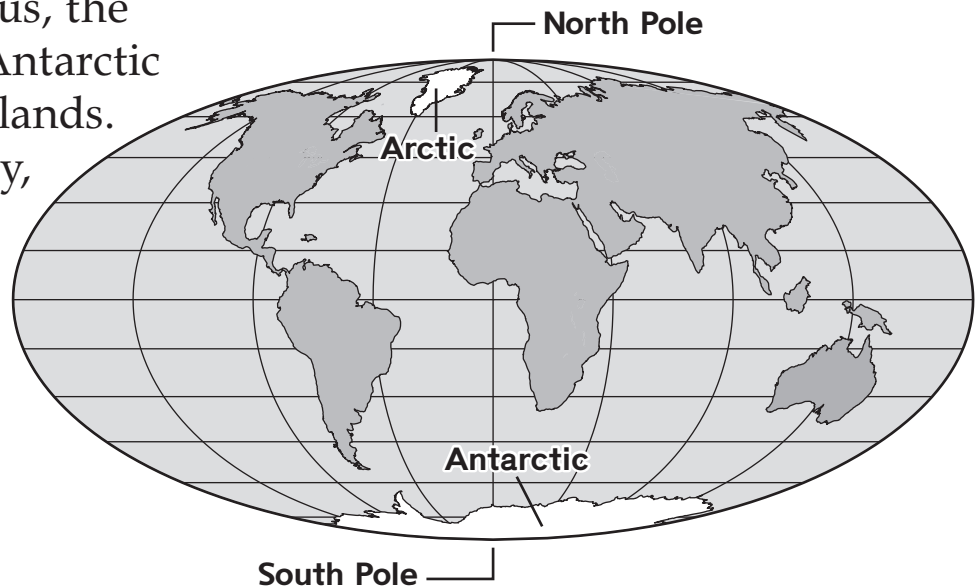
**GO ON →**

Animals live in both places. Polar bears live in the Arctic. So do reindeer, foxes, and wolves. Most animals are unable to survive the cold in the Antarctic, but penguins live there. Whales, seals, and porpoises swim in both the Arctic and the Antarctic waters.

## People

Many people live in the Arctic. There are towns and small cities on the land areas. The Antarctic is so cold that nobody lives there for long. Scientists who study the Antarctic stay there while they work. They live in special buildings and do not spend much time outside. If they are out too long in the cold, parts of their bodies could get frostbite.

For most of us, the Arctic and Antarctic are faraway lands. Both are very, very cold. But they have some very big differences!



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Now answer Numbers 1 through 5. Base your answers on “The Arctic and the Antarctic.”**

- 1** This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

**Part A:** What is the main idea of the article?

- (A)** The Arctic and Antarctic are covered with ice.
- (B)** The Arctic and Antarctic are both alike and different.
- (C)** The Arctic and Antarctic are different in many ways.
- (D)** The Arctic and Antarctic have different types of plants.

**Part B:** Which sentence from the article **best** states the main idea?

- (A)** It is easy to think the Arctic and Antarctic are a lot alike.
- (B)** In some ways they are alike, but they are different in many ways.
- (C)** The Arctic is at the top of the world.
- (D)** The Antarctic is at the bottom of the world.

- 2** How are the Arctic and Antarctic **alike**? Pick **two** choices.

- (A)** They are both very cold.
- (B)** They both do not have plants.
- (C)** They both are at the North Pole.
- (D)** People live in cities in both places.
- (E)** Whales swim in the water in both places.

**3** Which sentence is true **only** for the Antarctic?

- Ⓐ It is covered with ice.
- Ⓑ It is a large continent.
- Ⓒ Many kinds of animals live there.
- Ⓓ It is warmer in winter than summer.

**4** Read the sentence from the article.

If they are out too long in the cold, parts of their bodies could get frostbite.

What is the compound word in the sentence?

- Ⓐ long
- Ⓑ parts
- Ⓒ bodies
- Ⓓ frostbite

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- 5 Make compound words. Draw a line to match each word on the left with a word on the right.

far

deer

out

storms

rein

away

snow

side

Read the article “Beaches” before answering Numbers 6 through 10.

## Beaches

Where can you have tons of fun on a sunny day? At the beach! At a beach, you can collect shells or stones. You can do handstands in the water. You can build a sand castle. A wave might wash it away, but you can just rebuild it!

A beach is a sandy area near an ocean, lake, or river. How do beaches form? First, sand is made when rocks are broken up by moving water. Over time, the pieces break into smaller pieces. Finally, they become sand. Then waves wash the sand to shore.

Usually, few or no plants grow on beaches. Plants do not grow well in sand. This means that beaches are often wide open spaces. There is lots of room to run and play or relax in the sunshine.

### Coastal Beaches

There are different kinds of beaches. Beaches on the shores of oceans are called coastal beaches. Coastal beaches have tides. Two times each day, the water level changes. The water moves up higher on the beach. Then it moves back out. Shells and sea life are left behind. You can find them on the sand.

Coastal beaches can have very big waves. People like to surf the waves!

The water at coastal beaches is salt water. You can smell the salty water in the air. If you swim, you might see salty dust on your skin.



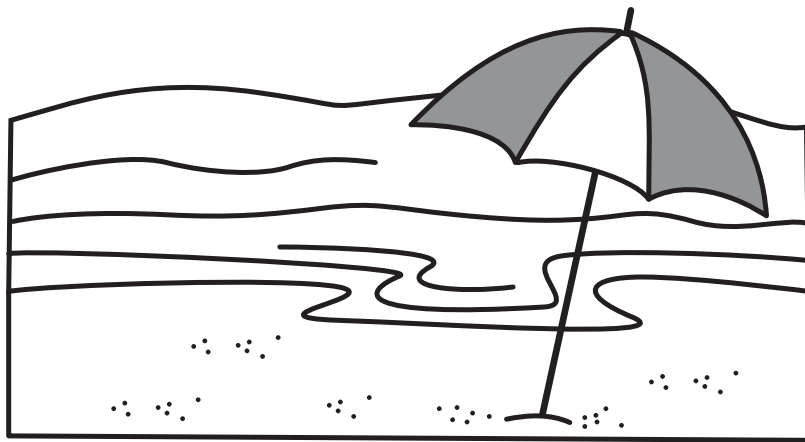
## Inland Beaches

Beaches on lakes and rivers are inland beaches. Inland beaches are a lot like coastal beaches. They have sand and waves. They have space to run and play.

But lakes and rivers are not as big as oceans. They are not as deep. The waves on a lake are small compared to big ocean waves. The waves on a river may be just the movement of the river flowing.

Lake and river water is usually not salty. It is called fresh water.

Beaches are the same in some ways and different in other ways, but you can enjoy any beach! You can collect shells or stones. You can dig holes in the sand, or maybe you can put on your goggles and look for fish underwater. Being at the beach is a great way to have fun outdoors.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Now answer Numbers 6 through 10. Base your answers on "Beaches."

- 6** This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

**Part A:** Which sentence is true **only** for coastal beaches?

- (A)** A lot of plants grow on them.
- (B)** They have space to run and play.
- (C)** They are on the shores of oceans.
- (D)** Their sand is made from broken rocks.

**Part B:** Which sentence from the article supports this idea?

- (A)** There are different kinds of beaches.
- (B)** Beaches on the shores of oceans are called coastal beaches.
- (C)** Two times each day, the water level changes.
- (D)** Coastal beaches can have very big waves.

- 7** Which sentence is true for **both** coastal and inland beaches?

- (A)** They have tides.
- (B)** Their water is not deep.
- (C)** You can have lots of fun there.
- (D)** They are found on lakes and rivers.

**GO ON →**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- 8** Pick **two** words from the article that are compound words.

**A** handstands

**B** rebuild

© sunshine

**D** higher

Ⓔ movement

- 9** Look at the list. Choose **two** things that are true about **both** coastal and inland beaches. Write them in the chart.

True About BOTH Coastal and Inland Beaches

waves	salt water	deep water
fresh water	few or no plants	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- 10** Read the sentence from the article.

You can dig holes in the sand, or maybe you can put on your goggles and look for fish underwater.

What does underwater mean?

- (A)** above the sea
- (B)** under the rocks
- (C)** below the top of the water
- (D)** above the top of the water



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Now answer Number 11. Base your answer on “The Arctic and the Antarctic” and “Beaches.”

- 11** Compare “The Arctic and Antarctic” and “Beaches.” What is the **same** about the two articles? What is **different**? Include information from both articles to support your answer.

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Question	Correct Answer	Content Focus	CCSS	Complexity
1A	B	Main Idea and Key Details	RI.2.2	DOK 2
1B	B	Main Idea and Key Details/Text Evidence	RI.2.2/ RI.2.1	DOK 2
2	A, E	Connections Within Text: Compare and Contrast	RI.2.3	DOK 2
3	B	Connections Within Text: Compare and Contrast	RI.2.3	DOK 2
4	D	Compound Words	L.2.4d	DOK 1
5	see below	Compound Words	L.2.4d	DOK 1
6A	C	Connections Within Text: Compare and Contrast	RI.2.3	DOK 2
6B	B	Connections Within Text: Compare and Contrast/Text Evidence	RI.2.3/ RI.2.1	DOK 2
7	C	Connections Within Text: Compare and Contrast	RI.2.3	DOK 2
8	A, C	Compound Words	L.2.4d	DOK 1
9	see below	Connections Within Text: Compare and Contrast	RI.2.3	DOK 2
10	C	Compound Words	L.2.4d	DOK 1
11	see below	Writing About Text	W.2.8	DOK 4
Comprehension 1A, 1B, 2, 3, 6A, 6B, 7, 9			/12	%
Vocabulary 4, 5, 8, 10			/8	%
Total Weekly Assessment Score			/20	%

- 5 Students should match words to create the following compound words:
- faraway
  - outside
  - reindeer
  - snowstorms
- 9 Students should write the following details in the chart:
- waves
  - few or no plants
- 11 To receive full credit for the response, the following information should be included: The articles are alike because they both compare two places in nature. They are different because they describe very different places. "The Arctic and Antarctic" describes cold places covered with ice; "Beaches" describes different beaches where you can play and have fun outdoors.