



## CLASSROOM ACTIVITY

# Antarctica in Images

Get ready to take a trip to Antarctica! Investigate this continent of extremes by examining photographic images of the Antarctic environment.

To conduct your investigation, work as scientists do—predict what you may discover, make observations and record what you see. Look for patterns. Afterwards, offer hypotheses to explain those patterns. Don't worry if your hypotheses are sketchy right now; any testable hypothesis is a valid starting point. When scientists test their hypothesis and discover that their observations and data do not match their hypothesis, they redefine their investigation by improving the test and gathering more data, or refining the original hypothesis based on the new data before testing again. In your investigation, you can return to the images if you need to observe more details. Then revise your hypothesis or develop a new one based on each new round of observations.

Researchers  
who winter over in  
Antarctica spend the  
entire winter in darkness!  
How's that for night  
vision?



**CLASSROOM  
ACTIVITY****Antarctica in Images**

Examine these images on the Web or on teacher handouts. As you take a look at each image, think critically, as scientists do—draw conclusions about this environment based on what you see. To access the **Antarctic Photo Gallery**, go to:

<http://www.amnh.org/education/resources/antarctica>

Discuss each image in your journal. Use the questions below to help you structure your thoughts. Don't forget to explain your answers! Examine as many images as you can. Don't worry about how much you already know about Antarctica—just look closely at each image and think deeply about what you are seeing.

- ▶ Where is Antarctica?
- ▶ What is unique about the continent?
- ▶ What kind of conditions exist there? What causes these conditions?
- ▶ What organisms have adapted to these extreme conditions?

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After you have organized your ideas in your journal, gather with your teammates. Pick a captain and a note taker for the day. With your group, discuss the day's findings. The note taker records your discussion on the group worksheet. Together, decide what you can understand about Antarctica from each image—these ideas are your hypotheses about conditions on Antarctica. Discuss how you might research those hypotheses further.



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**GROUP WORKSHEET  
ANTARCTIC TEAM**

**GROUP MEMBERS** \_\_\_\_\_

**CAPTAIN** \_\_\_\_\_ **NOTE TAKER** \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTION OF IMAGE	WHAT CONCLUSIONS CAN YOU DRAW ABOUT ANTARCTICA FROM THIS IMAGE?

1. Consider what you discovered today. How can further research refine your Antarctica hypotheses? In other words, what do you want to know and how could you find out?

**GROUP DYNAMICS**

Comment on how each group member participated in today's discussion.

Remember to use  
what you **SEE** to draw  
your conclusions.  
Pay close attention  
to detail!