

STUDENT BOOK H

FOCUS on

COMPARING AND
CONTRASTING

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EDUCATION

NAME _____

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Lesson

Preview

Read this sample passage about Antarctica and Africa. As you read, think about the ways in which the two continents are alike and the ways in which they are different. Look for clue words.



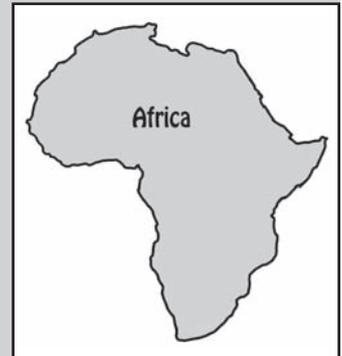
ANTARCTICA AND AFRICA

Antarctica and Africa are two of the world's continents. The second smallest continent is Antarctica. Antarctica measures about 14 million square kilometres. Surrounded by water, Antarctica is located at the bottom of the world near the South Pole. Its physical features include a mountain range, valleys, glaciers, volcanoes and underground lakes.

Antarctica is permanently buried under thick sheets of ice. Because it is the coldest place on the earth, it is not permanently inhabited by people. Few plants and animals can live there. Moss grows on rocks and tiny wingless flies called midges buzz about on land. Seals, penguins and other flying birds live on the coast. About 100 kinds of fish live in the waters around Antarctica.

Unlike Antarctica, Africa is the second largest continent. It measures about 30.3 million square kilometres. It is located south of the continents of Europe and Asia. Like Antarctica, Africa has mountains and lakes. However, Africa also has lush rainforests, grassy plains and scorching deserts where many kinds of plants and animals live. For example, giraffes, elephants, lions and zebras live in the grasslands. Colourful parrots and monkeys live in the towering green trees of the rainforest.

Although Antarctica is always cold, Africa has a range of climates. For example, the Sahara is hot and dry, and the rainforest is steamy and rainy. In contrast to Antarctica's low population, Africa is inhabited by more than 800 million people.



1. What is one way that Antarctica and Africa are alike?

- (A) Both continents are covered with ice.
- (B) Both continents are inhabited by many people.
- (C) Both continents have mountains and lakes.
- (D) Both continents are located near the South Pole.

2. One way in which Africa differs from Antarctica is that Africa

- (A) is a small continent.
- (B) is extremely cold.
- (C) has few people.
- (D) has many plants and animals.

Look at the answer choices for each question. Read why each answer choice is correct or not correct.

1. What is one way that Antarctica and Africa are alike?

- Ⓐ Both continents are covered with ice.

This answer is not correct because the passage states that Antarctica is covered with ice, but Africa has rainforests, grassy plains and deserts.

- Ⓑ Both continents are inhabited by many people.

This answer is not correct because Antarctica is not permanently inhabited by people. In contrast, Africa has a population of over 800 million people.

- Both continents have mountains and lakes.

This answer is correct because the third paragraph in the passage states that like Antarctica, Africa has mountains and lakes.

- Ⓓ Both continents are located near the South Pole.

This answer is not correct because Antarctica is located near the South Pole, whereas Africa is located south of Europe and Asia.

2. One way in which Africa differs from Antarctica is that Africa

- Ⓐ is a small continent.

This answer is not correct because Antarctica is the second smallest continent in the world. However, Africa is the second largest continent.

- Ⓑ is extremely cold.

This answer is not correct because Antarctica is the coldest place on the earth, but Africa has some areas with hot temperatures.

- Ⓒ has few people.

This answer is not correct because Antarctica is inhabited by few people, but Africa has a population of about 800 million people.

- has many plants and animals.

This answer is correct because the passage states that Antarctica has few plants and animals, whereas Africa has animals such as giraffes, elephants, lions, zebras, parrots and monkeys and plants such as tall trees and grass.