

Coldest temperature on Earth recorded

12th December, 2013



Scientists recently found the coldest place on Earth. Satellites measured a temperature of minus 93.2 degrees Celsius on part of Antarctica.

Scientists still need to do more tests on the data. The real temperature could be one degree colder. The coldest temperature found before this was also in Antarctica. This was minus 89.2 degrees Celsius. Scientist Dr Ted Scambos said: "These very low temperatures are hard to imagine." He explained: "It's almost as cold below freezing as boiling water is above freezing." He added that parts of Antarctica are 50 degrees colder than Siberia. Nowhere on Antarctica is as cold as the Moon. Temperatures there got as low as minus 238 degrees Celsius.

Unfortunately, the record freezing temperatures measured by the satellites won't be in the Guinness Book of Records. The temperatures must be from a couple of meters above the ice. The scientists also have to use a thermometer. The satellites' temperatures were a few centimetres above the ice and they did not use a thermometer. Dr Scambos said he is sure that the temperatures recorded by the satellites are accurate. He also said that they would be too cold for a thermometer to work properly. He said it was so cold that you cannot breathe the air. When scientists go outside, they must wear a snorkel that goes inside their coat. They breathe the warmer air that is close to their skin.

Sources: BBC / LiveScience.com / Stuff.co.nz

Writing

It's better to be too cold than too hot. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

scientists / temperature / data / Antarctica / minus / imagine / freezing / boiling / unfortunately / satellites / ice / thermometer / accurate / work properly / breathe

True / False

- Scientists recorded a temperature of minus 92.3 degrees C. T / F
- Scientists need to do more tests because the record might be colder. T / F
- The previous coldest temperature record was in Siberia. T / F
- The temperature on Antarctica is colder than the moon. T / F
- The record temperature will not go into the Guinness Book of Records. T / F
- Nobody used a thermometer to record the record cold temperature. T / F
- The record temperature in Antarctica was too cold for a thermometer. T / F
- People do not need any help to breathe the air in Antarctica. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| 1. recently | a. reached |
| 2. do | b. correct |
| 3. data | c. few |
| 4. hard | d. information |
| 5. got | e. not long ago |
| 6. freezing | f. have to |
| 7. couple | g. sub-zero |
| 8. accurate | h. carry out |
| 9. must | i. near |
| 10. close | j. difficult |

Discussion – Student A

- What does freezing cold weather do to our body?
- What do you wear in cold weather?
- What are the good things about cold weather?
- What's the coldest you've ever been?
- What's the best way to keep warm when it's freezing cold?
- What can you do in cold weather that you can't do in hot weather?
- What's the best food to eat in cold weather?
- What questions would you like to ask the scientists?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Scientists recently found the | a. to work properly |
| 2. a temperature of minus | b. degree colder |
| 3. The real temperature could be one | c. breathe the air |
| 4. These very low temperatures are | d. water |
| 5. boiling | e. is close to their skin |
| 6. scientists also have | f. coldest place on Earth |
| 7. temperatures recorded by the | g. to use a thermometer |
| 8. too cold for a thermometer | h. hard to imagine |
| 9. He said it was so cold that you cannot | i. 93.2 degrees Celsius |
| 10. They breathe the warmer air that | j. satellites are accurate |

Discussion – Student B

- Would you like to go to the coldest place on Earth?
- What do you do when it's really cold?
- Can your body take really cold temperatures?
- Why do you think scientists are still testing this data from 2010?
- Can you imagine how cold -93°C is?
- Do you prefer very hot weather or very cold weather?
- What would you do on a vacation on Antarctica?
- What's the weather like in your country?

Spelling

- insm 93.2
- one deerger colder
- hard to inmegea
- obginli water
- above enfrize
- onreweh on Antarctica
- edurames by the satellites
- a oeculp of meters
- use a meotrere~~m~~th
- the satellites are retauacc
- work repeopryl
- ehraetb the warmer air

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. h	3. d	4. j	5. a
6. g	7. c	8. b	9. f	10. i

Role Play

Role A – Go to bed

You think going to bed is the best thing to do in cold weather. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): going skiing, going to a coffee shop or going shopping.

Role B – Go skiing

You think going skiing is the best thing to do in cold weather. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): going to bed, going to a coffee shop or going shopping.

Role C – Go to a coffee shop

You think going to a coffee shop is the best thing to do in cold weather. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): going skiing, going to bed or going shopping.

Role D – Go shopping

You think going shopping is the best thing to do in cold weather. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): going skiing, going to a coffee shop or going to bed.

Speaking - Freezing

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best things to do when it's freezing at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| • go for a walk | • go home |
| • go shopping | • go skiing |
| • go hiking | • go to a movie theatre |
| • go to a coffee shop | • go to bed |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.