



Extensive reading: Exciting places

1 Look at the text. What do you know about life in the Arctic?

2 Listen and read.  103

My life in the Arctic

Dear Laura,

I am your new penfriend and I want to tell you about my life. I live with my parents and grandparents. I've got two younger brothers, Koda and Atka, who are two and four years old. I live in a village near the city of Barrow in Alaska. It is quite famous because it is the most northern city on the North American continent. We are in the Arctic, so I suppose my life here is very different from yours in England. Here, in winter, there is normally very thick snow. It's very cold. The temperature is about minus 30 degrees! During winter, the sky is dark all the time, even in the day, but the white snow on the ground gives us light to see. Sometimes we can see beautiful colours in the sky, too. This is called the Northern lights.

Most of my friends walk to school using special snow shoes or skis. I live further from the school, so I go by snowmobile, which is really fun. My mom drives it and I sit on the back. How do you go to school? Do you have snowmobiles in England? I think you have more rain than snow there, right? It hardly ever rains here.

There are 200 children at my school, mostly Eskimos like me. We also have other visitors to our school: reindeers and polar bears try to come into school. Polar bears are beautiful, but really dangerous. What wild animals do you have in England?

At the weekends, there are usually dog sled races in my village. We have five dogs and my father drives them. It's really exciting. We also tell stories, sing songs and dance.

In the summer, everything changes. Most of the snow goes and the sky is always light and sunny. It's never dark at all. Eskimo children don't go to school during the summer here. We travel with our parents to go hunting and fishing, and we sleep in tents. What do you do in the summer?

Please write soon and tell me about life in England. I imagine it is very different from life here!

Best wishes, Kirima



Facts about the Arctic

- Eskimo people live in Alaska (USA), Canada, Greenland and Russia.
- The Arctic is bigger than the continent of North America.
- People have lived in the Arctic for thousands of years.
- There are four million people living in the Arctic.

3 Read again and circle the correct word.

- 1 Kirima goes to school by **skis** / **snowmobile** / **bus**.
- 2 In the Arctic it is dark all the time in **winter** / **summer**.
- 3 Kirima's **mother** / **father** drives the dog sled.
- 4 In the summer, Eskimo children **go** / **don't go** to school.

4 Ask and answer.

- 1 Would you like to go to the Arctic? Why?
- 2 How is your life different from Kirima's life?

1 Describe the picture. What do you know about deserts?

2 Listen and read.  104

Life in the Desert

What is a desert?

There are different kinds of deserts. There are hot deserts and there are cold deserts. The *Sahara Desert* is the biggest hot desert in the world. The *Gobi Desert* is always very cold. Some deserts are sandy. Some deserts are rocky. Other deserts have mountains. Antarctica is the coldest place in the world, but it is a desert and it is covered in snow and ice.

What is the weather like in the desert?

A desert is a very dry place. It has very little rain. It snows in Antarctica, but it does not often rain. In hot deserts, it is very hot during the day and then very cold at night. When it rains, it rains suddenly. But there is very little water in the desert. Sometimes you can find water in rocks underground. These places are called oases.

It can be very windy in the desert, too. There can be sandstorms or snowstorms. In sandy deserts, the wind blows the sand and makes big shapes like mountains. These shapes are called sand dunes.



What plants and animals live in hot deserts?

Plants and animals need water to survive. The desert is very dry but amazingly, there are many plants in the desert. There are also many animals, insects and birds. How do they survive?

Some plants, like cacti, keep rain water in their leaves for a long time. Other plants have long roots. The roots take water from deep under the ground.

Some animals in the desert never drink. They get water from seeds and plants. Many animals are nocturnal. This means they sleep during the hot day and come out at night. Some animals live underground for most of the time because it is colder.

People often travel in the desert on camels. These animals can drink a lot of water very quickly and then they do not need to drink for a very long time. They are perfect in the desert!

3 Read again and write *T* (true) or *F* (false).

1 It is always hot in the desert. _____

2 It never rains in the desert. _____

3 Animals and plants live in the desert. _____

4 Some animals don't need water. _____

4 Ask and answer.

1 Have you ever been to a desert? What was it like?

2 Would you like to go on a trip to the desert? Why?