



## Antarctica The Game- Handout 4

### Humans in Antarctica

Humans do not live permanently in Antarctica. It's simply too cold for them! But they do visit there for lots of different reasons. When they do go, they need to make sure they take the right kit and the right equipment. The climate is so extreme that if you want to stay there for a while and you don't take the right things with you, you could be in serious trouble.



### Kit

Humans need to wear layers of clothes to trap as much air as possible. Usually, if they are doing lots of exercise three layers will be enough. A thermal base layer, a fleece layer and a windproof layer. If they aren't moving around too much they will need extra layers to keep warm. A thick down layer- filled with feathers will help to trap insulating air- will be necessary if it gets really cold. The clothes need to be light and hardwearing and of course very warm. They will need to wear gloves and hats too and protect their eyes with sunglasses.

### Scientists



Scientists are very interested in Antarctica for lots of reasons.

Firstly, Antarctica is an important place to study the effects of global warming, because it is here that the biggest effects have been recorded.

Secondly, the wildlife in Antarctica is very special and lots of scientists are studying how the animals and plants are able to survive and what threats there are to their existence.

Antarctica is where scientists first discovered the hole in the ozone layer. The ozone layer protects us from UV radiation from the sun. Without it there is a much higher risk of skin cancer.

Other things that scientists are studying include meteorites (Antarctica is one of the best places in the world to find them), they are also looking at how humans are affected when they spend time in Antarctica, and they are also looking at what effects humans are having on Antarctica.



### **Tourists**

Lots of tourists go to Antarctica to see what it is like. They usually go by boat, although quite recently flights to Antarctica have started up too. Some people are worried that the tourists will ruin the environment in Antarctica. There are lots of rules to try and keep Antarctica and its wildlife as pristine as possible.