

ADDITIONAL COMPREHENSION EXERCISES

COMPREHENSION EXERCISE 1

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

Glaciers consist of fallen snow that compresses over many years into large, thick ice masses. Most of the world's glacial ice is found in Antarctica and Greenland, but glaciers are found on nearly every continent, even Africa. Presently, 10% of land area is covered with glaciers. Glacial ice often appears blue because ice absorbs all other colors but reflects blue. Almost 90% of an iceberg is below water, only about 10% shows above water. What makes glaciers unique is their ability to move. Due to their mass, glaciers flow like every slow rivers. Some glaciers are as small as football fields, whereas others grow to be over 100 kilometers long.

Within the past 750,000 years, scientists know that there have been eight ice age cycles, separated by warmer periods called *interglacial* periods. Currently, the earth is nearing the end of an interglacial, meaning that another Ice Age is due in a few thousand years. This is part of the normal climate variation cycle. Greenhouse warming may delay the onset of another glacial era, but scientists still have many questions to answer about climate change. Although glaciers change very slowly over long periods, they may provide important global climate change signals.

The girth of the ice, combined with gravity's influence, causes glaciers to flow very slowly, once a mass of compressed ice reaches a critical thickness of about 18 meters thick, it becomes so heavy that it begins to deform and move. Ice may flow down mountains and valleys, fan across plains, or spread out to sea. Movement along the underside of a glacier is slower than movement at the top due to the friction created as it slides along the ground's surface.

Most glaciers are found in remote mountainous area. However, some found near cities or towns present in danger to the people living nearby. On land, lakes formed on top of a glacier during the melt season may cause floods. At the narrow part of a glacier, ice falling from the glacier presents a hazard to hikers below. When ice breaks off over the ocean, an iceberg is formed.

Glaciers are a natural resource and contain 75% of the world's freshwater. People worldwide are trying to harness the power of these frozen streams. Some towns rely on glacial melting from a nearby ice cap to provide drinking water. Some farmers spread soil or ashes over snow to promote melting, hoping that the melting will provide water to irrigate crops in drought-stricken areas. Others have channeled, meltwater from glaciers to their fields. Scientists and engineers have worked together to tap into glacial resources, using electricity that has been generated in part by damming glacial meltwater.

Questions:

1. According to paragraph 4, what is a negative effect of living too close to a glacier?
 2. The underlined word remote, as used in paragraph 4 of the passage, most nearly means?
 3. The passage explains that glaciers can be found where?
 4. According to the passage, why does glacial ice often appear blue?
 5. After reading the passage, what can one conclude about glaciers?
 6. After reading the passage, what can one infer about glaciers?
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Ans (1)

Some cities or towns are found nearby the glaciers. Glaciers pose a significant threat to their life and property as they ^{are the} cause of floods on melting. Also the ice falling from glaciers presents a threat to the hikers and cause road blockage also.

Ans (2)

The underlined word 'remote' means the glaciers are present far from the towns and cities. They are found in far mountainous region.

Ans (3)

The passage explains that glaciers are found on every continent even Africa. Mostly they are present in Greenland and Antarctica. covering 10% of the land area. Almost 90% of iceberg is below water and only 10% shows above water.

Ans (4)

According to the passage the glacial ice of ten appear blue because of reflection of blue light. Glacial ice absorbs all other colors of light except blue.

Ans (5)

After reading the passage one can conclude that glaciers are formed by fallen snow. They are present in almost every continent. There has been happened

eight ice age cycles but their duration is compacted by climate change. They can move and contain 75% of the world's fresh water.

Ans (6)

After reading the passage one can infer about ~~the~~ glaciers that they have beneficial and harmful effects on the human beings. They have different composition and characteristics. They are widely distributed across the planet.