



Read these two opinion pieces. Then answer the questions that follow.

The Last Wilderness Preserve

by Kendra Washington

1 People have explored—and in many cases exploited—almost every square foot of this planet. Today it is difficult to find any place without roads, shopping malls, litter, and pollution. Thankfully, some wise leaders have set aside an entire continent, Antarctica, to be preserved in its natural splendor. Antarctica remains one of the few places on Earth that has not been significantly changed by people. Any human action that would harm Antarctica is a crime against nature and a threat to our future.

2 In 1959, leaders from twelve nations signed the Antarctic Treaty, which forbids extensive human activity in Antarctica. While this provided an important measure of protection, the delegates opened the continent to scientific purposes. But even small teams of scientists can bring harm to this otherwise untouched land. Some scientific pursuits may invite greed, exploitation, and even conflict to Antarctica.

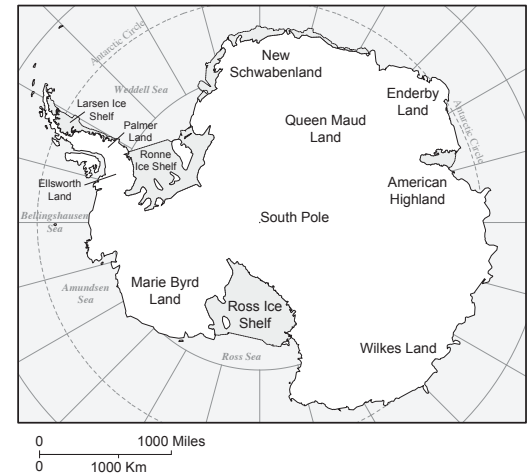
3 Scientists have claimed that Antarctica is useful for studies in many fields, such as astronomy and archaeology. However, astronomers could build telescopes in almost any land. Archaeologists could discover dinosaur bones in places that are not covered with ice. Scientific explorations can be done more easily in other locations, and those in Antarctica threaten the natural state of the land.

4 One positive result of the Antarctic Treaty and later agreements has been a series of protections for the natural resources of Antarctica. According to the treaty, it is illegal to hunt or fish for many kinds of animals, mine for minerals, or drill for oil in Antarctica. These provisions keep the land safe, however temporarily, from humans' destructive greed.

5 Although these restrictions may be removed in the future, most nations have cooperated with them so far. This may be simply because few large mineral or oil deposits have ever been located in Antarctica. However, if any are ever discovered, nations will certainly be quick to begin fighting for them.

6 Antarctica is the coldest and windiest continent with the least drinkable water. Few plants can grow and farming is likely impossible. Additionally, Antarctica is surrounded by three oceans and far away from inhabited lands. There is nothing welcoming about Antarctica, and we may consider this nature's way of keeping humans at a safe distance.

7 Even though relatively few people have been to Antarctica, humans have still contributed to massive problems there. Global warming, a gradual heating of the planet thought to be caused by pollution, has melted much of Antarctica's ancient ice and may soon lead to greater harm. Humans should leave this injured land alone to heal without any further damage or indignities.





A New Land of Opportunity

by Michael Serillo



1 Antarctica is a continent of untamed wilderness, wonderful beauty, and fantastic mystery. It is a land of extremes and may hold the answers to some of our most enduring questions about our world. However, relatively few people have ventured to explore Antarctica. While Antarctica still exists in its present state, people must take the opportunity to explore and learn about this mysterious land.

2 Like all continents, Antarctica has a wide variety of resources. Although most of the continent is covered in sheets of ice, the ground below the ice contains large amounts of useful minerals such as coal, iron, and copper, and precious metals such as gold and platinum. Who knows what other materials are yet to be discovered?

3 In addition, the seas around the continent teem with useful and valuable ocean life, including fish, crab, whales, and seals. Our planet has a limited supply of natural resources, so humans need to take advantage of all possible sources.

4 Perhaps the greatest resource of all in Antarctica is the scientific knowledge it offers. The Antarctic Treaty of 1959, an agreement signed by twelve nations, designated Antarctica as a haven for scientific investigation. Since that time, international teams of scientists have visited Antarctica to study its fascinating secrets.

5 Astronomers have used the clear, icy land as a platform for studying the stars and collecting meteorites. There is also a wealth of archaeological material under the ice, evidence of an era when Antarctica was not as frigid. Fossils and dinosaur bones are among the exciting finds. In addition, scientists based in Antarctica have used the land's unique features to study gravity, changes in the oceans, and earthquakes—all forms of knowledge that can benefit people worldwide.



6 Scientists may also study Antarctica for clues about climate change. Recent discoveries have shown that global warming has led to the melting of much of the continent's ice. Someday, the amazing frozen land may have little ice remaining. People should travel to Antarctica now to enjoy its unique qualities while they still exist. Perhaps in doing so, people may even discover new ways to protect the ice from future damage.

7 Although not many people actually live on the continent, in recent years tens of thousands of tourists have been setting sail for its frozen shores. Clearly, people love the adventure and beauty of Antarctica. Someday, advances in technology may give people clearance to colonize Antarctica and finally take full advantage of this most fascinating land.

1

The author of "The Last Wilderness Preserve" believes that humans' main concern toward Antarctica should be to preserve it in its natural state. Which sentence from the passage best supports this statement?

- A "Any human action that would harm Antarctica is a crime against nature and a threat to our future."
- B "Scientists have claimed that Antarctica is useful for studies in many fields, such as astronomy and archaeology."
- C "One positive result of the Antarctic Treaty and later agreements has been a series of protections for the natural resources of Antarctica."
- D "There is nothing welcoming about Antarctica, and we may consider this nature's way of keeping humans at a safe distance."

Answer Form

1 (A) (B) (C) (D)

2 (A) (B) (C) (D)

3 (A) (B) (C) (D)

4 (A) (B) (C) (D)

5 (A) (B) (C) (D)

**Number
Correct**

5

2

How does the author of "A New Land of Opportunity" introduce the claim that people love the adventure and beauty of Antarctica?

- A He states that tourism is becoming popular in Antarctica.
- B He estimates that few residents regularly live in Antarctica.
- C He notes that international scientists are studying Antarctica.
- D He argues that technology may help in colonizing Antarctica.



- 3** The author of “The Last Wilderness Preserve” claims that finding major mineral or oil deposits in Antarctica would cause conflicts between nations. Which sentence from the passage best supports this statement?
- A** “According to the treaty, it is illegal to hunt or fish for many kinds of animals, mine for minerals, or drill for oil in Antarctica.”
 - B** “Although these restrictions may be removed in the future, most nations have cooperated with them so far.”
 - C** “This may be simply because few large mineral or oil deposits have ever been located in Antarctica.”
 - D** “However, if any are ever discovered, nations will certainly be quick to begin fighting for them.”
- 4** Which claim from “A New Land of Opportunity” does “The Last Wilderness Preserve” contradict?
- A** Antarctica is home to relatively few permanent residents.
 - B** Antarctica has abundant wilderness and a cold climate.
 - C** Antarctica has large amounts of useful minerals.
 - D** Antarctica is protected in some ways by treaty agreements.
- 5** Which information have the authors of “A New Land of Opportunity” and “The Last Wilderness Preserve” interpreted differently?
- A** the effects of climate change
 - B** the details of the Antarctic Treaty
 - C** the difficulty of living in Antarctica
 - D** the importance of scientific research

**6**

Below are three claims one could make based on the article "A New Land of Opportunity."

CLAIMS

	Antarctica's rich store of natural resources offer a solution to the current competition among countries for limited supplies.
	Both tourists and scientists will have less reason to visit Antarctica as more of its ice continues to melt.
	People should take the opportunity to make more use of Antarctica while it still exists in its current state.

Part A

Put an "X" by the claim that is supported by the most relevant and sufficient facts in "A New Land of Opportunity."

Part B

Write a short paragraph with **at least** three details from the article to support the claim you checked in Part A.



- 7** Write a paragraph explaining how the author of “The Last Wilderness Preserve” supports the argument that humans are not meant to visit Antarctica. Explain whether you think the author provides sufficient evidence to support her argument. Use details from the text to support your answer.

- 8** Write a paragraph explaining how “The Last Wilderness Preserve” and “A New Land of Opportunity” agree and disagree on the effect humans have had on climate change in Antarctica. Use details from both texts to support your answer.



Performance Task—Extended Response

9

The authors of “The Last Wilderness Preserve” and “A New Land of Opportunity” present different arguments about the impact they believe human behavior and actions may have on Antarctica. The authors’ arguments lead to different conclusions about how people should treat the continent. Which author presents the stronger argument? Explain the argument each author makes and the conclusions they reach. Discuss the strength of each argument. Use details from **both** passages to support your response.

In your answer, be sure to

- identify the arguments each author makes about the impact of human action on Antarctica
- explain the conclusion each author reaches about how people should treat the continent
- explain which argument is stronger and why it is stronger
- use details from both passages to support your response

Check your writing for correct spelling, grammar, capitalization, and punctuation.

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