





Steps to Success

Date	Thursday 11 th February
Subject/s	Geography
Learning Objective 	I can write a persuasive speech

		SA 	TA 
Success Criteria 	I can use my knowledge of the Antarctic		
	I can justify my reasons why people should or shouldn't be allowed to visit the Antarctic		
	I can discuss my reasons with others		
Support	Independent	Adult Support ()	Group Work
Key vocabulary for the lesson: climate Arctic Antarctic climate change global warming impact			

For our final Geography lesson of this topic, we are thinking about the impact of climate change on Antarctica.

You will need to use what you have learnt in Science this week. There is also further information about climate change on these websites:

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/why-is-antarctica-so-important-for-measuring-climate-change/zmrtscw>
- https://www.coolantarctica.com/Antarctica%20fact%20file/science/global_warming2.php
- https://www.wwf.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-01/Our_Planet_ourfrozenworlds_0.pdf

We are going to debate this question:

Should people be allowed to visit Antarctica?

Task 1:

First, make a list of advantages and disadvantages of people visiting Antarctica. I have started this for you below:

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientists can learn about a new environment • Scientists can learn about the impact of global warming • Scientist can learn more about animals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural features may get spoilt • It may disturb the animals who should be allowed to live in the wild • It may lead to more and more people visiting

Task 2

Decide whether you agree or disagree with Scientists visiting the Antarctic. Now write a speech to persuade people to agree with you. Following this is a poster of persuasive techniques which will help you with your speech.

If you can, try saying your speech aloud for someone at home. Can you persuade them? You could have a go at recording yourself and send it to me.

Here is an article from BBC News, which may give you some ideas:

This season around 37,000 tourists are expected to visit Antarctica - home to about 20 million pairs of breeding penguins. But is it ethically acceptable to go on holiday to such a pristine environment?

Enfolded in two glacial arms the bay before us sparkles ultramarine, the water flecked with ice-lilies and dotted with bits of floating icebergs. A sheer cliff towers dark above us, flanked by snow slopes as pure white as the glistening fronts of the little Adelie penguins whose spectacled eyes peer curiously around as they waddle and toboggan about their business just a few feet away. I am all too aware that this is not my habitat.

Which begs the question: Should I be here? Am I, just by setting foot on this extraordinary continent, disturbing a pristine environment and polluting the last great wilderness on earth?

All visitors leave a footprint, admits my tour leader, Boris Wise of One Ocean Expeditions, and we all tend to go to the same places - the accessible coastline - which is also where the penguins and seals go to breed.

Nonetheless, he argues, carefully controlled tourism is not just OK but useful.

Without a native population of its own, Antarctica needs advocates and tourism creates a global constituency of people ready to support - and indeed fund - its preservation.

Not everyone is convinced the benefits outweigh the risks but most are pragmatic.

"It is better to have a certain level of responsible tourism than for it to go under the radar," says Jane Rumble, Head of Polar Regions at the British Foreign Office.

This season 37,000 tourists are expected in Antarctica, although 10,000 will never go ashore.

About half the tourist ships are, like ours, flagged to Antarctic Treaty countries making them legally bound by the treaty's environmental standards.

The other half are worryingly outside this regulation but most are part of the International Maritime Organisation which is just introducing a stricter polar code, and at present all the companies regularly bringing tourists here are members of the International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators (IAATO) which works closely with the Antarctic Treaty System.

The Antarctic Treaty is an agreement from 1961 which now includes 47 countries. It agrees to keep Antarctica free from the military and as a nuclear-free zone.

As our ship crosses 60 degrees south into Antarctica we are given a mandatory briefing before gathering in the ship's mud room for a "vacuum party".

As a portable amp sets the rhythm with the music of aptly-named bands, Passenger and The Black Seeds, we biosecure ourselves, hoovering our clothes and kit and disinfecting our boots to ensure we introduce no alien species to Antarctica.

Does this really work, I wonder? Apparently it does. Non-native species have been accidentally introduced to the region but not, as far as anyone knows, by tourists.

In fact, research suggests that scientific programmes may have much more environmental impact than tourism. Scientists, of course, argue that they also bring more benefit, including increasing understanding of how crucially changes in the Antarctic link to changes in the global environment.

Our ship never docks. We anchor and go ashore by biosecured dinghy.

There is no eating or smoking on land and we are instructed to take nothing away except photographs and leave nothing behind, not even a bit of yellow snow.

"So don't drink too much at breakfast," grins Boris.

We are told not to get any nearer than 5m from Antarctic wildlife.

But nobody told the penguins and, although we never touch, we have delightfully close encounters, especially with the confident little red-beaked gentoos.

One passenger is allowed to get as close as he likes. He is Phil McDowell, marine biologist and penguin counter from the independent research organisation Oceanites, who is hitching a lift on our ship to monitor the penguin colonies we visit.

There have been several studies comparing regularly visited colonies with those rarely in touch with humankind.

The results are strikingly inconclusive showing more-visited colonies variously doing worse, the same and even better.

Gentoos are thriving, McDowell tells me, increasing in both number and range.

Adelies, and the little helmeted chinstrap penguins, however, are in decline.

The Antarctic Peninsula has warmed by an average of 3C in the last 60 years, and winds have shifted, changing the pattern of the sea ice.

It is global warming that is changing the penguins' fortunes, McDowell suggests, not tourism.

There are concerns for the future however. Tourist numbers look set to rise and membership of IAATO is voluntary. Tourist ships are starting to offer activities like kayaking, mountaineering and diving which are potentially more invasive than simply looking.

The impact isn't clear and more monitoring is certainly needed.

Back in London, enjoying my photos of ethereal icescapes and brilliantly comic penguins, I wonder again whether I should feel guilty for having been in Antarctica?

"No," says polar expert Jane Rumble, "just do what you can to preserve it."

Writing to Persuade

Structure

Introduction

Grab the reader's attention and clearly state your opinion.

Main Body Paragraphs

Give reasons for your opinions and explain these in detail.

Conclusion

Remind the reader of your opinion and leave them with something to think about.

Persuasive Language

Modal Verbs

(must, will, should)

Modal Adverbs

(definitely, absolutely, certainly)

Evaluative Language

(incredible, outstanding, awful, revolting)

Sentence Starters

First, let's talk about...

Another important point worth considering...

Astonishingly, some people don't know that...

Yet another incredible thing about...

Finally, and most importantly...

Best/Worst of all...

Persuasive Devices

Tell a personal story.

Give an expert's opinion.

Include statistics.

Ask rhetorical questions.

Use repetition.

Powerful Statements

Just think about it!

It's out of this world!

We can't let this go on!

We must stop this now!

You know I'm right!

Remember:

Consider your audience.

Make your opinion clear.

Use a strong voice.

Give reasons for your opinion.

Check your spelling and punctuation.