



Scientists Uncover Unexpected Fossils Beneath Antarctic Ice

Description

A team of 29 scientists lived in tents on snow in Antarctica for nearly ten weeks. They drilled more than 200 meters into bedrock, deep under ice. The team worked at a remote camp.

They succeeded on their third attempt. They pulled up a 228-meter-long cylinder of mud and rock. This is the deepest sediment core ever taken from an Antarctic ice sheet. The layers inside are surprising scientists. Some were formed when the Earth was much warmer.

To reach the sediment, the team melted a hole through 523 meters of ice. They found different types of sediment. Some was coarse gravel, while other parts contained fine mud with shell pieces. This shows there was once open ocean where there is now thick ice.

The sediment may explain how the West Antarctic Ice Sheet reacts to climate change. The core could provide information about environmental changes over 23 million years. The team will send the core to New Zealand for further study. Scientists aim to learn more about the past ice-sheet conditions and how they affect future sea levels.

Vocabulary List:

1. **sediment** //ˈsɛdɪmənt// (noun): small pieces of rock, sand, or mud
2. **bedrock** //ˈbɛd,rɒk// (noun): solid rock under the soil or ground
3. **drilled** //drɪld// (verb): made a hole in something with a tool
4. **remote** //rɪˈmoʊt// (adjective): far away from cities or other people
5. **environmental** //ɪn,vairənˈmentəl// (adjective): connected to nature and the world around us
6. **climate** //ˈklaɪmət// (noun): the usual weather in a place over time

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. How long did the team of scientists live in Antarctica?

Option: Five weeks

Option: Eight weeks



-
- Option: Ten weeks
 - Option: Twelve weeks

2. How many meters did the team drill into the bedrock?

- Option: 100 meters
- Option: 200 meters
- Option: 300 meters
- Option: 400 meters

3. What is the length of the sediment core pulled up by the team?

- Option: 200 meters
- Option: 218 meters
- Option: 228 meters
- Option: 250 meters

4. How many meters of ice did the team melt to reach the sediment?

- Option: 423 meters
- Option: 503 meters
- Option: 523 meters
- Option: 600 meters

5. Where will the sediment core be sent for further study?

- Option: Australia
- Option: New Zealand
- Option: Canada
- Option: Argentina

6. What type of sediment was NOT found by the team?

- Option: Coarse gravel
- Option: Fine mud with shell pieces
- Option: Sand
- Option: Ice

True-False

7. The team of scientists worked at a remote camp for nearly three weeks.

8. The longest sediment core ever taken from an Antarctic ice sheet is 228 meters.



-
9. Some layers of the sediment were formed when the Earth was much colder.
 10. The core will provide information about environmental changes over 12 million years.
 11. There was once open ocean where there is now thick ice in Antarctica.
 12. The team made their first attempt successfully on the first try.

Gap-Fill

13. The team of scientists lived on snow in Antarctica for nearly _____ weeks.
14. They drilled more than 200 meters into _____ under ice.
15. To reach the sediment, the team melted a hole through _____ meters of ice.
16. The sediment may explain how the West Antarctic Ice Sheet reacts to _____ change.
17. The sediment core could provide information about environmental changes over _____ million years.
18. The team will send the core to _____ for further study.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Ten weeks 2. 200 meters 3. 228 meters 4. 523 meters 5. New Zealand 6. Sand

True-False: 7. False 8. True 9. False 10. False 11. True 12. False

Gap-Fill: 13. ten 14. bedrock 15. 523 16. climate 17. 23 18. New Zealand

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL1

POST TAG

1. Antarctic
2. ESL learning
3. esl news
4. fossils
5. hole
6. Level 1



7. scientists

Tags

1. Antarctic
2. ESL learning
3. esl news
4. fossils
5. hole
6. Level 1
7. scientists

Date Created

2026/04/01

Author

aimeeyoung99

ESL-NEWS.COM