

Protecting Antarctica

Antarctica is a **fragile environment** that must be protected.

People in Antarctica produce over 2,000 tonnes of waste each year, which must be removed from Antarctica by ship. Ships are **prohibited** from putting **noxious substances**, untreated **sewage** and all other rubbish in the ocean. All workers and visitors are responsible for obeying the **waste disposal** rules.

Visitors are also responsible for obeying rules that ensure that animals are not disturbed or frightened. Visitors must keep the **minimum** distances when approaching animals.

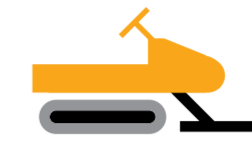
By obeying these rules, people can help to protect Antarctica, which is the world's last true wilderness area.



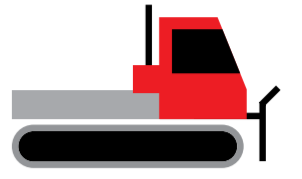
Minimum distances to keep from animals



People on foot or skis



Quad/skidoo



Tracked vehicles

Emperor penguin colonies

30 m

150 m

250 m

Other penguin colonies

15 m

150 m

250 m

Seals and pups

15 m

150 m

250 m

Penguins on sea ice and adult seals

5 m

150 m

250 m

South polar skua on nest

5 m

150 m

250 m

Did you know?

Under strict international **conservation** laws and agreements, tourists can only land at selected locations in Antarctica for a few hours at a time. They have to spend most of their time on their ship.

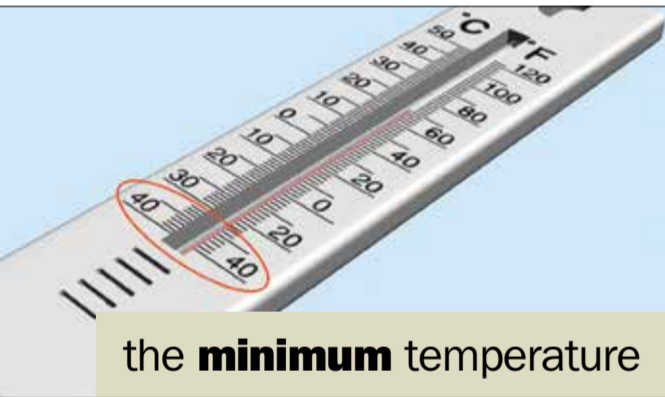
Know your vocabulary



conservation Conservation means to keep something the way that it has always been. Areas of land are protected by conservation laws so that the animals and plants will not be harmed.



fragile environment The environment is a place or area such as a forest, ocean or desert. A fragile environment is an environment that could easily be ruined. If damaged, it is difficult to fix.



minimum The minimum means the smallest amount or number of something. The minimum temperature during any day is the lowest temperature.



noxious substances A noxious substance is something that is harmful to animals and plants. Oil and gases can be noxious substances because they can damage the water and the air, which can harm animals and plants.



prohibited If something is prohibited, it is not allowed. For example, lighting fires is prohibited in some areas in summer.



sewage Sewage is waste that is carried away in drains. For example, sewage can come from cities and towns.



waste disposal Waste is anything that is no longer needed and is thrown away. Waste disposal is the way that people get rid of this waste.