

Antarctica

5 Mountains of majesty command the
10 horizon of this frozen paradise,
16 A place where intrepid explorers have
22 risked all to scale the heights.
29 The spiky shapes of the icebergs jutting
35 out of the inky, black water,
41 Their comfort detected by tired seals
47 eager to rest and hunt krill.

52 The snow-white glaciers move slowly
57 like hunters ready to pounce,
64 The loud crack of splintering ice echoes
68 in the silent daybreak.
73 Humpback whales weave their passage
76 through underwater beauty,
84 As the bitter blizzards swirl to create a
88 white desert of penguins.

95 As the silk sheet of darkness draws
100 across the yawning, tired light,
106 The Southern Lights dance with a
113 ballerina leap and the flicker of fire.
119 Pink, orange and gold make a
125 kaleidoscope of colour across the sky,
130 Transforming the thick curtain of
137 black like an excited artist set free.



Questions



1. Name **two** animals that you can find in the Antarctic.

- _____
- _____



2. Tick the word that has the same meaning as 'changing the appearance of something'.

- transforming
- filling
- jutting



3. **As the silk sheet of darkness draws across the yawning, tired light,**
What does this line of the poem suggest?



4. Would you like to visit Antarctica? Explain your answer.

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Answers



1. Name **two** animals that you can find in the Antarctic.

Accept any two of the following: penguins; humpback whales; seals; krill.



2. Tick the word that has the same meaning as 'changing the appearance of something'.

transforming
 filling
 jutting



3. **As the silk sheet of darkness draws across the yawning, tired light,**

What does this line of the poem suggest?

Pupils' own responses, such as: This line of the poem suggests that the light is tired and ready for bed; it uses the silk sheet to cover itself up at bedtime.



4. Would you like to visit Antarctica? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I would love to visit Antarctica because the colours of the Southern Lights sound amazing and I would love to see the mixture of colours dancing in the sky.