

English Notes



Vistas Chapter-2

Journey to the End of the Earth

Author: Tishani Doshi

Introduction

The chapter **Journey to the End of the Earth** describes the author's journey to **Antarctica**, the coldest and most isolated continent on Earth. Through this journey, the author explains the importance of Antarctica in understanding the **history of Earth, climate change, and the future of humanity**.

Detailed Summary

The author **Tishani Doshi** travelled to **Antarctica** as part of the **Students on Ice** programme. This programme aims to educate young people about environmental issues and climate change.

Antarctica is considered the **end of the Earth** because it is a vast white landscape covered with ice and completely isolated from the rest of the world.

Millions of years ago, Antarctica was part of the ancient supercontinent **Gondwana**. This landmass included present-day **India, South America, Africa, Australia, and Antarctica**. At that time, the climate was warm and forests existed there.

Over millions of years, the continents separated and Antarctica became the cold, icy continent it is today.

The author explains that Antarctica helps scientists understand **Earth's past, present, and future**. By studying ice cores and fossils, scientists can learn about ancient climates and environmental changes.

The author also discusses the **impact of global warming and climate change**. Human activities such as pollution and overuse of natural resources are damaging the environment. Antarctica acts as a warning sign of how fragile our planet is.

The journey also makes the author reflect on the **insignificance of human beings** compared to the vastness and age of the Earth.

Important Themes

1. Climate Change

The chapter highlights the dangers of global warming and environmental damage.

2. Importance of Antarctica

Antarctica helps scientists study the history and future of Earth.

3. Human Impact on Nature

Human activities are harming the environment and disturbing ecological balance.

4. Environmental Awareness

The chapter encourages people to protect the planet.

Important 5-Mark Questions

1. Why is Antarctica important for understanding the Earth's past and future?

Answer:

Antarctica is important because it preserves valuable information about the Earth's history. Scientists study ice cores and fossils found there to understand ancient climates and environmental conditions. Millions of years ago, Antarctica was part of the supercontinent **Gondwana**, which had a warm climate and forests. By studying Antarctica, scientists can learn how the Earth's climate has changed over time. This knowledge helps predict future climate changes and warns humans about the dangers of global warming.

2. What was Gondwana and why is it important in the chapter?

Answer:

Gondwana was a giant supercontinent that existed about 650 million years ago. It included present-day **India, South America, Africa, Australia, and Antarctica**. The landmass had a warm climate and rich vegetation. Over time, the continents separated due to geological changes. The study of Gondwana helps scientists understand the formation of continents and the evolution of the Earth's climate.

3. What does the author learn from her journey to Antarctica?

Answer:

During her journey to **Antarctica**, the author learns about the importance of protecting the environment. She realizes that human activities are damaging the planet and disturbing ecological balance. The vast and untouched landscape of Antarctica shows how fragile the Earth is. The journey also makes her understand the long history of the planet and the small role of human beings in comparison.

4. How does Antarctica act as a warning for the future of the Earth?

Answer:

Antarctica acts as a warning because changes in its environment reflect the effects of global warming. The melting of ice sheets and glaciers indicates rising temperatures and climate change. Scientists study Antarctica to monitor these changes. If humans continue to exploit natural resources and pollute the environment, it may lead to serious consequences for the entire planet.

5. What is the aim of the Students on Ice programme?

Answer:

The **Students on Ice** programme aims to educate young people about environmental issues and climate change. It takes students to places like **Antarctica** so that they can experience the natural environment and understand the importance of protecting the Earth. The programme encourages young people to become responsible citizens and work towards preserving the planet.

Important 5-Mark CBSE Board

1. How does Antarctica help us understand Earth's past, present, and future?

Answer:

Antarctica is like a natural laboratory that helps scientists understand the **history and future of our planet**. About **650 million years ago**, the Earth was a giant landmass called **Gondwana**. By studying Antarctica's rocks and ice layers, scientists can learn about **ancient climates, ecosystems, and geological changes**.

The **ice cores** found in Antarctica contain information about the Earth's climate over thousands of years. They help scientists study **changes in temperature, carbon dioxide levels, and environmental conditions**.

Antarctica also shows the **effects of global warming**, such as melting ice and changing ecosystems. Therefore, studying Antarctica helps us understand the **Earth's past, monitor the present climate, and predict future environmental changes**.

2. What are the two ways of looking at Antarctica mentioned by the author?

Answer:

According to the author, there are **two ways of looking at Antarctica**.

The first perspective is from **geological history**. Around **650 million years ago**, Antarctica was part of the supercontinent **Gondwana**. It had a warm climate with forests and diverse life forms. Studying this past helps scientists understand the evolution of the Earth.

The second perspective is from **human history and environmental concern**. Antarctica is the only continent that has **never been permanently inhabited by humans**. It is used mainly for **scientific research**. Today, scientists study Antarctica to understand **climate change and global warming**.

Thus, Antarctica can be viewed both as a **window into Earth's geological past** and as a **warning about the future of our planet**.

3. Why is Antarctica important for studying climate change?

Answer:

Antarctica plays a crucial role in studying **climate change** because it contains large amounts of **ancient ice and climate records**. The layers of ice preserve information about the **Earth's atmosphere from thousands of years ago**.

Scientists examine **ice cores** to study past levels of **carbon dioxide and temperature changes**. These records help them understand how the climate has changed over time.

Antarctica is also sensitive to environmental changes. The **melting of ice sheets and glaciers** can cause a **rise in sea levels**, which threatens coastal regions around the world.

Therefore, Antarctica acts as a **warning system for the planet**, helping scientists understand the impact of human activities on the environment.

4. What was the ‘Students on Ice’ programme? What was its aim?

Answer:

The **Students on Ice** programme is an educational initiative that takes students to **polar regions** to learn about the environment and climate change.

Its main aim is to **educate young people about environmental protection** and make them aware of the **fragile ecosystems of the Earth**. During the expedition, students observe glaciers, wildlife, and scientific research activities.

The programme believes that **experiencing nature directly** will inspire students to become **future leaders who protect the planet**.

Thus, the Students on Ice programme helps young people understand the **importance of conservation and sustainable living**.

5. Describe the author’s journey to Antarctica and what she learned from it.

Answer:

The author, **Tishani Doshi**, travelled to Antarctica as part of the **Students on Ice** programme. The journey began from **Ushuaia**, the southernmost city in the world.

During the trip, she saw **vast white landscapes, glaciers, and unique wildlife** such as penguins and seals. The journey helped her realize how **small humans are compared to the vastness of nature**.

She also understood the **serious threat of global warming** and the importance of protecting the environment. The experience made her more aware of **human responsibility toward the planet**.