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{STUDY MATERIAL} Teacher:-L.P.Singh

“ JOURNEY TO THE END OF THE EARTH”

--Tishani Doshi

In ‘Journey to the End of the Earth’ the writer describes the journey to the coldest,driest and windiest continent in the world-Antarctica.The world’s geological history is trapped in Antarctica.The narrator thinks that Antarctica is the place to go and understand the earth's present,past and future.

The narrator boarded a Russian research ship-‘The Akademik Shokalskiy’.His journey began 13:09degrees north of the Equator in Madras. He crossed nine time zones,six checkpoints, three bodies of water and at least three ecospheres.He travelled over 100 hours in car, aeroplane and ship to reach Antarctica.

Six hundred and fifty million years ago a gaint southern supercontinent Gondwana did indeed exist.It entered roughly around present day Antarctica.Human beings hadn't arrived on the global scene.The climate of that time was much warmer.It supported a huge variety of flora and fauna.When the dinosaurs became totally extinct and the age of mammals began,the landmass was forced to separate into countries as they exist today.

The purpose of the visit was to know more about Antarctica.It is to understand the significance of Cordilleran folds and pre-Cambrian granite shields;ozone and carbon; evolution and extinction.Ninety percent of the earth's total ice volumes are stored in Antarctica.Icebergs are as big as countries. Days go on and on in 24-hour austral summer light.

The most hotly contested debate of our time is whether West Antarctica Ice sheet will melt entirely or not. If we want to study the earth's past, present and future, Antarctica is the place to go. Antarctica has a simple ecosystem and lacks of biodiversity. It is the perfect place to study how little changes in the environment can have big repercussions. Scientists warn that a further depletion of the ozone layer will affect the lives of the sea-animals and birds of the region. It will also affect the global carbon cycle.

The burning of fossil fuels has polluted the atmosphere. It has created a blanket of carbon dioxide around the world. It is increasing the global temperature which is visible at Antarctica when we see icebergs melting away. It shows how minor changes in the atmosphere can cause huge effect. If the global temperature keeps on increasing, the human

race may be in peril. "Students on ice" is a programme which provides the students an ample opportunity to understand how global temperature can be a big threat to human existence. It inculcates a new understanding in them. Geoff Green thinks that high school students are the future policy makers. They can help in saving the earth from ecological dangers and the effects of global warming.

--L.P.SINGH [PGT ENGLISH]