Reading Homework 23.10-06.11.26

The Antarctic Environment

Antarctica is one of the most extreme environments on Earth. Located at the southernmost point of the planet, it is a vast, frozen continent that is almost entirely covered in ice. Temperatures are so low that even specialised scientific equipment can freeze if it is not handled carefully. In winter, the temperature can fall below –60°C, making it dangerous for any vehicle or aircraft to operate.

Only a small number of people occupy the research stations that are spread across the continent. Most are scientists who are determined to study climate change, wildlife and the physical landscape. Their work helps the world understand how the planet is changing and why it matters. Although the conditions are harsh, researchers must communicate clearly with one another to stay safe.

Antarctica is also home to unique animals such as penguins, seals and whales. These creatures have adapted to survive in the brutal cold. For example, emperor penguins huddle together in large groups to keep warm when the temperature drops.

Many experts warn that rising global temperatures could threaten this fragile continent. Their explanation is simple: if the ice melts, sea levels could rise, affecting communities around the world.

Questions

1. Find and copy **one word** that shows the scientists feel strongly about their work.
2. What does the word '**fragile**' suggest about Antarctica?
3. Explain how emperor penguins survive the extreme cold. Use **evidence** from the text.