

JOURNEY TO THE END OF THE EARTH

-BY TISHANI DOSHI

Journey to the End of the Earth by Tishani Doshi is a unique experience of an expedition to the coldest, the driest and deserted continent in the world. Antarctica Author with a team of High school students wandered in serenity and enjoyed the whiteness of the place. Mystery of present, past and future is trapped to be explored. 'Students on Ice' programme was initiated by Geoff Green (Canadian) to provide education an opportunity to the future policy makers. They got a chance to understand and to respect our planet Earth. Geological and geographical history of the world is hidden there. This is the time to contemplate on the burning issue of global warming to take care of our Mother Earth.

A team of 52 members returned back with lots of questions in mind, but with a single solution "take care of the small things and the big things will fall into the place"

Students on Ice Programme

Set voyage in Russian vessel "Akademik Shokalskiy"

Begin 13.09 degree north of the equator in Madras (Chennai) Travelled over 100 hours by car, aeroplane and ship

Crossed nine time zones, six check points, three oceans and many I
ecospheres

Filled with relief setting foot on Antarctica, wondered its immensity and isolation

History of Antarctica

650 years ago part of Gondwana. A giant amalgamated southern subcontinent

Climate much warmer, huge variety offlora & fauna Antarctica and India part of same landmass

Huge landmass separated into countries

Present datAntarctica

No human population. No tress, no billboards and buildings Blue whales and Icebergs as big as a country

Midges and mites, ubiquitous silence

Human Impact

Man's dominance on nature results-villeges, cities and megacities Climate change, global warming, depletion in ozone layer etc.

Polar Ice caps melting, lacks in biodi-versity

Effect on marine animals and birds, phytoplankton activities affected.

Need of the Hour

Sustainable development acknowledging the importance of the planet with its metabolic needs.

Consumption of resources justifiably. "A small step towards the planet with consistancy will bring the positive change"

Extract Based Questions:

1.Early this year ,I found myself aboard a Russian research vessel "Akademik Shokaskiy" heading towards the coldest, driest, windiest continent in the world.

A]Who is ' I ' here

B] What is Akademik Shokalskiy?

C] Where was it heading to?

D] Which continent is referred to here?

2.Six hundred and fifty million years ago ,a giant amalgamated Southern super continent---Gondwana ---did indeed exist, centred roughly around the present day Antarctica

A]Name the lesson and the author.

B]Describe Gondwana.

C]How many years ago did Gondwana exist?

D]Around which continent did it exist?

3.Humans hadn't arrived on the global scene,and the climate was much warmer hosting a huge variety of Flora and Fauna

A] Why was there no human life?

B] What did the continent host?

C] Describe the climate.

D] Which continent do the above lines refer to?

4. For a sun worshipping south Indian like myself, two weeks in a place where 90% of the earth's total ice volumes are stored is a chilling prospect

- A] Whom does "myself" refer to?
- B] From where did the narrator come?
- C] Why was it a chilling prospect?
- D] Explain "For a sun worshipping South Indian"

5. My Antarctic experience was full of such epiphanies but the best occurred just short of the Antarctic circle at 65.55 degrees south

- A] Where did the narrator go?
- D] Describe his experience,
- C] What was the best experience the narrator talks of?
- D] Explain "full of such epiphanies"

6. You lose all earthly sense of perspective and time here the visual scales ranges from the microscopic to the mighty: midges and mites to blue whales and icebergs as big as countries

- A] Who does the word 'here' refer to?
- B] What is the visual scale range of this area?
- C] Name the species of fish found at Antarctica.
- D] Which country was recorded to have the largest whale?

7. Human civilizations have been around for the paltry 12000 years –barely a few seconds on the geological clock. In that short amount of time, we've managed to create quite a ruckus, etching our dominance over nature.

- A] Who does the word 'we' in the third line refer to?
- B] How long has the human civilisation been in existence?
- C] How are the years of human civilisation counted on the geographical clock?
- D] What have we, human beings done to nature?

8. The rapid increase of human populations has left us battling with other species for limited resources, and the unmitigated burning of fossil fuels has now created a blanket of carbon dioxide around the world

- A] Who does the word "us" in the second line refer to?
- B] Why are we battling with other species?
- C] How has the blanket of carbon dioxide been created?

D] What has caused the increase in global temperature?

9.Climate change is one of the most hotly contested environmental debates of our time. Will the West Antarctica Ice sheet melt entirely ? Will the Gulf Stream ocean current be disrupted? Will it be the end of the world as we know it? May be, may not be.

A. What does the word ‘One’ here refer to in the first line?

B. What are the issues under “Climate Change’ for environmental Debates?

C. Why is ‘Climate Change’ a burning topic for the latest debates?

D. Will it be the end of the world as we know it?

10.Students on Ice , the programme I was working with on the Shokaskiy aims to do exactly this by taking High School students to the end of the world and providing them with inspiring educational opportunities which will help them foster a new understanding and respect for our planet.

A. What does the word ‘this’ in the second line refer to?

B. Which programme was the author working with?

C. What is Shokaskiy?

D. How will the programme of the author help our High School students?

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS :

Mention the author’s emotions when he set his foot on Antarctica.

Ans. Far flung white landscape and blue horizon of Antarctica was a relief to the author. The author with his team had travelled 100 hours. She wondered at the sight of the large continent, its isolation and serenity. She could not believe the fact that once India and Antarctica were the part of the same land mass.

What are Geoff Green’s objectives for including high school students in “Student on Ice Programme” ?

Ans. ‘Student on Ice Programme’ was aimed to provide educational opportunity for the student to study and explore the past, present and future of the Earth. The future generation of policy makers was offered a life changing experience to understand and respect the planet. The students at this age are ready to absorb, learn and act.

‘Take care of small things, the big things will take care themselves’. What is the significance of the statement ?

Ans. Antarctica has simple ecosystem and lacks in bio-diversity. Little changes in environment can have big consequences. A very small single stemmed plant phytoplankton nourishes and sustains the entire food chain of Southern Ocean. These grasses to the sea use solar energy to absorb carbon. They to synthesize various organic compounds. We must take care of the small things to avoid the food chain reaction.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS :

What is the impact of human population on the planet Earth and its resources ?

How can a visit to Antarctica be an enlightening experience ?

What unique opportunities does Antarctica provide to the scientists ?

How did the split of Gondwana effects the geography and weather of the Earth ?

Antarctica is a crucial element in this debate. “ What is the debate Tishani Doshi is talking about?

Do you think that the programme ‘Student on Ice’ is successful ? Why/Why not ?

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS:

Why do Tishani Doshi call her trip to Antarctica ‘Journey to the End of the Earth’ ?

Ans. Tishani Doshi’s journey began 13.09 degree of the Equator in Madras. It involves crossing nine time zones, six check points, three bodies of water and many ecospheres. She travelled for 100 hours in combination of car, aeroplane and ship. Setting foot on the continent, she turned emotional viewing expanded white landscape and uninterrupted blue horizon with a relief. She was wondered seeing its immensity and isolation. It was unbelievable for her to know that Antarctica and India were the part of same landmass. She felt that she had reached to the part history: to get of where we have come from and where we could go possibly. It is significant to understand the evolution to this system.

How has rapid increase in human population left mark’s on nature and its resources ?

Ans. Human population has been around 12000 years on the planet. Its very short passage of time on geological clock. During this period human has created ruckus, dominance on nature has left scars. Beautiful green land has turned into villages, towns, cities and mega cities. Many of the species have extinct, many of them are struggling to survive. Over consumption of the natural resources has been

leading to a great threat to all the creatures. Fossil fuel has created a blanket of carbon dioxide resulting in climate change, global warming and depletion in ozone layer. It is disrupting food chain too. Humans do not have bright future unless ecological balance is maintained.

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS FOR PRACTICE

What role does Gondwana play in Geography and Geology of the Earth ?

What facts about the Earth have been brought out in the chapter ? How can it influence our feeling for the planet ?

The student companions of Tishani Doshi returned from Antarctica with a feeling to save the world. What are the ways to protect this world in your opinion ?

What does Tishani Doshi call herself a sun-worshipping South Indian ? Support the answer with relevant facts from the text.