

## **Life on the Ice (Cube)**

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Laura Gladstone is a scientist. She went to Antarctica to help with a special telescope called IceCube. What was it like to work there?

Laura worked hard in Antarctica. She was there in the summer. It never got dark outside. So sometimes she worked 18 hours a day!

Scientists in Antarctica need warm clothes. Every day, Laura wore a heavy coat, three pairs of socks, and boots. Her clothes weighed 13 pounds! She had to plan when she went outside so she wasn't out for very long.

What did she eat? All of the food for the scientists has to be flown in by plane. That means that strawberries and fruit are a treat. Laura and the other scientists made ice cream one day. They mixed powdered milk and water and put the bowls outside. Their ice cream froze in just three minutes! Laura said it was delicious. She had to be careful not to touch the metal spoon to her lips, or else the spoon would stick!

Getting to take a shower was a treat, too. The scientists have to be careful to save water and fuel. Laura was allowed to take two showers a week. Each shower could only be two minutes long!

Laura slept in a building with about 15 other people. The building could only be used in the summer. It would be too cold in the winter. It was hard to stay warm in the summer, too. Laura slept wearing long pants, a sweatshirt, and a hat. She used three blankets and her coat to cover herself up. She also had to wear a mask over her eyes to keep out the sunlight!

Even though doing science in Antarctica is hard work, the scientists have fun, too. There are many **traditions** for the 250 people who work at the South Pole. One is called Race Around the World. This is a two-mile race around the South Pole. Some people run or walk. Other people build parade floats and ride on them. Laura's favorite float was a steam-breathing dragon!

Flesh-Kincaid RL = 3.5

One thing that scientists in Antarctica can't do is ice skate. Water needs to freeze and make flat ice to be good for skating. The ice at the South Pole never melts, so there isn't any water to freeze. No water, no flat ice, no skating!

There aren't any animals at the South Pole. It is in the middle of Antarctica. It is far away from the ocean where penguins, whales, and seals live. Not even mosquitoes live there! Laura brought her stuffed penguin named PJ to keep her company.

Laura liked working in Antarctica. Would you like to work there someday?

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## **Glossary**

Traditions – activities that are done year after year