

Vast city-sized iceberg breaks away from Antarctica

Antarctica has lost an iceberg the equivalent size of Greater London. The iceberg measuring 1,550 square kilometres separated from the main ice shelf. The split is part of a natural process known as *calving*. It is the second iceberg to break off in two years because of a major crack in the Brunt Ice Shelf. Pictures captured by satellite show that the vast iceberg has been breaking away since 2012.

The floating ice shelf is an extension of Antarctica. As it extends, its link to Antarctica breaks. The new iceberg will eventually float out to sea. Although cracks around the edges of Antarctica are common and blamed on climate change, this one is an exception. Scientists monitoring the breakage say it is a significant event because of the massive size of the iceberg. Fortunately, the research scientists recently moved their station and are not currently based on the iceberg.

Figures reveal that Antarctica is melting at an average rate of 150 billion metric tons per year. The global rise in sea level is partly a result of this rapid process of shrinking icebergs. Scientists say they will continue to monitor the entire split, called *Chasm-1*, that runs along the ice shelf mass.

Warm-up activities

Compare where you live to Antarctica.

What has changed in your town or city over the past 10 years?

Name something massive. Take turns and see how long you can last naming something massive without repeating anything.

Scan the text and find a word or phrase that means:

- *equal* (paragraph 1) e...
- *cut* (paragraph 1) s...
- *important* (paragraph 2) s...
- *ice turning into water* (paragraph 3) m...
- *fast* (paragraph 3) r...

What does the italicised word below mean – *fixing*, *watching*, or *controlling*?

- scientists *monitoring* the breakage

Comprehension questions

1. The iceberg is the same size as what?
2. Is the split natural or caused by human activity?
3. How many icebergs have broken off the ice shelf?
4. What do satellite photos show?
5. What will happen to the new iceberg?
6. Is it normal for massive icebergs to break off?
7. Why do scientists say this is important news?
8. What happened to the research base?
9. What is 150 billion tons referring to?
10. Did scientists have to leave because of safety?

- A. The melting rate per year.
- B. It will float out to sea.
- C. Greater London.
- D. Two.
- E. No, they will continue to stay.
- F. It's a natural process.
- G. Nothing, because it was moved in time.
- H. The time it has taken to break.
- I. No, it's the exception.
- J. Because of the iceberg's size.

Match-up phrases, synonyms, antonyms

Match the words on the left to their endings to make phrases from the text.

- | | |
|------------|---------------|
| 1. square | A. process |
| 2. average | B. kilometres |
| 3. break | C. year |
| 4. natural | D. along |
| 5. sea | E. rate |
| 6. per | F. off |
| 7. massive | G. size |
| 8. runs | H. level |
| 9. metric | I. tons |
| 10. float | J. out to sea |

Match the words on the left from the text to their synonyms.

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| 1. separate | A. the world's |
| 2. measure | B. break |
| 3. blame | C. the size of |
| 4. global | D. the fault of |
| 5. shrink | E. get smaller |

Match the words on the left from the text to their antonyms.

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| 1. separate | A. shrink |
| 2. shrink | B. connect |
| 3. extend | C. grow |

Missing grammar: premodifiers

A. equivalent

B. vast

C. massive

D. natural

E. average

F. major

G. entire

H. significant

I. rapid

J. floating

Antarctica has lost an iceberg the 1._____ size of Greater London. The iceberg measuring 1,550 square kilometres separated from the main ice shelf. The split is part of a 2._____ process known as *calving*. It is the second iceberg to break off in two years because of a 3._____ crack in the Brunt Ice Shelf. Pictures captured by satellite show that the 4._____ iceberg has been breaking away since 2012.

The 5._____ ice shelf is an extension of Antarctica. As it extends, its link to Antarctica breaks. The new iceberg will eventually float out to sea. Although cracks around the edges of Antarctica are common and blamed on climate change, this one is an exception. Scientists monitoring the breakage say it is a 6._____ event because of the 7._____ size of the iceberg. Fortunately, the research scientists recently moved their station and are not currently based on the iceberg.

Figures reveal that Antarctica is melting at an 8._____ rate of 150 billion metric tons per year. The global rise in sea level is partly a result of this 9._____ process of shrinking icebergs. Scientists say they will continue to monitor the 10._____ split, called *Chasm-1*, that runs along the ice shelf mass.

Multiple choice vocabulary

Antarctica has lost an iceberg the equivalent size of Greater London. The iceberg 1._____ 1,550 square kilometres separated from the main ice shelf. The 2._____ is part of a natural process known as *calving*. It is the second iceberg to break off in two years because of a major crack in the Brunt Ice Shelf. Pictures 3._____ by satellite show that the vast iceberg has been breaking away since 2012.

The floating ice shelf is an extension of Antarctica. As it extends, its 4._____ to Antarctica breaks. The new iceberg will eventually 5._____ out to sea. Although cracks around the edges of Antarctica are common and 6._____ on climate change, this one is an exception. Scientists monitoring the breakage say it is a 7._____ event because of the massive size of the iceberg. Fortunately, the research scientists recently moved their station and are not currently based on the iceberg.

Figures reveal that Antarctica is melting at an average rate of 150 billion metric tons per year. The 8._____ rise in sea level is partly a result of this rapid process of 9._____ icebergs. Scientists say they will continue to 10._____ the entire split, called *Chasm-1*, that runs along the ice shelf mass.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1. A. measuring | B. sizing | C. fitting | D. reaching |
| 2. A. pair | B. split | C. amount | D. part |
| 3. A. shoot | B. take | C. captured | D. record |
| 4. A. link | B. chain | C. ice | D. water |
| 5. A. float | B. swim | C. sail | D. dive |
| 6. A. everyday | B. blames | C. blamed | D. normal |
| 7. A. ancient | B. scientific | C. significant | D. futuristic |
| 8. A. local | B. worldly | C. planetary | D. global |
| 9. A. shrink | B. shrinking | C. shrinks | D. shrunk |
| 10. A. monitor | B. screen | C. speaker | D. mouse |

Spelling

Spell the words from the text correctly.

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. the q i a e l v e t u n size of Greater London | eq... |
| 2. e m s u g r a i n 1,550 square kilometres | me... |
| 3. part of a natural c o s p r e s | pr... |
| 4. pictures captured by t a t e s e l i l | sa... |
| 5. r a k c s c around the edges of Antarctica | cr... |
| 6. scientists o n i n o t g m r i the breakage | mo... |
| 7. it is a i s a n i f g i t n c event | si... |
| 8. the a v s m s e i size of the iceberg | ma... |
| 9. Antarctica is l e t g i n m at an average rate | me... |
| 10. this rapid process of k h n r i n s i g icebergs | sh... |

Fill-in punctuation

The text below is missing its capital letters, commas, and full stops, and specifically 4 unique proper nouns for names and places. Tip: sometimes numbers need commas!

antarctica has lost an iceberg the equivalent size of greater london the iceberg measuring 1550 square kilometres separated from the main ice shelf the split is part of a natural process known as *calving* it is the second iceberg to break off in two years because of a major crack in the brunt ice shelf pictures captured by satellite show that the vast iceberg has been breaking away since 2012

the floating ice shelf is an extension of antarctica as it extends its link to antarctica breaks the new iceberg will eventually float out to sea although cracks around the edges of antarctica are common and blamed on climate change this one is an exception scientists monitoring the breakage say it is a significant event because of the massive size of the iceberg fortunately the research scientists recently moved their station and are not currently based on the iceberg

figures reveal that antarctica is melting at an average rate of 150 billion metric tons per year the global rise in sea level is partly a result of this rapid process of shrinking icebergs scientists say they will continue to monitor the entire split called *chasm-1* that runs along the ice shelf mass

Cool-down activities

Discussion questions:

- Can you list three things you think need to be protected on our planet?
- How do you keep up to date with science news?
- What was the last good thing you did to help the environment?
- What subject do you wish you had time to study?
- What is the largest place, manmade or natural, that you've ever been to?

CEFR B2 10 keywords revision list:

blame capture float global link

measure monitor shrink significant split

Beginning with each letter below, think of a word that describes water.

A	J	S
B	K	T
C	L	U
D	M	V
E	N	W
F	O	X
G	P	Y
H	Q	Z
I	R	

Answers

Page 2 Warm-up activities

equal / equivalent

cut / split

important / significant

ice turning into water / melting

fast / rapid

monitoring / watching

Page 3 Comprehension questions

1C, 2F, 3D, 4H, 5B, 6I, 7J, 8G, 9A, 10E

Page 4 Match-up phrases, synonyms, antonyms

Phrases 1B, 2E, 3F, 4A, 5H, 6C, 7G, 8D, 9I, 10J

Synonyms 1B, 2C, 3D, 4A, 5E

Antonyms 1B, 2C, 3A

Page 5 Missing grammar: premodifiers

1A, 2D, 3F, 4B, 5J, 6H, 7C, 8E, 9I, 10G

Page 6 Multiple choice vocabulary

1A, 2B, 3C, 4A, 5A, 6C, 7C, 8D, 9B, 10A

Page 7 Spelling

EQUIVALENT, MEASURING, PROCESS, SATELLITE, CRACKS

MONITORING, SIGNIFICANT, MASSIVE, MELTING, SHRINKING

For this lesson's interactive exercises, visit:

<https://www.everybitenglish.com/online-exercises-20230129-antarctica-iceberg>

Thanks for using this lesson!