

Ice and snow bring problems for travellers in the USA

Elementary

1 Warmer

Put these types of weather in order from 1 (the one you like the most) to 6 (the one you like the least).

- | | |
|----------|---------|
| 1. _____ | a. snow |
| 2. _____ | b. fog |
| 3. _____ | c. wind |
| 4. _____ | d. sun |
| 5. _____ | e. rain |
| 6. _____ | f. ice |

2 Key words

Fill the gaps in the sentences with these key words from the text. The paragraph numbers will help you.

wind chill

cancelled

boiling

freezing

power cut

research station

1. If a flight is _____, it does not fly because of bad weather or some other problem. (para 2)
2. _____ weather is very cold. (para 2)
3. In a _____, you have no electricity because of bad weather or some other problem. (para 2)
4. _____ is when the wind makes the temperature of the air feel colder. (para 3)
5. _____ water is very hot (100 degrees Celsius). (para 3)
6. A _____ is a place where scientists work. (para 4)

3 Find the information

Find the following information in the text as quickly as possible.

1. When were the three airports in New York closed?
2. How many flights were cancelled?
3. How many people died in accidents caused by the freezing weather?
4. How high is Mount Washington?
5. How much snow fell in one day at Silver Lake, Colorado?
6. What was the coldest temperature ever on Earth?

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8 February, 2018

- 1 2018 began with a week of heavy snow and very low temperatures in the eastern United States. Heavy snow fell in New York and Boston. Even the southern states of Georgia and Florida had some snow. For a short time, it was colder in Florida than in Alaska.
- 2 On Friday, 5 January, the three airports in New York and the airport in Boston were closed because of heavy snow and more than 1,200 flights were cancelled. Public transport (trains and buses) was not able to operate in a large number of towns and cities, especially in the north-east of the USA. Eighteen people died in accidents caused by the freezing weather and more than 80,000 people had no electricity because of power cuts.
- 3 On Saturday, 6 January, the temperature on Mount Washington in the north-eastern state of New Hampshire was minus 38 degrees Celsius. It was also very windy at the top of the mountain and, with the wind chill, the temperature was minus 69 degrees Celsius. At that temperature, boiling water turns into ice in seconds. Mount Washington is 1,916 metres above sea level and is often the coldest place in the USA. On Saturday, 6 January, Mount Washington was the second coldest place on Earth.
- 4 Snow and very cold weather are not unusual in the eastern United States in winter but the heaviest snow ever in the USA was in the west of the country. In April, 1921, 193cm of snow fell in one day at Silver Lake in Colorado. The coldest ever temperature in the USA was in Alaska in 1971 – minus 62 degrees Celsius. But this was not the coldest temperature ever on Earth. That was in 1983 at the Vostok research station in Antarctica – minus 89.2 degrees Celsius.

4 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings to the endings to make statements about the text.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. For a short time, the weather in Florida ... | a. ... more than 80,000 people had no electricity. |
| 2. More than 1,200 flights were cancelled ... | b. ... was in Alaska in 1971. |
| 3. The bad weather caused power cuts and ... | c. ... because of heavy snow and freezing temperatures. |
| 4. The wind chill on top of Mount Washington was ... | d. ... boiling water turns to ice in a few seconds. |
| 5. At minus 69 degrees Celsius, ... | e. ... was colder than the weather in Alaska. |
| 6. The coldest temperature ever in the USA ... | f. ... minus 69 degrees Celsius. |

5 Chunks

Rearrange the words to make phrases from the text.

1. of the north-east the USA in
2. the at the mountain of top
3. in the place coldest USA the
4. above 1,916 level metres sea
5. coldest Earth on second the place
6. towns in number a cities and large of

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6 Two-word phrases

Match the words in the left-hand column with those in the right-hand column to make expressions from the text.

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| 1. wind | a. station |
| 2. research | b. snow |
| 3. power | c. chill |
| 4. heavy | d. cut |

7 Comparatives and superlatives

Complete the table.

adjective	comparative	superlative
hot	hotter	the hottest
cold		
heavy		
	windier	

8 Discussion

Do you like cold weather? Why? Why not?

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KEY

2 Key words

1. cancelled
2. freezing
3. power cut
4. wind chill
5. boiling
6. research station

3 Find the information

1. Friday, 5 January
2. more than 1,200
3. 18
4. 1,916 metres
5. 193cm
6. minus 89.2 degrees Celsius

4 Comprehension check

1. e
2. c
3. a
4. f
5. d
6. b

5 Chunks

1. in the north-east of the USA
2. at the top of the mountain
3. the coldest place in the USA
4. 1,916 metres above sea level
5. the second coldest place on Earth
6. in a large number of towns and cities

6 Two-word phrases

1. c
2. a
3. d
4. b

7 Comparatives and superlatives

adjective	comparative	superlative
hot	hotter	the hottest
cold	colder	the coldest
heavy	heavier	the heaviest
windy	windier	the windiest