ongratulations! You've come this far and you haven't frozen to death yet. But have you really got the hang of perilous polar living?

Try this quick quiz to see if you'd survive. All the answers are based on how the local Inuit people traditionally coped with the icy Arctic cold.

COULD YOU BE A POLAR EXPLORER?

1 A thick woolly jumper is all you'll need to keep you toasty and warm. YES/NO? 2 Muklucks are warm, furry boots made from sealskin. YES/NO? 3 In a snowstorm, stand your ground until the blizzard blows over. YES/NO? 4 You've caught a seal for supper. But don't eat its intestines. YES/NO? 5 To get from A to B quickly, hitch some sausage dogs to your sledge. YES/NO?



ANSWERS:

1 NO. You need to wear lots of layers of clothes to trap warm air next to your skin. They'll also let sweat escape so it doesn't freeze on your skin. 2 YES. But did you know the sealskin is soaked in wee overnight to get it clean?

3 NO. The best thing to do in a snowstorm is to make a shelter from snow. Snow's brilliant for building with because it traps heat.

4 NO. The only bit of a seal you can't eat is its ghastly gall bladder. Dried intestines are a delicacy.

5 YES AND NO. It's true that travelling by dog sledge is the best way to get about. But you won't get far with sausage dogs. Hitch up some hardy huskies instead.

So how did you do? Award yourself ten points for each right answer.

Score 0-20: Oh dear! You won't last long at the parky poles. At this rate, you'll freeze to death before you could say 'Polar bear!'

Score 30-40. You've got what it takes to survive at the poles, if you keep your wits about you. But hang on ... how did that sausage dog manage to sneak in there?

Score 50: You'll make a brilliant polar explorer and you'll be living like a local in no time. So let's hope you like mashed seal's brain because that's what you've got for tea.

HORRIBLE HEALTH WARNING

No one lives in Antarctica permanently. It's just too perishing cold. But thousands of suffering scientists travel there to work. They mostly live on research stations, with their own living quarters, kitchens, hospitals, gyms and horrible science labs.

If you're planning another trip to the parky poles, you'd better get your skates on. The poles may look like useless lumps of ice, but there's lots of stuff underneath you could put to good

use. From oil and minerals, to fish and fur seals, the poles are packed with riches. Trouble is, horrible humans are so busy getting them out that they're putting the poles in peril.

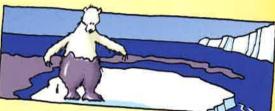
HORRIBLE HOLIDAYS

are not proud to present their poles-in-peril tour

Hurry while the poles last

For a holiday you might want to forget, try our poles-in-peril tour. But watch out for the piles of litter and rotten rubbish dumped by passing tourists. And mind the miles of polar coast polluted by oil spilled when tankers run aground.





TODAY'S SPECIAL OFFER!

Fancy going toothfish fishing? Don't bother. There probably aren't any toothfish left. The toothfish's tasty meat makes it a valuable catch. But in the Southern Ocean, huge numbers are being caught illegally. Trouble is, it takes a toothfish about 30 years to be fully grown. And so many fish are being caught, stocks don't have time to catch up.

A NOTE FROM YOUR TOUR OPERATOR:

We can't guarantee you'll see anything. Especially if you book late. According to some scientists, humans are making the Earth so warm, the poles are melting before our eyes.

WICKED WORLD FACTS

One plan is to turn the whole of Antarctica into a whopping World Park. Wicked.

There are strict rules to stop real-life tourists making a mess and disturbing polar wildlife*.







