**Chapter 17: Antarctica and the Pacific**

I. Antarctica

1. Final Frontier

* Fossils on Antarctica show that dinosaurs and mammals once lived here
* **98% -**
* Only major landmass without permanent human settlement
* **70% -**

B. Ice, Ice Baby

* **5,600-7,200 –**
* **Polar Desert –**
* Average temperature in Antarctica is around -70 F ☹
* Receives around 2 inches of precipitation per year

C. More Ice

* **Ice Shelf –**
* **Convergence Zone –**
* Results in huge storms and winds over 120 MPH

D. Resources

* Penguins, fish, whales, and many birds live in the water around Antarctica
* **Krill –**
* Scientist believe that resources like gold and oil are located on the continent

E. Sharing the Wealth

* **Antarctic Treaty –**
* Over 20,000 scientists come to study the continent each year
* Gather information by drilling deep into the ice – Learn about the climate on Earth when the ice was froze

F. Environmental Concerns

* **Climate Change –**
* Average temperatures have risen across the world over the past decades
* Over the past decade parts of the ice shelf have broken off
* Could cause sea levels around the world to rise
* **Ozone Layer** –
* In the past decades chemical compounds caused the ozone layer to grown thinner
* Scientist now believe that the ozone layer will recover