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Level 3 – 2nd February, 2019

Deadly polar vortex freezes mid-America

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1902/190202-polar-vortex.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1902/190202-polar-vortex.html>

Much of mid- and northeastern America is in the middle of a deadly cold snap. Many states from Michigan in the north to Georgia in the south are experiencing freezing temperatures not experienced for decades. It is currently colder in many parts of the USA than it is in Antarctica. The cold spell is because of what is called a polar vortex. This is a swirling mass of air and wind that has come down from the Arctic, which is where the North Pole is. The government has declared states of emergency in Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan. Many schools and businesses have been closed due to the extreme cold. People have been warned not to travel, and even not to go outside and breathe in the icy air.

The weather website AccuWeather said that the temperature in Thief River Falls, in the state of Minnesota, dropped to a real-feel minus sixty degrees Celsius. Many parts of the Chicago River turned to ice, Niagara Falls turned into a winter wonderland and parts of Lake Michigan froze over. The bitter freeze is believed to be responsible for the deaths of at least eight people so far. Health officials are urging people to go outside only if it is absolutely necessary. They warned that exposing the skin to the freezing air was dangerous. It could lead to frostbite or breathing problems. People were also urged to be careful when shoveling snow outside and be careful of blocks of snow and ice falling from the roof.

Sources: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/30/us/extreme-cold-weather.html>
<https://thehill.com/opinion/energy-environment/427652-how-dangerous-and-historic-is-the-polar-vortex-hitting-the-midwest>
<https://www.accuweather.com/en/weather-news/75-below-zero-polar-vortex-yields-deadly-cold-as-thousands-endure-power-cuts-travel-issues-mount-in-midwest/70007291>

WARM-UPS

1. FREEZING WEATHER: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about freezing weather. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

cold snap / north / freezing / decades / Antarctica / polar / emergency / travel / extreme / breathe / winter / wonderland / temperature / ice / frostbite / snow

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. FREEZING: Students A **strongly** believe freezing cold weather is better than boiling hot weather; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. SURVIVAL: How can people survive in these extreme weather events? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What to do	Problems
Freezing cold		
Boiling heat		
Flooding		
A meter of snow		
Heavy fog		
Hurricane winds		

5. COLD: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "cold". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. WEATHER: Rank these with your partner. Put the worst kinds of weather at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- snow
- fog
- hail
- thunderstorms
- boiling heat
- freezing cold
- gale force winds
- raining cats and dogs

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 1. cold snap | a. Formally announced the beginning of a state or condition. |
| 2. decade | b. Anything about the North and South Poles. |
| 3. polar | c. A period of ten years. |
| 4. swirling | d. Take air into the lungs and then let it out. |
| 5. declared | e. A sudden short period of freezing weather. |
| 6. extreme | f. Moving in a twisting or spiraling pattern. |
| 7. breathe | g. Getting to a high or the highest degree; very, very, very great. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 8. temperature | h. How hot or cold a place actually is, rather than what people say it will be. |
| 9. real-feel | i. Completely; totally. |
| 10. bitter | j. The covering of a building. |
| 11. freeze | k. Very, very cold. |
| 12. absolutely | l. The thin layer of tissue forming the outer covering of the body of a person or animal. |
| 13. skin | m. Of a liquid (e.g. water) turning into ice. |
| 14. roof | n. How hot or cold something or someone is. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1902/190202-polar-vortex.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. The article said a deadly cold snap has hit the whole of the USA. **T / F**
- b. The last time the USA had such freezing weather was five years ago. **T / F**
- c. The polar vortex has come down from the North Pole. **T / F**
- d. People were told that breathing icy air is very healthy. **T / F**
- e. The real-feel temperature in a part of Minnesota fell to -60° Celsius. **T / F**
- f. Parts of Lake Michigan became frozen. **T / F**
- g. Freezing air cannot damage our skin. **T / F**
- h. Officials warned people about blocks of ice falling from roofs. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1. much | a. fell |
| 2. deadly | b. revolving |
| 3. experienced | c. because of |
| 4. swirling | d. dropping |
| 5. due to | e. lethal |
| 6. dropped | f. encouraging |
| 7. parts | g. a lot of |
| 8. urging | h. unavoidable |
| 9. necessary | i. encountered |
| 10. falling | j. areas |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. in the middle of a deadly | a. snow outside |
| 2. colder in many parts of the USA | b. of air and wind |
| 3. a swirling mass | c. over |
| 4. businesses have been closed due | d. falling from the roof |
| 5. breathe in the icy | e. cold snap |
| 6. dropped to a real-feel minus | f. air was dangerous |
| 7. parts of Lake Michigan froze | g. to the extreme cold |
| 8. exposing the skin to the freezing | h. than it is in Antarctica |
| 9. be careful when shoveling | i. sixty degrees Celsius |
| 10. blocks of snow and ice | j. air |

GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1902/190202-polar-vortex.html>

Much of mid- and northeastern America is in the (1) _____ of a deadly cold snap. Many states from Michigan in the north to Georgia in the south are (2) _____ freezing temperatures not experienced for (3) _____. It is currently colder in many parts of the USA than it is in Antarctica. The cold (4) _____ is because of what is called a polar vortex. This is a swirling (5) _____ of air and wind that has come down from the Arctic, which is where the North Pole is. The government has declared states of (6) _____ in Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan. Many schools and businesses have been closed (7) _____ to the extreme cold. People have been warned not to travel, and even not to go outside and breathe in the icy (8) _____.

emergency
experiencing
air
spell
middle
due
mass
decades

The weather website AccuWeather said that the (9) _____ in Thief River Falls, in the state of Minnesota, dropped to a real-feel (10) _____ sixty degrees Celsius. Many parts of the Chicago River turned to ice, Niagara Falls turned into a winter wonderland and parts of Lake Michigan (11) _____ over. The bitter freeze is believed to be (12) _____ for the deaths of at least eight people so far. Health officials are urging people to go outside only if it is (13) _____ necessary. They warned that exposing the (14) _____ to the freezing air was dangerous. It could lead to frostbite or breathing problems. People were also urged to be careful when (15) _____ snow outside and be careful of blocks of snow and ice falling from the (16) _____.

minus
responsible
shoveling
temperature
skin
roof
froze
absolutely

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1902/190202-polar-vortex.html>

- 1) Much of mid- and northeastern America is in the middle of a _____
 - a. deadly colds snap
 - b. deadly cold nap
 - c. deadly cold snap
 - d. deadly colds nap
- 2) ... the south are experiencing freezing temperatures not experienced _____
 - a. for decadence
 - b. for deck aids
 - c. for deck add
 - d. for decades
- 3) It is currently colder in many parts of the USA than it is _____
 - a. in Antarctic
 - b. inner Artic
 - c. inner Antarctica
 - d. in Antarctica
- 4) This is a swirling mass of air and wind that has come down _____
 - a. from an ark tick
 - b. from the Arctic
 - c. from the ark tick
 - d. from an arch tick
- 5) warned not to travel, and even not to go outside and breathe in _____
 - a. the eye see air
 - b. the eye sea air
 - c. the I.C. air
 - d. the icy air
- 6) Thief River Falls in the state of Minnesota, dropped to a real-feel _____ degrees
 - a. mine as sixteen
 - b. mine us sixty
 - c. minus sixty
 - d. minus sixteen
- 7) The bitter freeze is believed to be responsible for the deaths of _____ people
 - a. at least eighty
 - b. at least eights
 - c. at least eighteen
 - d. at least eight
- 8) Health officials are urging people to go outside only if it _____ necessary
 - a. is absolute zero
 - b. is absolute
 - c. is absolutely
 - d. is absolute zero
- 9) People were also urged to be careful when shoveling _____
 - a. snows outside
 - b. snow outside
 - c. snowy outside
 - d. snowed outside
- 10) be careful of blocks of snow and ice falling _____
 - a. from a roof
 - b. for the proof
 - c. from the proof
 - d. from the roof

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1902/190202-polar-vortex.html>

Much of mid- and northeastern America is in (1) _____ a deadly cold snap. Many states from Michigan in the north to Georgia in the south are experiencing freezing temperatures not (2) _____. It is currently colder in many parts of the USA than it is in Antarctica. The cold spell is because of (3) _____ a polar vortex. This is a swirling mass of air and wind that has (4) _____ the Arctic, which is where the North Pole is. The government has declared states of emergency in Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan. Many schools and businesses have been (5) _____ the extreme cold. People have been warned not to travel, and even not to go outside (6) _____ the icy air.

The weather website AccuWeather said that the temperature in Thief River Falls, in the state of Minnesota, (7) _____ real-feel minus sixty degrees Celsius. Many parts of the Chicago River turned to ice, Niagara Falls turned into a winter wonderland (8) _____. Lake Michigan froze over. The bitter freeze is believed to be responsible for the deaths of at least eight (9) _____. Health officials are urging people to go outside only if it is absolutely necessary. They warned that (10) _____ to the freezing air was dangerous. It could lead to frostbite or breathing problems. People were (11) _____ be careful when shoveling snow outside and be careful of blocks of snow and ice falling (12) _____.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1902/190202-polar-vortex.html>

1. Which regions of the USA are experiencing a freezing cold snap?
2. Where did the cold weather come from?
3. How many states have declared a state of emergency?
4. What have closed down?
5. What were people warned not to do with icy air?
6. What did the temperature fall to in Thief River Falls?
7. What happened to parts of Lake Michigan?
8. When did health officials say it was OK for people to go outside?
9. What medical problem can freezing air give us?
10. What is there a danger of falling from roofs?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1902/190202-polar-vortex.html>

- 1) Which regions of the USA are experiencing a freezing cold snap?
 - a) northern USA
 - b) mid- and northeastern America
 - c) the midwest
 - d) the east
- 2) Where did the cold weather come from?
 - a) Alaska
 - b) the South Pole
 - c) the Antarctic
 - d) the Arctic
- 3) How many states have declared a state of emergency?
 - a) one
 - b) two
 - c) three
 - d) four
- 4) What have closed down?
 - a) schools and businesses
 - b) government
 - c) snow-moving machines
 - d) hospitals
- 5) What were people warned not to do with icy air?
 - a) keep it
 - b) breathe it
 - c) bathe in it
 - d) eat ice cream in it
- 6) What did the temperature fall to in Thief River Falls?
 - a) -60°C
 - b) -70°C
 - c) -50°C
 - d) -40°C
- 7) What happened to parts of Lake Michigan?
 - a) it misted over
 - b) nothing
 - c) it froze over
 - d) it rose
- 8) When did health officials say it was OK for people to go outside?
 - a) it was absolutely necessary
 - b) to clear snow
 - c) to push cars
 - d) to build a snowman
- 9) What medical problem can freezing air give us?
 - a) blisters
 - b) acne
 - c) baldness
 - d) frostbite
- 10) What is there a danger of falling from roofs?
 - a) people
 - b) tiles
 - c) blocks of snow and ice
 - d) shovels

ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1902/190202-polar-vortex.html>

Role A – Heavy Snow

You think heavy snow is the worst kind of weather. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their weather. Also, tell the others which is the best of these (and why): boiling heat, freezing cold or torrential rain.

Role B – Boiling Heat

You think boiling heat is the worst kind of weather. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their weather. Also, tell the others which is the best of these (and why): heavy snow, freezing cold or torrential rain.

Role C – Freezing Cold

You think freezing cold is the worst kind of weather. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their weather. Also, tell the others which is the best of these (and why): boiling heat, heavy snow or torrential rain.

Role D – Torrential Rain

You think torrential rain is the worst kind of weather. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their weather. Also, tell the others which is the best of these (and why): boiling heat, freezing cold or heavy snow.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1902/190202-polar-vortex.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'cold' and 'weather'.

cold	weather
-------------	----------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• middle• decades• mass• declared• schools• breathe	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• website• minus• parts• necessary• dangerous• roof
--	--

FREEZING WEATHER SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1902/190202-polar-vortex.html>

Write five GOOD questions about freezing weather in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

FREEZING WEATHER DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'freezing'?
3. What do you think of freezing cold weather?
4. What are the good and bad things about the weather in your country?
5. What would it be like to visit Antarctica?
6. What is the coldest you have ever been?
7. What do you know about the North Pole?
8. What are the dangers of very cold weather?
9. What is the best way to stay warm in freezing temperatures?
10. What would it be like to breathe very icy air?

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FREEZING WEATHER DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'cold'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. Do you prefer the heat or the cold?
15. What would you do if temperatures dropped to minus 60°C?
16. What do you know about frostbite?
17. What do you know about Niagara Falls?
18. What do you think of shoveling snow?
19. What is the best thing to do in the snow?
20. What questions would you like to ask a weather forecaster?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1902/190202-polar-vortex.html>

Much of mid- and northeastern America is in the middle of a deadly cold (1) _____. Many states from Michigan in the north to Georgia in the south are experiencing freezing temperatures (2) _____ experienced for decades. It is (3) _____ colder in many parts of the USA than it is in Antarctica. The cold spell is because of (4) _____ is called a polar vortex. This is a swirling mass of air and wind that has come down from the Arctic, which is where the North Pole (5) _____. The government has declared states of emergency in Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan. Many schools and businesses have been closed due to the extreme cold. People have been warned not to travel, and (6) _____ not to go outside and breathe in the icy air.

The weather website AccuWeather said that the temperature in Thief River Falls, in the state of Minnesota, (7) _____ to a real-feel minus sixty degrees Celsius. Many parts of the Chicago River turned to ice, Niagara Falls turned into a winter wonderland and parts of Lake Michigan froze (8) _____. The bitter freeze is believed to be responsible for the deaths of at least eight people so far. Health officials are (9) _____ people to go outside only if it is absolutely necessary. They warned that exposing the skin (10) _____ the freezing air was dangerous. It could lead to (11) _____ or breathing problems. People were also urged to be careful when shoveling snow outside and be careful of blocks of snow and ice falling from the (12) _____.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|-------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. | (a) snip | (b) snap | (c) snag | (d) span |
| 2. | (a) neither | (b) no | (c) non | (d) not |
| 3. | (a) currant | (b) currently | (c) current | (d) currency |
| 4. | (a) that | (b) which | (c) what | (d) why |
| 5. | (a) be | (b) is | (c) are | (d) have |
| 6. | (a) even | (b) evenly | (c) evens | (d) every |
| 7. | (a) fall | (b) reduce | (c) below | (d) dropped |
| 8. | (a) over | (b) above | (c) higher | (d) around |
| 9. | (a) raging | (b) urging | (c) staging | (d) aging |
| 10. | (a) of | (b) at | (c) to | (d) on |
| 11. | (a) frosty | (b) frosted | (c) frostbite | (d) frosts |
| 12. | (a) ceiling | (b) roof | (c) attic | (d) tiles |

SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1902/190202-polar-vortex.html>

Paragraph 1

1. in the middle of a dedyla cold snap
2. It is tucenrlry colder
3. a srlgwini mass of air
4. declared states of ecnrgemey
5. closed due to the teeexmr cold
6. bhtaree in the icy air

Paragraph 2

7. minus sixty edgrees Celsius
8. snbelopeirs for the deaths
9. Health closifai
10. girnug people to go outside
11. It could lead to btroeftsi
12. be careful when nhivogels snow

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1902/190202-polar-vortex.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () only if it is absolutely necessary. They warned that exposing the skin to the freezing air was dangerous. It could lead
- () currently colder in many parts of the USA than it is in Antarctica. The cold spell is because of what is called
- () a polar vortex. This is a swirling mass of air and wind that has come down from the Arctic, which is
- () responsible for the deaths of at least eight people so far. Health officials are urging people to go outside
- (**1**) Much of mid- and northeastern America is in the middle of a deadly cold snap. Many states from Michigan in the
- () warned not to travel, and even not to go outside and breathe in the icy air.
- () where the North Pole is. The government has declared states of emergency in Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan. Many
- () schools and businesses have been closed due to the extreme cold. People have been
- () to frostbite or breathing problems. People were also urged to be careful when shoveling
- () to a real-feel minus sixty degrees Celsius. Many parts of the Chicago River turned to ice, Niagara Falls turned
- () into a winter wonderland and parts of Lake Michigan froze over. The bitter freeze is believed to be
- () The weather website AccuWeather said that the temperature in Thief River Falls, in the state of Minnesota, dropped
- () north to Georgia in the south are experiencing freezing temperatures not experienced for decades. It is
- () snow outside and be careful of blocks of snow and ice falling from the roof.

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1902/190202-polar-vortex.html>

1. of middle the a deadly In cold snap.
2. freezing not experienced decades. for Experiencing temperatures
3. that come Wind from the Arctic. down has
4. The has declared emergency. states government of
5. warned have People to travel. not been
6. of to river Many the turned parts ice.
7. for eight. at the least of Responsible deaths
8. absolutely necessary. only Go if it outside is
9. dangerous. air skin to Exposing the the was
10. urged were careful. also People to be

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1902/190202-polar-vortex.html>

Much of mid- and northeastern America is in the *mid / middle* of a deadly cold snap. Many states from Michigan in the north to Georgia in the south are *experienced / experiencing* freezing temperatures not *experienced / experiencing* for decades. It is currently colder in many parts of the USA than it *is / isn't* in Antarctica. The cold spell is because of what is called a polar vortex. This is a swirling *massive / mass* of air and wind that has come down from the Arctic, which is where the North Pole *be / is*. The government has *declared / bonus* states of emergency in Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan. Many schools and businesses have been closed *dew / due* to the extreme cold. People have been *warned / warred* not to travel, and even not to go outside and breathe in the icy *air / gas*.

The weather website AccuWeather said that the temperature in Thief River Falls, in the state of Minnesota, *dropped / fall* to a real-feel minus sixty degrees Celsius. Many parts of the Chicago River *twisted / turned* to ice, Niagara Falls turned into a winter wonderland and parts of Lake Michigan froze *under / over*. The bitter freeze is *belief / believed* to be responsible for the *deaths / dead* of at least eight people so *farther / far*. Health officials are urging people to go outside only *if / whether* it is absolutely necessary. They warned that *exposing / supposing* the skin to the freezing air was dangerous. It could lead to frostbite or breathing problems. People were also *sensed / urged* to be careful when shoveling snow outside and be careful of blocks of snow and ice falling from the *roof / ceiling*.

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1902/190202-polar-vortex.html>

M_c h _f m_d - _n d n_r t h __ s t_r n A m_r_c __ s _n
t h_ m_d d l _f _ d __ d l y c_l d s_n_p . M_n y s
t_t_s f_r_m M_c h_g_n _n t h_ n_r t h t_ G __ r g __
n t h s __ t h _r _x p_r __ n c_n g f_r __ z_n g t_m
p_r_t_r_s n_t _x p_r __ n c_d f_r d_c_d_s . I t _s
c_r_r_n t l y c_l d_r _n m_n y p_r t_s _f t h_ U S A
t h_n _t _s _n A n t_r c t_c . T h_ c_l d s_p_l l _s
b_c __ s _f w h_t _s c_l l_d _ p_l_r v_r t_x . T h_s
_s _ s_w_r_l_n g m_s_s _f __ r _n d w_n d t h_t h_s
c_m_ d_w_n f_r_m t h_ A r c t_c , w h_c h _s w h_r
t h_ N_r t h P_l _s . T h_ g_v_r n m_n t h_s d_c
l_r_d s t_t_s _f _m_r g_n c y _n W_s c_n s_n , I l
l_n __ s _n d M_c h_g_n . M_n y s c h __ l_s _n d
b_s_n_s_s_s h_v _ b __ n c_l_s_d d __ t_ t h_ _x t_r_m
c_l d . P __ p_l_ h_v _ b __ n w_r_n_d n_t t_ t_r_v_l ,
_n d _v_n n_t t_ g _ __ t_s_d _n d b_r __ t h_ _n t h_
_c y __ r .

T h_ w __ t h_r w_b s_t_ A c c_W __ t h_r s __ d t h_t
t h_ t_m p_r_t_r _n T h __ f R_v_r F_l l_s , _n t h_
s t_t_ _f M_n n_s_t_ , d_r_p_p_d t _ _ r __ l - f __ l
m_n_s s_x t_y d_g_r __ s C_l_s __ s . M_n y p_r t_s _f
t h_ C h_c_g_ R_v_r t_r n_d t _c_ , N __ g_r_ F_l l_s
t_r n_d _n t _ w_n t_r w_n d_r_l_n d _n d p_r t_s _f
L_k_ M_c h_g_n f_r_z _v_r . T h_ b_t t_r f_r __ z _s
b_l __ v_d t_ b _ r_s p_n s_b_l_ f_r t h_ d __ t h_s _f
_t l __ s t __ g h t p __ p_l_ s _f_r . H __ l t h _f f_c __
l_s _r _r g_n g p __ p_l_ t_ g _ __ t_s_d _n l y _f _t
_s _b_s_l_t_l y n_c_s_s_r y . T h_y w_r_n_d t h_t _x
p_s_n g t h_ s_k_n t_ t h_ f_r __ z_n g __ r w_s d_n
g_r __ s . I t c __ l d l __ d t_ f_r_s t_b_t _r b_r __ t
h_n g p_r_b_l_m_s . P __ p_l_ w_r _l_s _r g_d t_ b_
c_r_f_l w_h_n s_h_v_l_n g s_n_w __ t_s_d _n d b_
c_r_f_l _f b_l_c_k_s _f s_n_w _n d _c_ f_l_l_n g f_r_m
t h_ r __ f .

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1902/190202-polar-vortex.html>

much of mid- and northeastern america is in the middle of a deadly cold snap. many states from michigan in the north to georgia in the south are experiencing freezing temperatures not experienced for decades. it is currently colder in many parts of the usa than it is in antarctica. the cold spell is because of what is called a polar vortex. this is a swirling mass of air and wind that has come down from the arctic, which is where the north pole is. the government has declared states of emergency in wisconsin, illinois and michigan. many schools and businesses have been closed due to the extreme cold. people have been warned not to travel, and even not to go outside and breathe in the icy air.

the weather website accuweather said that the temperature in thief river falls, in the state of minnesota, dropped to a real-feel minus sixty degrees celsius. many parts of the chicago river turned to ice, niagara falls turned into a winter wonderland and parts of lake michigan froze over. the bitter freeze is believed to be responsible for the deaths of at least eight people so far. health officials are urging people to go outside only if it is absolutely necessary. they warned that exposing the skin to the freezing air was dangerous. it could lead to frostbite or breathing problems. people were also urged to be careful when shoveling snow outside and be careful of blocks of snow and ice falling from the roof.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1902/190202-polar-vortex.html>

Much of mid- and northeastern America is in the middle of a deadly colds nap. Many states from Michigan in the north to Georgia in the south are experiencing freezing temperatures not experienced for decades. It is currently colder in many parts of the USA than it is in Antarctica. The cold spell is because of what is called a polar vortex. This is a swirling mass of air and wind that has come down from the Arctic, which is where the North Pole is. The government has declared states of emergency in Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan. Many schools and businesses have been closed due to the extreme cold. People have been warned not to travel, and even not to go outside and breathe in the icy air. The weather website AccuWeather said that the temperature in Thief River Falls, in the state of Minnesota, dropped to a real-feel minus sixty degrees Celsius. Many parts of the Chicago River turned to ice, Niagara Falls turned into a winter wonderland and parts of Lake Michigan froze over. The bitter freeze is believed to be responsible for the deaths of at least eight people so far. Health officials are urging people to go outside only if it is absolutely necessary. They warned that exposing the skin to the freezing air was dangerous. It could lead to frostbite or breathing problems. People were also urged to be careful when shoveling snow outside and be careful of blocks of snow and ice falling from the roof.

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. FREEZING WEATHER: Make a poster about freezing weather. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. EMERGENCY KITS: Write a magazine article about the government giving everyone emergency kits to survive bad weather. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on freezing weather. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to survive adverse weather. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. e 2. c 3. b 4. f 5. a 6. g 7. d
8. n 9. h 10. k 11. m 12. i 13. l 14. j

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- a F b F c T d F e T f T g F h T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. much | a. a lot of |
| 2. deadly | b. lethal |
| 3. experienced | c. encountered |
| 4. swirling | d. revolving |
| 5. due to | e. because of |
| 6. dropped | f. fell |
| 7. parts | g. areas |
| 8. urging | h. encouraging |
| 9. necessary | i. unavoidable |
| 10. falling | j. dropping |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Mid- and northeastern America
2. The Arctic
3. Three
4. Schools and businesses
5. Breathe it
6. Minus sixty degrees Celsius.
7. It froze over
8. If it was absolutely necessary
9. Frostbite
10. Blocks of snow and ice

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.20)

1. In the middle of a deadly cold snap.
2. Experiencing freezing temperatures not experienced for decades.
3. Wind that has come down from the Arctic.
4. The government has declared states of emergency.
5. People have been warned not to travel.
6. Many parts of the river turned to ice.
7. Responsible for the deaths of at least eight.
8. Go outside only if it is absolutely necessary.
9. Exposing the skin to the air was dangerous.
10. People were also urged to be careful.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. b 2. d 3. c 4. a 5. b 6. a 7. c 8. a 9. d 10. c

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)