

# THE HOTTEST PLACE ON EARTH

## Words to Know

degrees	de • grees
hike	hike
gallons	gal • lons
group	group
miles	miles
Death Valley	Death Val • ley



Death Valley is the hottest place on earth. One day in 1913 it got up to 134 degrees.

The days are hot in Death Valley. But the nights are cold. The days get as hot as 129 degrees. The nights get as cold as 59 degrees.

One summer a group of people took a hike through Death Valley. They hiked 15 miles a day. They hiked for 12 days. They hiked 180 miles.

How much water did each hiker drink? Each hiker drank 3 1/2 gallons of water a day. That's 56 cups of water. They must have been so hot!

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1. How hot do most days get in Death Valley? \_\_\_\_\_
  2. How cold can it get in Death Valley? \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Write the sentence in the story that tells about the hottest day ever.  
\_\_\_\_\_
  4. How long did the hikers take to hike across Death Valley?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  5. How far did the hikers go? \_\_\_\_\_

**Words to Know**

catfish	cat • fish
African	Af • ri • can
whiskers	whisk • ers
odd	odd
Pacific	Pa • ci • fic
ocean	o • cean

**A Walking Fish?**

The catfish is quite an odd fish. It has whiskers on its face. It has spines on its back. It can walk on land.

There are catfish in fresh and salt water. They live almost anywhere but the Pacific Ocean.

Catfish listen with their whiskers. They hear quite well with them, too. Their sharp spines protect them. Some catfish even have armor.

The African catfish is a very big fish. It can weigh 500 to 600 pounds. It crawls out of the water to look for food.

Some catfish can even climb walls. This fish was named quite well!

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1. Write the list word that means the same as "strange." \_\_\_\_\_

2. How is a catfish like a cat? Write a sentence from the story that tells us.

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3. What does the catfish do with its whiskers? \_\_\_\_\_

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

# HELPING TO BRING YOU CHRISTMAS

place about work spruce  
tree eight rain healthy



**Use the words in the box to fill in the blanks.**

Hi! I'm Nathan. I grow Christmas trees. I \_\_\_\_\_ for my uncle. He has a Christmas \_\_\_\_\_ ranch. It's in Michigan.

Michigan is the perfect \_\_\_\_\_ to grow Christmas trees. There is both \_\_\_\_\_ and snow. It gets very cold in the winter. It gets hot in the summer. All that makes for \_\_\_\_\_ trees.

We grow \_\_\_\_\_ kinds of trees. We grow the Scotch, Eastern white, and Austrian pine. We grow Colorado blue, and Black Hills \_\_\_\_\_. We grow lots of Douglas and Balsam firs.

You can ask me anything \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas trees. I can tell you.

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1. Name the three kinds of pine trees in the story. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  2. Name the two kinds of fir trees in the story. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  3. Name the two kinds of spruce trees in the story. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  4. Would you like the weather in Michigan? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Words to Know**

Alaska	A • las • ka
offense	of • fense
reason	rea • son
viewed	viewed
stampede	stam • pede
legal	le • gal



We pass most laws for a good reason. Some of the laws may seem silly. But there might be a good reason to have the law.

Here are three laws from Alaska.

Moose may not be viewed from an airplane. What do you think? Is the moose afraid of a plane? Do you think there could be a stampede? Maybe the moose or people could get hurt.

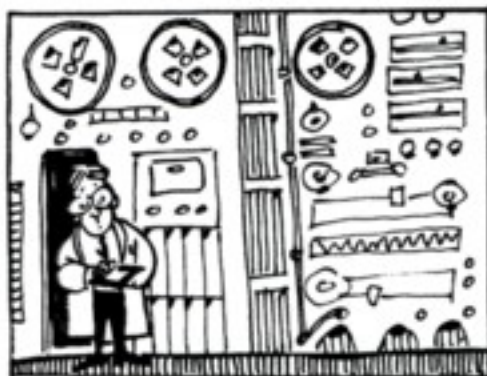
It is also an offense to push a live moose out of a moving airplane. What problem is this law trying to solve?

While it is legal to shoot bears, waking a sleeping bear to take his picture is against the law. Do sleeping bears get mad when you wake them?

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1. Write another word for "view." \_\_\_\_\_
  2. One Alaskan law says you can't view \_\_\_\_\_ from an airplane.
  3. Why do they have this law? Write two sentences from the story that might tell us why. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Words to Know**

computers	com • put • ers
designed	de • signed
huge	huge
buildings	build • ings
problems	prob • lems



You can find a computer almost any place you go. They are in our homes, our schools, and at work.

In the 1800's, Charles Babbage designed the first computer. But he never built it. Howard Aiken was the first man to build one. It was in 1944. He called it the Mark 1.

The first computers were huge. They took up many rooms in big buildings. The rooms had to be kept cold and free of dust. These computers could not do much back then. They did a lot of huge math problems, though.

Today we can share our ideas on computers. Today we use them for everything.

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1. Where can we find computers? Write the sentence in the story that tells us.

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2. What do we use computers for today? Name as many uses as you can.

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