



Post Fellowship Reporting - Project Summary

Report Title: Antarctic Adventures **Name:** Brooke Leith
Other Team Members: Adrienne Raible
Program: Greater Houston Area Program
Trip Dates: 07/08/2011 - 07/24/2011 **Location Visited:** Antarctica, Argentina
Post Fellowship Reporting Template: PFR Template 01

Project Summary: For seven years we have travelled the continents together, which has changed our hearts and our profession. To conquer our seventh continent, we took an expedition to the Antarctic Peninsula on an ice strengthened research vessel. We were inspired to travel to earth's last frontier to accomplish both personal and professional goals. The goal to reach all seven continents is one that we shared for many years. Achieving this goal serves as an example to our students that all dreams, no matter how out of reach they may seem, are achievable. Professionally, we wanted to investigate how we can reduce our community's negative impact on the global environment. Specifically, we decided to learn more about global warming, its impact on the Antarctic region, and the implications for our local community. We wanted to learn specific actions that our community can take to reduce our negative impact. On an eleven day voyage, we crossed the roughest seas in the world, attended educational lectures, watched environmental documentaries, and explored the white continent. Daily excursions on shore allowed us to appreciate the wildlife and the breathtaking landscape. We recorded pictures, videos, and observations to share with students and colleagues on our Antarctica Adventures Facebook page. We actively obtained information from research scientists and other environmental experts onboard our ship. Every experience on this journey contributed to a foundation of knowledge that we will be able to take back to our learning communities. This was a trip of a lifetime and we are forever changed.

Career Impact: *Engaged in dialogue with research scientists and Antarctic nature experts
*Explored the impact of Antarctic tourism on wildlife populations
*Studied the sustainability of the Antarctic ecotourism industry
*Examined research findings from experiments and surveys conducted on board our ship
*Gained an understanding of the interconnectedness of the global environment
*Cultivated a strong desire to protect our planet for future generations

Classroom/Community Impact:*Engaged students in learning through use of social media sites including our blog and Facebook pages.
*Environmental club members from both campuses joined together to participate in the city wide Solar Tour in which students taught others about renewable energy solutions.
*Students from both campuses participated in a book study of "Surviving Antarctica Reality TV 2083." As a culminating project, students used Skype to meet with author Andrea White.
*Developed public service announcements with campus environmental clubs sharing actions our community can take to preserve the global environment.

Open Response: *Collaborating with geography and environmental science teachers using the Big 6 research model to explore the Antarctic climate and landforms as well as global environment issues surrounding the continent. This research project will integrate science, geography, technology, and research concepts.
*Presenting at the Texas Library Association conference to share information about library instruction, the research process, and using relevant social media to reach 21st century learners.
*Presenting to district librarians outlining ideas for teacher/librarian collaboration and sharing ways to teach research and information literacy skills

Quote: "Because of this grant, I better understand the importance of protecting our planet and am equipped with new knowledge to share with my students and colleagues." Adrienne Raible

Photos:



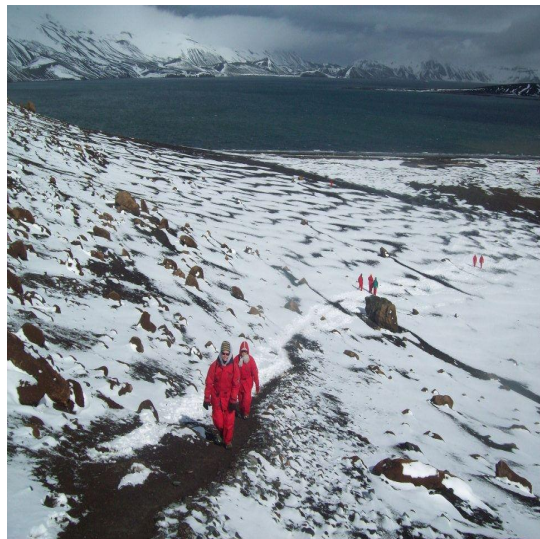
Camping at Leith Cove in Paradise Harbor



Landing on the Antarctic Continent at Neko Harbor



Hiking to the top of Cuverville Island



Snow covered Deception Island



A view of sea, ice, and snowy mountains from the ship



El Fin del Mundo, the end of the world in Ushuaia, Argentina



Taking a break from hiking on Danco Island, Antarctica



Thank you Fund for Teachers! Orne Harbor, Antarctica