Iceberg Breaks



A huge iceberg has broken off from the northern section of the Brunt Ice Shelf in Antarctica, almost 10 years after scientists discovered the first cracks.

Scientists expected the detaching of the iceberg to happen, after monitoring the area with GPS instruments and satellite imagery on a daily basis. They have been closely watching the many cracks and chasms that have formed in the shelf over the past years.

Recent data indicated that the region north of the new crack was very unstable, moving around 5 meters per day. Then, on Friday, February 26, the newer crack widened rapidly before finally breaking free from the rest of the floating ice shelf. The 150-meter-thick berg was compared in size to the English county of Bedfordshire, measuring to cover 1,270 square kilometers.

Satellite monitoring offers views of events that happen in remote regions, regardless of day or night, which is especially important through the long, dark winter months.

(a)

1. How fast is the chasm moving every day?
2. How thick is the iceberg that was broken in the article?
3. How wide is the iceberg?

(b) Based on the article, why do the scientists make use of satellite all the time?

Answer sheet 1.

(a)

1. 5 meters per day.
2. 150 meters thick
3. 1270 square kilometers

(b)

 Because they can’t really travel there to see the real chasm. It is dangerous. It costs less money, it is easier, more accurate to make numbers then by just seeing it.

(Why is it bad?)

 It is bad with many reasons. For example, animals will lose their home. Also, if that huge part of iceberg goes around the sea and melt down, it will increase the sea level not just a little, but huge amount of increase. It will drown a lot of low level lands.