Teachers in the freezer (key stages 3 and 4)

What the photo says
Although the scene – Connell Canyon in Antarctica – looks serene, I felt anything but calm taking this photo. My heart was pounding, drowning out the noise of the icy wind. A mere geography teacher, I had just pulled an 80kg sledge up a steep incline, carefully negotiating crevasses that could easily swallow several double-decker buses. Why? ... to encourage more young people to take an interest in geography.

Lesson idea
Context: Antarctic tourism, extreme environments. Use the image towards the end of a topic on Antarctica to consider ‘the future of Antarctica’. Should people have a place in this extreme environment?

Other resources

Suggested activities
Use PowerPoint to obscure the two people from the image. Students predict what is obscured from the image. Reveal two people in the image. Discuss ‘do people have a place in this environment?’ If so, what sort of people – anyone, scientists, explorers, tourists?

Students suggest how people might change this landscape to make it more appealing. Students suggest how people might change this landscape and spoil it. What could be done (locally in Antarctica and globally) to ensure that this landscape is not spoiled for future generations?

Students imagine they are one of the people in the image. They have returned in 50 years’ time. Sketch what they would see to suggest how the landscape might have changed.

Curriculum opportunities
- Global citizenship: Our responsibility as global citizens to consider the impact of our travel habits.

GA member Ruth Hollinger, Head of Humanities at Humphrey Perkins High School, Barrow upon Soar, took part in the Fuchs Foundation 2007 Antarctica expedition.