

# AFTER ANTARCTICA

Film Discussion Activities



## AFTER ANTARCTICA: A Storytelling Journey

“The effects of climate change are not to be dismissed, despite the onslaught of misleading information we receive on this critical issue. Every ice shelf I have crossed by dogsled, foot or skis, has now disintegrated into the ocean. Morally, we see very real impacts on the human race. It affects all of us but not equally; the solution requires all of us. By connecting people to people, place to place, spirit to spirit, we can mobilize and act to make a difference.” - Will Steger

### About the Documentary

A journey across both poles, *After Antarctica* follows polar explorer Will Steger's life journey as an eyewitness to the greatest changes to the polar regions of our planet. In 1989, Steger led an international team of six scientists and explorers on the first coast-to-coast dogsled traverse of Antarctica. Now, thirty years later, Steger heads out on the ice once again, this time to the opposite end of the Earth, recounting the life-changing journey that led him to where he is today. *After Antarctica* is a film about a legendary expedition unlike any other - not only were Steger and his team of renegade explorers the first to complete this historic feat, they were also the last.



### Did You Know?

#### *Interesting facts to get the conversation started*

- Antarctica holds 60-90 percent of the world's fresh water locked in an ice sheet. Antarctica is essentially frozen ice on land.
- Over the past 50 years, average temperatures across the Antarctic Peninsula have increased by 3°C, five times the average increase on Earth. It is one of the most rapidly warming parts of the planet.
- There are more than 9,000 known single-celled organisms in Antarctica, including 46 species of birds, 10 cetaceans (including killer whales and humpback whales), six species of seal and seven Antarctic penguin species.

## Before Watching: A Refresher on Climate Facts and the Climate Crisis

### What is happening?

Greenhouse gases – primarily water vapor, and including much smaller amounts of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide – act as a thermal blanket for the earth, absorbing heat and warming the surface to a life-supporting temperature. On Earth, human activities (e.g., burning coal, oil, natural gas, and even wood) causes carbon to combine with oxygen increasing the concentration of atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>).

### Climate change is real

When we burn fossil fuels for energy, we add more and more CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere. This buildup acts like a blanket that traps heat around the world, which disrupts the earth's climate system. More than 97% of climate scientists agree this is happening and that climate change is predominantly human caused.

### It's happening now

Climate change impacts all of us, but People of Color and low income communities bear a disproportionate share of the costs. In addition to an increase in global temperature, we are seeing changing patterns in precipitation, increasing humidity, changes in air pressure, and warming ocean waters. These impacts combined result in more frequent and intense extreme weather events and unpredictable seasons.





## Post-Screening Conversation

After the credits roll and the lights come up, open the conversation by asking for initial reactions to *After Antarctica*.

- What scenes stood out to you from *After Antarctica*? Why?
- What was new information or what was a surprise?
- If Will Steger were in the room, what would you want to ask?

## Focus on Antarctica and Storytelling

While most of us will never experience an international expedition to Antarctica, we are able to appreciate its stark beauty and biodiversity, and enter the world of comradeship, self-reliance, exploration, and wonder through the adventures of Will Steger.

- Reflect on the lessons Will shared about the challenges in his life.
  - What did you connect with or find in common?

## Educate Yourself on the Climate Crisis

Studying climate change in Antarctica is critical as it enables scientists to predict future climate change more accurately and provide important information for policy makers and scientists.

- What did you learn about the climate crisis through *After Antarctica*?

## Focus on Solutions

Action on climate change is happening all around us! We can come together and take action to drive decision-making that makes the sustainable choice the easy choice. This work is collective. By engaging in opportunities where people are coming together, the scale of the response will match the size, scale, and scope of the problem.

Use Your VOICE	Use Your CHOICE	Use Your VOTE
<p>Tell your <a href="#">climate story</a> and why you care about climate change to everyone <a href="#">climatestories.org</a></p>	<p>Look for opportunities to take individual and collective action</p>	<p>Find out your climate friendly candidates and support get-out-the-vote efforts</p>

### About Climate Generation

Climate Generation’s mission is to empower individuals and their communities to engage in solutions to climate change. Our vision is of a world engaged with equitable solutions to climate change. Climate Generation is the lead educational partner for the After Antarctica film. Learn more at [climategen.org](#)

### Explore more ways to take action

Get in touch at [contact@afterantarctica.com](mailto:contact@afterantarctica.com)

[www.afterantarctica.com](http://www.afterantarctica.com)

Guide developed by



Funding for this guide provided by

