# "Will Deserts Drink Icebergs?"

## A real project proposed by Paul-Emile Victor

*Instructions: Complete the text using the vocabulary given in the lists. The first letter is given.*

Every a_____ has to b__ m_____ to find f_____ supplies of fresh water. There are two v_____ methods of d_____ this, and two only: the desalination of sea water, and the t_____ of the only existing reserves of fresh water—the i____ of the polar regions, f_____ by the a_____ and compression of s_____ over many _____ of years. The desalination of s____ water is expensive, w_____ the production of fresh water by the t_____ of icebergs is b_____ e_____ [1] c_____ and f_____. Icebergs are c_____ o__ fresh water so pure that it o_____ a_____ the characteristics of d_____ water. It h___ b____ e_____ that the Antarctic ice cap l_____ more t_____ 10 million[2] cubic meters of ice e_____ y_____ in the f_____ of icebergs, which e_____ m_____ and d_____.

Why g___ to the South Pole to g___ icebergs? Why n___ the North Pole? There are two r_____ f___ [3] this. F_____, most Arctic icebergs are irregularly s_____ and dangerously u_____. S_____, Arctic bergs _____ from mountain glaciers (from Greenland, for example), which p_____ their e____ being large e_____. The "tabular" icebergs from Antarctica, o____ t___ o_____ h_____, are often big and regular in s_____.

A "s_____" iceberg should be l_____ e_____ (100 m_____ [4] tons) to p_____ the r_____ a_____ of water b___ t____ t_____ it arrives at its destination. It s_____ be b_____ tabular, as regularly shaped a___ possible, and, to make t_____ easier, much longer t_____ it is w_____. Icebergs of this type, always s_____ that no internal or invisible c_____ and s_____ are subsequently detected, are formed in the Pacific s_____, in the Atlantic sector, and in the Indian sector.

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[1] *"Economical" = bon marché*
[2] *"Million" does not take an "s"*
[3] *"Reasons for..."*
[4] *"Million" does not take an "s"*

Adapted by Marianne Raynaud for QualityTime-ESL

The m_____ important problem will b__ to protect the icebergs f_____ all types of erosion, s_____ a__ melting, evaporation, m_____ erosion by w_____, and friction caused by m_____ through the sea. It would, for instance, t____ eight to nine months to c_____ 6,000 nautical miles at optimum towing s_____ (a_____ o__ knot or r_____ two kilometers per hour). Various solutions h_____ been s_____. One of them i_____ the protection of the s_____ of the icebergs by s_____ (similar t__ those of a Venetian b_____) made o___ a reflective m_____. The s_____ portion of the sides would be protected by a s_____ c_____ (or s____) made of insulating material, w_____ the insulation itself would be p_____ by a p_____ of cold fresh water b_____ [5] the skirt and the sides of the iceberg. The u_____ of the berg would also be protected by a kind of wrap h____ against the b_____ by inflatable f_____.

The m_____ and a_____ of such units in Antarctic waters will I _____ various problems that are not yet s_____ . The actual t_____ operation should, in t_____, cause no problems at all, as the largest modern t_____ have a tractive force of 125 tons. The tractive force needed t___ s_____ an iceberg of 100 million tons is I _____ t____ r_____ of 600 to 700 tons, so five or six large tugs could do the job.

Once the iceberg arrived at its destination, it m_____ h_____ to remain a certain distance o_____ depending on the s_____ of the continental s_____. Melting water would then h_____ t__ be pumped by pipeline to the c_____.

The production of f_____ water by the transportation of icebergs is u_____ one of the most original and exciting v_____ of our t_____ It is also one of the most u_____. The most u_____ problem soon to face m_____ will be h____ to obtain fresh water.

**Paul-Emile VICTOR** was a _____ French explorer, who organized and l____ many French expeditions t__ the Arctic and Antarctic. He was h_____ o__ the international glaciological expedition to Greenland from 1967 t__ 1970. His a_____ as an explorer and s_____ brought him international r_____ including the a_____ of the gold m_____ of the Royal Geographical S_____, London.

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[5] *"Between" when there are only two elements; if there are three or more use "among"*

*Instructions: Use the words on the following pages to complete the text above. The vocabulary is in alphabetical order. Some words are used several times in the text, and translations of the most common words are not given.*

about: au sujet de, environ
achievement: œuvre, réalisation
accumulation
actual: véritable
against: contre
amount: quantité
approach
as: ("such as..." with lists)
assembling: montage
attempt: tentative
award: distinction, prix
be
between: entre (deux éléments)
blind: store vénitien
both: les deux à la fois
bottom: fond
by the time: when
coast: côte
competitive: competitif
come from: trouver leur origine
composed of: composé de
cover: parcourir
cracks: fissures
curtain: rideau
disappear: disparaître
distilled: distillé
do
economical: cheap, rentable
economically: adverb
enough: assez
estimate: estimer
eventually: à la longue
ever: *ici* jamais
every year: chaque année
feasible: possible, réalisable
first
floats: (cf. to float = flotter)
for
form
fresh: frais, non salé
further: davantage de ...
get: aller chercher
go
has
shape (shaped): the shape of
shelf: rayon, étagère ; ici, *the continental shelf* (geology): plateau continental
have
head: reponsable
held: (cf.: to hold = tenir)
ice: glace
involve: concerner
lead (led, led): mener / conduire (une expédition)
large: grand
lose / lost: perdre
make / made
manufacture: fabrication
mankind: humanité
material: matériau
mechanical: mécanique
medal: médaille
melt (twice): fondre (la neige, le sucre)
melting
might
million *(Remember no "s" when used as an exact number)*
most
movement
not
noted: bien connu
of
offshore: éloigné de la côte
often: souvent
on the other hand: par contre
one
organized
pool
preclude: écarter (une hypothèse), prévenir
provide: fournir
provided
reasons for *(Notice the preposition "for"; never say reasons "~~of~~")*
recognition: reconnaissance
required: nécessaire (cf. to require = exiger)
roughly: approximately
scientist: scientifique
seawater: eau salée
secondly: deuxièmement
sector: secteur
shallowness: (cf. shallow = peu profond)
shift: (here) to move
should
sides: côtés

skirt: jupe, pans
snowfall: the snow that falls
society: société
similar: semblabe
solve: résoudre
speed: vitesse
stresses: tensions
strips: bande, bandelettes, rubans
submerged: submergé
such as: tel(s) que
suggest: suggérer
suitable: convenable
supposing: supposant que
take: prendre.... ou prendre du temps, durer
tap (to tap): knock (mais ici: exploiter)
tap: faire une prise à (cf. tap = robinet)
than (rather than : plutôt que)
theory: théorie
thousand(s): millier(s)
through: à travers
time
to
towing: remorquage (to tow = remorquer)
transportation: transport
tugs: tugboats
underside: dessous
undoubtedly: sans doute
unstable: instable
urgent: urgent
useful: utile
venetian blind: store vénitien
ventures: entreprise risquée, spéculation
viable: possible, envisageable, réalisable
waves: vagues
whereas: alors que, tandis que
while: tandis que *(exprime plus souvent une idée de temps—"at the same time")*

## Structures in the passive voice

*Instructions: Find them in the text and mark them in red.*

Every attempt has ***to be made***...
Various solutions ***have been suggested***...
Melting water would then ***have to be pumped***...
It ***has been estimated*** that...

## Essential vocabulary suggested by former students

by means of: au moyen de
computerize: mettre sur ordinateur
drastic: radical, drastique, draconien
equipment: matériel
features: caractéristiques
graph: graphique, courbe
heat up: réchauffer
heat: chauffer
hint: allusion, insinuation, indication
hire: engager (les services de qqn)
imply: impliquer, supposer
insulate: isoler
involve: engager, entraîner
layer: couche
level: niveau
retrain: recycler
sample: échantillons
sample: prendre des échantillons
scientist: un scientifique
specifications: fiche technique
storage: stockage
venture capital: capital risque
worry: se tracasser