

Taylor Valley

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The feature we chose was Taylor Valley. Taylor Valley is a very long and wide valley. It has mountains going all along the sides of the valley.

Exists in the McMurdo Dry Valleys in the north perimeter of Antarctica

Lat. S 77 Degrees 37' 0"

Long. E 163 Degrees 0' 0"

We believe this feature is scientifically interesting because there is no ice there as there are in the rest of Antarctica. We know that the katabatic (going down) winds prevent there from being ice, but what we are interested about is the fact that there might be unknown insects and animals living there. Were did they come from? What are they? That's what we want to know.

We actually do know that the odd conditions in the Taylor Valley are caused by the katabatic winds. The winds start up when air is pulled downhill simply because of gravity. The winds can reach speeds of 200 mph and are so fast that they evaporate all the ice and water

We think NASA should fund us for the exploration of the Taylor dry valley because it is a natural wonder. What most of Antarctica lays under a cover of ice miles thick, dry valleys including the Taylor remain warmer and untouched by ice and water. There are many things to explore and be found in Taylor Valley such as new creatures living in these odd conditions and features of the land that might be formed by katabatic winds. There are bound to be things in this rather unusual environment that are yet to be discovered.

