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# Winter In The World's Coldest City Is Bone-Chilling!

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With a series of storms **unleashing** their **fury** across the United States this week — all the way from California to New York — many Americans are experiencing the full **wrath** of the winter season. Freezing as the temperatures may seem, they are **balmy** compared to those in Yakutsk, the capital of Yakutia, or the Sakha Republic, in Russia. The residents of this **remote** Siberian city have been **enduring** average temperatures of below  $-30^{\circ}\text{F}$  ( $-34^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) since December 8, 2020, with the mercury dipping as low as  $-59^{\circ}\text{F}$  ( $-50.6^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) on January 19, 2021.



Children on their way to school.

While for most, the below-freezing weather would guarantee a **slew** of "snow days," for kids that live in the "world's coldest city," anything over  $-40^{\circ}\text{F}$  ( $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) is considered "cold but not very cold." Most schools only close when temperatures get below  $-67^{\circ}\text{F}$  ( $-55^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) unless they cater to kindergarteners, in which case the **exception** is made when the mercury falls to  $-58^{\circ}\text{F}$  ( $-50^{\circ}\text{C}$ ). For adults, it is almost always business as usual. For many, this means spending the day selling frozen fish and other goods in outdoor markets.

One would think that weather like this would have residents **pining** for summer, when temperatures rise to a



Most merchants work outside.

more **reasonable** 65°F (18.5°C). But as it turns out, the residents of Yakutsk prefer the cold weather. Instead of basking in the heat, the long summer days are spent repairing homes and businesses to ensure they

can **withstand** another harsh winter and — even worse — fending off **swarms** of **giant**, bloodthirsty Siberian mosquitoes. Fortunately, the warm season lasts for just a few weeks!

While Yakutsk is the world's coldest city, it is not Earth's coldest place with **inhabitants**. That honor belongs to the neighboring village of Oymyakon. Home to about 500 residents, "The Pole of Cold" holds the record for the coldest temperature ever **documented** in an inhabited place — a bone freezing -106.96°F (-77.2°C). Brrrr!

