

Arctic Lesson 4 - Exploring in the Arctic

Objectives

- Students will learn the geography of the North
- Students will practice cartography

Vocabulary

- Arctic
- Cartography
- Exploring
- Inuit
- Navigation
- Northern lights
- Northwest Passage
- Polar bears
- Seals
- Whales

Materials

Classroom computer with Internet, student tablets or computers with Internet, paper and colored pencils

Warm Up

Have students do a freehand drawing exercise. Individually or in pairs, ask students to draw the Arctic. Students should include names of places, animals, people, and anything they know about the Arctic. Have students gather in larger groups and share their maps with each other.

Lesson

Watch Disappearing Ice’s videos from the video section of the website “Exploring in the Arctic: Stefan, Polar Expedition Leader.”

Assignment (can be modified depending on grade level)

Pretend you are about to embark on an expedition in the North in search of polar bears, glaciers, whales, the Northern lights and other environmental discoveries. Map your route (1 page), create an itinerary (1 page minimum), and create a packing list (1 page). Make sure to include:

- The Arctic circle on your map (and the degrees)
- The North Pole on your map



- ❑ Borders of countries on your map
- ❑ Names of places in Inuktitut, English, and other languages on your map
- ❑ Predicted sites where you expect to see polar bears, glaciers, whales, or other environmental discoveries. Make sure to do your research! Use symbols on your map to indicate the different areas.
- ❑ Separately from your map, include an expedition itinerary. How many days is your trip? Where will you go on each day? How will you travel? Include 2-3 sentences per day on what your guests should expect to do and see.
- ❑ Separately from your map, include a packing list for your guests: what gear will they need to bring?

Wrap Up

Using the classroom's research and expedition plans, imagine taking a class trip to the Arctic. What information did the students discover for the appropriate routes? What do students want to see? What would most students bring?

Resources

Inuit Culture: <https://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/settlement/kids/021013-2071-e.html>

Inuit Culture: <http://icor.ottawainuitchildrens.com/node/48>

Arctic Map: <http://kids.britannica.com/students/assembly/view/100342>

