

LESSON 2: Introduction to the Arctic and Churchill For Teachers



Geographic Characteristics of Places and Regions

Indicator:

Compare places and regions around the world using geographic characteristics.

Objectives

- Compare places and regions using geographic features.
- Identify natural/physical and human-made features of places and regions.
- Describe the population distribution of places and regions, covering such concepts as rural and urban.
- Describe how the geographic characteristics of places and regions change over time and influence the way people live and work.

Using Geographic Tools

Indicator:

Use geographic tools to locate and construct meaning about places on Earth.

Objectives

- Describe the purposes of a variety of maps and atlases, such as transportation maps, physical maps and political maps.
- Construct and interpret maps by using elements such as their title, a compass rose, a simple grid system, their scale, a legend/key, and the date and author.
- Find the location of small towns and major cities in Maryland, the United States and the world using a globe, maps and atlases.

Geography Standard

Students will use geographic concepts and processes to understand location and its relationship to human activities.

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Summative Assessment:

Student responses on “Where Are We?” worksheet.

NOTE: Keep each student's Arctic drawing for a Formative Assessment at the end of the geography lessons.

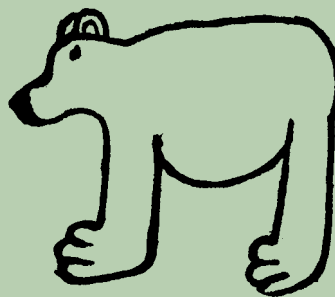
Materials:

- Access to the Internet and a projector to show images of specific websites OR student access to computers OR Internet access to download and make class copies of the images.
- The following websites will be accessed in this lesson; please check them prior to the lesson to make sure the links are still accurate:
 - <http://earth.google.com>
 - Churchill Gallery
www.naturalexposures.com/private/educate
 - Polar Bear Gallery
www.naturalexposures.com/private/Bears_of_Churchill
 - www.athropolis.com/map.htm
 - atlas.nrcan.gc.ca/site/english/index.html
 - www.polarbearsinternational.org/rsrc/newsletters/kidsspring03.pdf
- Tape to post pictures to create a “gallery walk”
- Copies of Student Sheet A, “Where Are We?” for every student. (If students are working on computers, have them open a copy and “save as” in their name.)

Lesson

1. Distribute a copy of “Where Are We?” to every student.
2. Give the class ten minutes to draw a picture of the Arctic. They will have prompts that suggest ideas on their handout. You may choose to read the prompts aloud as part of the directions.

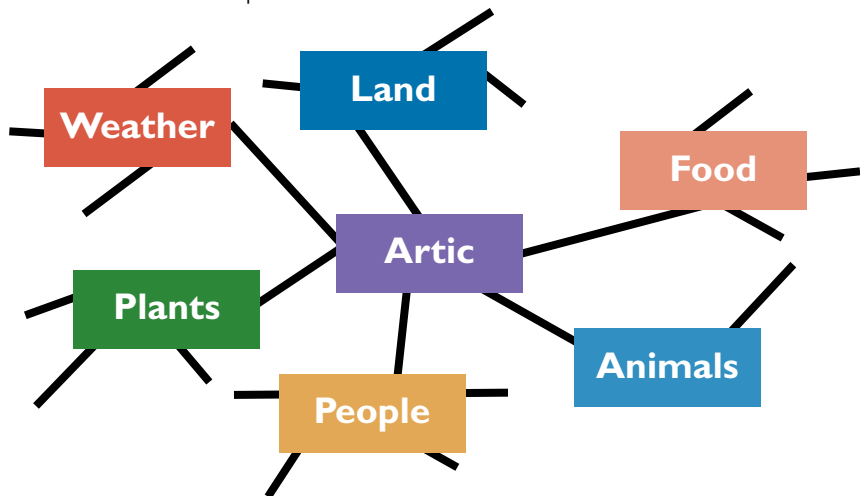
Imagine you are standing in the Arctic. Draw your idea of what the Arctic looks like. Think about these things as you draw:



- What is beneath your feet?
- How are you dressed?
- What is above your head?
- How much daylight is there?
- What does the scenery look like?
- What plants or animals do you see?
- Do you see any signs of humans?



3. After the students are finished, post their pictures to create a gallery walk.
4. Create a web on the board or use “Inspiration” to show the different ideas represented on the board.



5. Discuss the origin of these ideas. Did the students learn about the Arctic by watching a popular movie? Have they read about it? Have they seen something on the news?
6. Tell students that they are going to be able to look at resources and gather information about this area to help assess the accuracy of their original ideas as well as learn more about Churchill. Either share information from the websites with your students or allow them to explore on their own.
7. As students work, or when they finish, have them write three things that they learned from the resources.
8. Have students look at a map of Canada in an atlas or online at <http://atlas.nrcan.gc.ca/site/english/index.html> and then answer the questions on their worksheet. This will help them gain a geographical sense of where Churchill is located.
9. Have students read article from PBI Spring 2003 newsletter <http://www.polarbearsinternational.org/rsrc/newsletters/kidsspring03.pdf> and construct a written response. The same student quotes can be found in the PowerPoint presentation in the resource section called “Kids Living in Churchill.” The PowerPoint also contains photos of the area and polar bears.