

#ArcticorAntarctic Lesson Plan

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Can be adjusted depending on the age of the students.

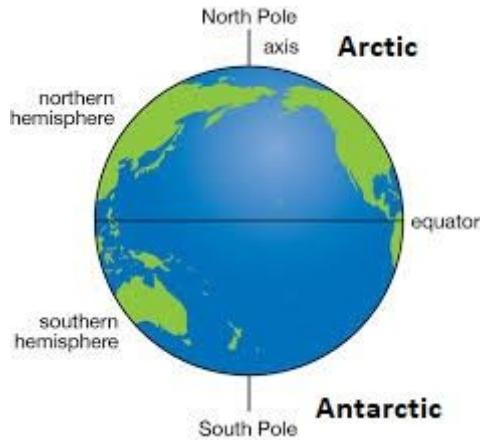
Time: up to 1 hour

Materials

- Blackboard & chalk or whiteboard or digital whiteboard or a globe or world map
- Paper and colouring materials for the students
- Potentially penguin and polar bear icons/markers if turned into a competition

Plan

- Start by asking the students if they know the name for the northern regions of the world or the southern regions of the world
 - o Draw a very simple Arctic and Antarctic on the blackboard/whiteboard and ask the students to do the same on their paper and circle the Arctic and Antarctic
 - o Use a globe or world map to point out the polar regions



- Ask the students what they know about the poles: things like cold, polar bears, penguins etc.
- Next, the teacher can suggest certain elements that only belong to the Arctic, the Antarctic or both. The students can guess which one belongs where. The teacher can list these on the blackboard/whiteboard under columns for Arctic, Antarctic or Both (see suggestions below) or place the words or drawings on the map or blackboard/whiteboard diagram. The students can add drawings or words to their maps.
- This could be turned into a competition where the classroom is split up in groups (for example the polar bears vs the penguins) and they battle for who gets the most answers correct.

Suggestions for the game (more can be found on internet and difficulty can be adjusted depending on the age of the students).

Fun facts can be added with the different elements to make it more interesting, a few suggestions are made in italics.

Arctic	Antarctic	Both
Ocean - surrounded by land	Land - surrounded by sea	Cold (<i>Antarctic colder on average than Arctic: The coldest temperature ever recorded on earth was -89.2°C (-128.6°F) on July 21st 1983 at the Russian base at the Southern Geomagnetic Pole in Antarctica. Brrrrrrr!</i>)
Polar bears	Penguins	Whales (<i>During the warm season, whales migrate to cold waters where food is abundant. When the weather becomes colder, the food start to scarce and whales migrate to warmer water for mating and breeding. Whales migrate to different locations according to the place their live.</i>)
Indigenous peoples (<i>There are over 40 different ethnic groups living in the Arctic, such as the Inuit living in Alaska, Northern Canada, and Greenland, the Saami living in the circumpolar areas of Finland, Norway, Sweden and Northwestern Russia, and the Chukchi in Siberia and the Russian Far East. Except for seasonal workers and small settlements at research stations, Antarctica is completely uninhabited.</i>	No permanent human occupation besides seasonal researchers at research stations.	Tourists
Reindeer/caribou	Biggest land animal is an insect (<i>a wingless midge, Belgica antarctica, less than 1.3cm</i>	Researchers

	<i>(0.5in) long. There are no flying insects (they'd get blown away).)</i>	
Arctic fox	Leopard seal	Polar summer/Polar winter <i>(Both poles have extreme summer and winters where the sun does not set during the summers and the sun does not rise during the winters. The Arctic enjoys winter from October through March, while Antarctica's winter is from March through September).</i>
Walrus	Weddell seal	Ice <i>(Internal ice mass on mainland areas with glacial subsidence, formation of ocean, and pack ice in the north polar ocean of the Arctic and the Weddell and Ross seas in Antarctica.)</i>
Muskox	Crabeater seal	Both polar regions influence global climate.
There is controversy over who was the first person to reach the north pole. Frederick Cook and two Inuit men, Aapilak and Ittukusuk, claim to have made it to the pole on April 21, 1908. Robert Peary, Matthew Henson and four Inuit men: Ootah, Seegloo, Egingway, and Ooqueah claim to have made it on April 6, 1909.	Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen led the first expedition that reached the South Pole on 14 December 1911. <i>(He and four others on his team arrived about a month ahead of a British party led by Robert Falcon Scott as part of the Terra Nova Expedition).</i>	
Part of Europe, Asia and US and Canada	It's own continent	

Website for inspiration:

https://www.coolantarctica.com/Antarctica%20fact%20file/antarctica%20environment/antarctic_arctic_comparison.php

TEDed for kids

<https://thekidshouldseethis.com/post/the-arctic-vs-the-antarctic>