

Polar Bear Project IDL wb 25.01.21.

Second level

This week we look at Arctic explorers, survival in the Arctic, the history of the Arctic and tourism.

Activity 1 – Survival in the Arctic

Watch the Powerpoint “Survival in the Arctic” Task 3. **The task is on the last page!**

Activity 2 – Arctic Explorers

This week – you tell me! **Your task is to research as much information as you can about at least two of these explorers:**

Rosie Stancer

Fridtjof Nansen

Robert Peary

Roald Amundsen

Ann Bancroft

Tell me about the explorers. You could imagine a conversation between two of the explorers (was their experience similar?)... or make a comic strip of their adventures.

Be careful, some of them went to Antarctica, as well as the Arctic – this week we only want to know about their Arctic adventures.

As a “starter for ten” you might like to try this link, as it tells a different story about Robert Peary to many that have been told!

[Who Was the First Person to Reach the North Pole? | National Geographic - YouTube](#)

Activity 3 – History of the Arctic

There is not a lot of history written by the people of the Arctic. Their history is told through artefacts (objects), art and song. Fortunately, because there are not many resources in the Arctic, things are looked after well, and also the cold preserves many objects. Most of what we know about the Arctic history comes from when explorers visited, and when trading began, then the traders and explorers wrote about what they found. Because the Arctic Circle encompasses several countries, there have been disputes in the last 120 years about who owns what part of the Arctic. [Here are some facts and artefacts about Arctic History:](#)

1. In 1958, a submarine called the **USS Nautilus** sailed beneath the frozen ice of the Arctic Ocean. This was proof that the enormous ice sheet rests on water and not land.
2. A sledge made of bone, ivory and driftwood tied together by sealskin. The sledge occupies a significant role in Arctic history, it was traded by members of an indigenous tribe with British explorer Sir John Ross during his 1818 expedition - the first contact between the native people and Europeans.



3. By 1300, the Inuit, present-day Arctic inhabitants and descendants of Thule culture, had settled in west Greenland, and moved into east Greenland over the following century. Over time, the Inuit have migrated throughout the Arctic regions of Canada, Greenland, Russia and the United States
4. During the 1950s and 1960s, the number of Arctic people started to grow rapidly because of improved health care for indigenous populations and the discovery of vast natural resources located in North which led to a large influx of immigrants.
5. The earliest inhabitants of North America's central and eastern Arctic are referred to as the Arctic small tool tradition (AST) and existed c. 2500 BC
6. Walrus ivory needles from 28000 years ago:



7. "The conquest of the North Pole was for many years credited to US Navy engineer Robert Peary, who claimed to have reached the Pole on April 6, **1909**, accompanied by Matthew Henson and four Inuit men named Ootah, Seeglo, Egingwah, and Ooqueah.
8. The Dorset culture (Inuktitut) refers to the inhabitants of central and eastern Arctic during the period of 1050–550 BC.

Task – Choose at least 4 facts or artefacts about the Arctic and put them onto a timeline.

Activity 4 – Tourism in the Arctic

Here is a link to some adventures you could have if you went on holiday to the Arctic.

[Join us for an adventure-filled day in the beautiful Arctic nature! Check out our activities! | Activities | Hurtigruten Svalbard](#)

There are positives to having tourists in the Arctic. They buy food and souvenirs, they pay for tours – lots of money goes to the Arctic economy. They also learn about the culture of the indigenous people, which helps to keep the culture alive. They see the beautiful environment and wildlife, which means that people will be more likely to look after the environment.

But what about the negatives? This article tells some negatives of tourism in the Arctic:

[Arctic tourism: how the Great North is becoming the new exotic - Foresight \(climateforesight.eu\)](#)

Choose from the following tasks:

Task 1 - Write a letter that could be sent to the owner of a travel company, to let them know what they could do to minimise negative effects of tourism in the Arctic.

Task 2 – Design a holiday to the Arctic that will have lots of positives and as few negatives as possible for the Arctic people and their environment. Make a brochure or PowerPoint to advertise your holiday.

Coming up! In the next couple of weeks we will do some map work and see what research is being done in the Arctic. We will also learn about going to school in the Arctic and find out how climate change is affecting the Arctic. We will look at Arctic current affairs, what Frankenstein has to do with the Arctic and... some visitors who travel from the Arctic to Scotland every year!