

Polar Bear Project IDL week beginning 08.02.21.

Early / First Level

Activity 1 – Research in the Arctic

One way scientists can find out about the Arctic is to drill down into the ice and take samples of ice, called 'ice cores.' The further down the scientists drill the older the ice is. The scientists work out what year the ice is from by measuring how far down it was.

These photos show someone drilling for an ice core and what an ice core looks like.



The thickness of each layer of ice tells us how much snow fell that year. How hard the ice is can tell us what the temperature was. Sometimes there are cracks which might be from earthquakes and ice cores have even been found with dust from volcanoes in.

Task –

1. Find a container that can go in your freezer which is transparent or translucent so you can see into it. (A pyrex bowl is ideal, but any clear plastic that can go in the freezer is fine.)
2. Put a layer of water in the bottom, about 1cm (it doesn't have to be exact) and put it in the freezer, until it is frozen.
3. Over the next three or four days, put a new layer of water on top of the first. If you like, at each layer you could add something different, such as sand, rice or oats and see what happens.
4. At the end of four days you will see how an ice core builds up. You should be able to see a line where you added new water each time. This is like when new snow lands on the ground, so you can see how the scientists can see the layers in an ice core. If you can, tell us about it and post a photo to the blog.

Activity 2 – Current Affairs in the Arctic

Current affairs means what is in the news at the minute. In the news about the Arctic this month is that there is a debate whether or not to drill for oil in parts of the Arctic which are conservation areas for Arctic animals.

A good source for current affairs for children is BBC Newsround.

Task - Watch an instalment of Newsround and tell us which news is most local to us this week.

[Home - CBBC Newsround](#)

Activity 3 – Arctic Art

Many artists are inspired by the Arctic scenery and nature. Here are examples of two artists who have painted the Arctic using different styles.

Ted Harrison often included people, animals and houses in his pictures. He used warm colours. The sky and land were painted in blocks.

Ted Harrison **Children of the Yukon**



David McEown uses mainly cool colours when he paints. He sometimes paints the animals of the Arctic, such as polar bears, but mainly just the landscape, not people or buildings.



Task – Choose one of the artists. Make a picture of the Arctic in the style of that artist. Put it on the blog and see if we can guess which artist you have emulated. Think about whether you will use warm or cool colours for each one, and whether you will include animals, people and buildings or just landscapes. Don't worry if you don't have paints at home, crayons, felt tips or anything that you have will be fine.

Activity 4 - Stories set in the Arctic

Here are some children's books set in the Arctic for you to enjoy! You can watch one of them or all of them!

[An Inuksuk Means Welcome - YouTube](#)

[Fishing With Grandma - YouTube](#)

[Painted Skies By Carolyn Mallory - YouTube](#) (This one has a craft idea at the end, too!)

Task – write a story or create a cartoon strip or stop motion story about the Arctic. See if you can include some of the facts that you have learnt while we have been learning about where the polar bears live. Your story can be about the people who live there or the animals, or a visitor to the Arctic. Your story can be “A day in the life of...” or maybe it could tell us about a problem that a person or animal has to solve.

Here is a word bank to help you: (you don't need to use all of these words, they are just for ideas.)

