

Pathfinders - Come Fly With Me! Arctic Circle



What
I
Should
Know



Overview

"Come Fly With Me! Arctic Circle" is a thematic unit based on the Arctic region and surroundings, with a key focus on geography. You will learn about the location, weather and climate in the Arctic, as well as the wildlife that lives there. Inuit people, their traditions and customs, will also be studied.

Where?

Where is the Arctic Circle?

- The Arctic Circle is an imaginary line around the top of the globe. It is the most northern part of the Earth and is made up of the Arctic Ocean and parts of Canada, Russia, Greenland, USA, Norway, Finland, Sweden and Iceland.



Who?

Who are the Inuit people?

- The Inuits are a people group who live in the Arctic region and have found many clever ways to survive there. They wear thick clothes, made from animal fur and used to live in igloos, made from blocks of ice. They now mainly live in houses, but still build igloos to stay in when they go hunting. They use a harpoon to hunt animals and fish in the winter, and they gather plants like berries and seaweed in the summer months. There are still hardly any shops in the Arctic Circle – things they really need and other food is brought in by plane and boat.

What?

What is the weather like?

- There are nine months of freezing cold weather (temperatures can drop as low as -70°C !) and three months of warmer weather.

When?

When can you see the sun in the Arctic?

- In the winter, you might not see the sun for a day, a week or even a couple of months. In the summer, there is the midnight sun, when the sun is visible even at midnight!

How?

How do plants and animals survive in the Arctic?

- The plants in the Arctic have shallower roots because the soil is so thin, and smaller leaves, so they keep their moisture. Animals camouflage with the habitat and many have a layer of blubber to keep them warm.

Pathfinders - Come Fly With Me! Arctic Circle

How to...

...find the Arctic Circle on a globe

- The very top circle around the top of the globe is the Arctic Circle, and the Arctic is above this line. There are other imaginary lines on the globe. Can you find the imaginary line round the centre of the Earth, known as the Equator?



Concept Flow

- To know what the Arctic Circle is and be able to locate the Arctic Circle on a map
- To understand about the weather and climate in the Arctic Circle
- To find out about animals and plants and how they survive the harsh conditions found in the Arctic
- To learn about the Inuit people group and their customs and traditions
- To learn about the Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights)



Vocabulary

Aurora Borealis: the Northern Lights – a natural display of coloured lights in the sky

Blubber: layer of fat

Camouflage: colouring that helps an animal blend in with its surroundings

Climate: weather over a long time

Globe: the Earth or a spherical map of the earth

Habitat: a living thing's natural home

Harpoon: a spear attached to a long rope

Hunt: to chase and kill an animal for food

Igloo: a shelter made from blocks of snow placed on top of each other

Imaginary: made-up

Inuit: the people who live in the Arctic

North Pole: the most northern point of the Earth

Survive: to stay alive