

Polar Caps



Objective

Students will identify the ocean and countries of the arctic region.

Materials

- atlas, globe, or map showing the Arctic
 - colored pencils or markers
 - glue
- one set per student:**
- 9" paper plate
 - two 8" yarn strings
 - copy of map on page 2

Background

The Arctic lies at the top of the world and includes the North Pole. Scientists use the 66° 33" north latitude line to define the Arctic Circle. The Arctic region includes seven countries—Canada, Finland, Greenland, Norway, Sweden, Russia, and the United States. The North Pole sits on permanently frozen ocean water, not on land. In fact, more than half the "land" of the Arctic is frozen ice moving across the surface of the Arctic Ocean.

Action

1. Distribute colored pencils or markers and copies of the map on page 2
2. Using the atlas or map of the Arctic, have students write the names of the countries within the Arctic Circle. Teachers of younger students may want to prewrite the names and have students trace letters.
3. Have students identify and color the Arctic Ocean blue. Color each country a different color.
4. Students cut out their colored maps. They glue them on the bottom of a paper plate.
5. Punch a hole on opposite sides of the paper plate rim. Have students thread yarn through holes and tie.
6. Students can now put on their polar caps. You may want to take your caps for a walk. Try this song (to the tune of the "Military March") and these hand motions (in italics) as you parade around the room:

Look at my polar cap on my head.
.....(POINT TO TOP OF HEAD.)
It's the Arctic, so it's said.
.....(WAG FINGER.)
Land of ice and rain and snow.
.....(SHIVER.)
Let's name the animals that we

Beluga whales swim in the sea.
.....(SWIM.)
Puffins fly on the breeze.
.....(FLY.)
Polar bears prowl on the land.
.....(CRAWL.)
And walrus wallow in the sand.
.....(WIGGLE ON THE FLOOR.)

