

Animals on Ice

“To know what is right and not do it is the worst cowardice.”

— Confucius, Chinese philosopher (551 B.C.-479 B.C.)
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Overview:

In this lesson, students will discuss and analyze the impact of climate change on animals living in the Arctic. Using what the students have learned, they will write a letter to a member of Congress requesting action to be taken to care more for the plight of the animals affected.

Objectives:

- Students will understand the scientific implications of climate change.
- Students will discuss their reactions to learning about the plight of the animals in the Arctic.
- Students will use what they have learned to write to a member of Congress or other political representative to request action be taken.

Materials:

- Arctic Fact Sheet
- Food Chain Fact Sheet
- Paper for drawing food chain
- Map of the Arctic ocean
- Climate Change Fact Sheet available from:
http://www.unep.org/wed/2007/downloads/documents/Factsheet_en.pdf

Procedure:

1. Ask the students what they know about the Arctic. Distribute the Arctic Fact Sheet. Have the students work in pairs to read through the facts. When they have finished, each pair should write two questions to ask the class about the Arctic to clarify understanding.
2. Have each pair ask their questions to the rest of the class. When everyone has had a turn tell the students they are going to learn about the animals living in the Arctic. Distribute the Food Chain Fact Sheet and the paper for drawing the food chain.
3. When the activity is finished, ask the students what they think would happen if the ice melted in the Arctic. Distribute the Climate Change Fact Sheet.
4. Allow 15 minutes for the pairs to read the facts and take notes. Discuss the effects of melting sea ice on each of the stakeholders. They should develop a role play or discussion from the points of view of their chosen stakeholder. Tell them to take notes during the discussion as they will use the information from this to write a letter.
5. Write the key points of the discussion on the board. Tell the class to write a letter to their political representative asking them what steps he or she is taking to slow the melting ice and to stop global climate change.