

Teacher's Guide for FACES

January 2015: Why Greenland Matters

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Getting Started

Read "About the Cover" below the Mystery Photo. Compare/contrast the population of Greenland to your country/state/city/town. Pose the question: Why DOES Greenland matter?

Play Two Truths and a Lie:

Read the following statements. Students must guess which statements are true and which one is a lie.

- Greenland is the largest island on earth.
- Greenland is an independent nation.
- Greenland is mostly covered in ice.

(The second statement is the lie. Decide whether you want to reveal the answer or have the students figure it out as they make their way through the issue.)

High Five

(RI1) Classify the five points using the FACES tagline. What does each point discuss: the people, places, or culture of Greenland?

At a Glance

(RL3) Describe Greenland's geography in five words or less. Describe the geography of your region in five words or less. Compare/contrast the two.

(RL1/RI1) Geography Theme: Location!

Find Greenland's absolute location using latitude and longitude.

Describe Greenland's relative location.

Unicorns of the Sea: Narwhals

(RL4) Vocabulary: plankton, echolocation, spiral, incisor, tusk, scepter, pods

(RL7) Use the pictures accompanying the article to discuss attributes of narwhals that aid their survival.

(W1) What's your opinion? What is the purpose of the narwhal's tusk? Support your opinion with reasons.

(W3) Assume you were an early explorer. Describe a narwhal sighting in a letter to your king.

Enchanting Greenland

(RL8) Find evidence in the text that shows Greenland's harsh environment and how the people have adapted.

(W7) Conduct short research: Who was Erik the Red?

(SL1) Discuss: Analyze the relationship between Denmark and Greenland. What are the pros and cons to becoming an independent nation?

It's All About the Ice

Geography Theme: Movement

(SL5) Watch an animation of the Great Ocean Conveyor Belt at:

pmm.nasa.gov

Go to the Education tab. Click on Weather & Climate. Enter "thermohaline video" in the search box.

(RL7) Google: Great Ocean Conveyor Belt Images.

(RST9) Evaluate the information presented in the article vs. the animation vs. the images. How do the additional formats aid your understanding of the article?

OR

(RST7) Create a flow chart illustrating the steps of air/ocean movement. Discuss how this becomes a global issue.

(RL6/RH6) What is the author's stance on climate change? Does the author present both the positives and the negatives of climate change?

Inuit Ingenuity

Geography Theme: Human/Environment Interaction

(RL4) Vocabulary: ingenuity, descendants, ancestors, harpoons, blubber

(W7) Conduct short research on the Inuit of Alaska and Greenland.

(RL3) Compare/contrast these two populations. Why are there so many similarities?

(RL7) How do photos help you understand Inuit lifestyle?

(RI1) Which Inuit inventions are still used today? Have time and technology changed things? How?

Light Up the Sky

Watch a video of the Northern Lights at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ubloKTpYja4>

(W3) Imagine you were an early Inuit settling in this area. What is your explanation for the aurora borealis? Write your own legend.

(W3) Have you ever seen the Northern Lights? Write about your experience. Include details of your location, time of day, year, etc.

The Greening of Greenland

(RH6) Identify aspects of the text that reveal the author's point of view.

(SL1&2) Compare this article to "It's All About the Ice" on pages 12-15. Find specific words that create a certain tone or mood.

(SL4&5) Debate: Should mining be allowed in Greenland? Use facts and relevant information to support your stance. Include a graph, chart, or other visual aid.

A Polar Paradise: Greenland's National Park

(L5) Look at the second paragraph. List the adjectives chosen by the author. What type of picture is painted with the word choice? Substitute or drop the adjectives and what happens to the effectiveness of the mental picture?

(W7) Conduct short research: Sirius Patrol, musk oxen, Zackenberg Research Station
The final line mentions taking a cruise to see the National Park. Find out if/when this is possible.

(RL9) Read about the Sirius Patrol from National Geographic:

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2012/01/sled-dogs/finkel-text>

Read THE COLD PATROL by Michael Finkel. Compare and contrast this information with what is presented in the article.

Greenland's Viking Past

(RL1) Do the math in paragraph three. How long did the cooling and warming periods last?

(RST7) What effect did the warming and cooling periods have on crops, trade, population growth (both in number and physical size)? Make a cause/effect chart.

(RL8) List evidence to support these warming/cooling trends?

(SL1&2) Debate: Does the article seem to suggest global warming has happened before? Does this article/research change your view on global warming? Why/why not? What if this "warming period" comes to an end? How would your community survive in an ice age?

Arctic Combat: Greenland's Pivotal Role in WWII

(RL1/RI1)

- Explain how Greenland is a natural gateway into Canada and the U.S.
- Why is weather so important to invasions?
- What led Marius Jensen to the conclusion that the footprints were German?
- How did this discovery aid them in 1944?

(RL2) Message of survival: Discuss what Marius Jensen endured and how he might have survived his trek back to base. How did his survival impact the survival of the Allies in Greenland? The survival of Allies in Europe?

(W3) The closing states: "the history books might be telling a very different story." What if the Nazis had been able to set up their weather stations?

The Boy Who Found the Light

(RL5) Examine the structure of this play. How does it differ from the preceding pages?

(RL6) How does this format allow us to hear various points of view?

(L5) The main character's name means Raven. Why is this important? Do you recall a raven appearing in tales from other cultures?

(RL2) Determine the message of the play.

Wrap Up

(SL1) Divide students into groups to come up with their own versions of Two Truths and a Lie. Present these to the class as a review of the issue.

(SL4) The title of the issue is WHY GREENLAND MATTERS. Discuss this in three sections:

- Historically
- In modern times
- In the future