



Kerpoof Lesson Plan

Exploring the Polar Regions: The Arctic vs. the Antarctic

Topics: Science, Social Studies, Language Arts

Grade level: 6-8

Duration: Six traditional class periods: One in the library, three in the computer lab, one in the classroom and one more in the computer lab.

Student assignment:

Go on a WebQuest to research the North and South Poles (the Arctic and the Antarctic). Create a visual representation of what you learned, then write a five-paragraph essay comparing/contrasting the two regions.

Materials and Resources:

Kerpoof Assignment Sheet

Research Notes Worksheet

Access to a library/media center, www.kerpoof.com and research sources

Activity:

Introduce the activity.

Pass out the assignment sheet.

Go to the library to do the print resources research.

Spend three days in the computer lab

Day one – Internet research

Day two – Kerpoof day (create visual representations)

Day three – Draft five-paragraph essay

Spend a day in the classroom peer editing.

Return to the computer lab to make edits and print final copy of essay.

Introduction:

This project will literally take you to the ends of the earth. You'll explore the polar regions of our world to compare and contrast them. We hear a lot about the Polar Regions these days as scientists talk about global warming, but what do we really know about them? Are the Arctic (the North Pole) and the Antarctic (the South Pole) alike? Do polar bears and penguins live in the same place? Grab your warmest clothes, a pencil and your worksheet. Let's find out about the polar regions.

Getting there:

1. Your adventure begins with an exploration of several sources in the library. Use your research notes worksheet to find the specific facts you should be researching. It will also tell you what sources will be accepted.





Exploring the Polar Regions

Student Assignment



2. You will then move on to exploring several websites about the Arctic and Antarctic. You will be gathering the information listed on your worksheet. Be sure to include 2-3 facts that are not listed but are interesting to you.

3. Once you have all your research done it is time to start putting it to good use. Begin with your visual representation of the Arctic and Antarctic by going to www.kerpoof.com.

4. First, use what you have learned to identify the Arctic and Antarctic scenes in Kerpoof's Make a Picture activity. Your research will also help you label which pole is which based on the animal options provided in the object library. Be sure to save your Kerpoof scenes and to print them in black and white to turn in with your report.

5. Now it is time to write your essay. Use your research notes and your visual representations to write a five paragraph essay comparing and contrasting three characteristics of the Arctic and the Antarctic. What's the same in both places? What is different in both places?

6. Once you have finished a rough draft of your project, ask a classmate to read it for you. Do the same thing for them.

7. Make corrections to your essay. Print it. Now staple it to your research notes and your visual representations and turn it in.

Sources You Can Use:

1. Start your research by looking at various print sources in the library, then move on to the electronic sources.
2. Find and read one book about the Arctic and Antarctic or two books (one on each region). Look for information that will help you answer the questions on your research worksheet.
3. Look up "Arctic" and "Antarctic" in an encyclopedia. Mine the entries for information.
4. Next, go to the computer lab and access these websites to help answer any remaining questions.

<http://kids.videosift.com/video/Arctic-vs-Antarctic>

<http://www.adventure-life.com/articles/pole-comparison-180.php>

<http://www.spri.cam.ac.uk/resources/kids/>

http://www.livescience.com/environment/top10_polar_differences-1.html