

THE ARCTIC AND OUR OCEANS



CANADIAN GEOGRAPHIC EDUCATION'S

ONLINE
Classroom

Subjects:

Arctic environments, World Oceans Day

Time:

30 Minutes

Grades:

K-6

What to know before getting started:

World Oceans Day was first celebrated in Canada in 1992, long before it became internationally recognized by the United Nations in 2008. The purpose of this celebration was to educate people about the major role that oceans play in the functioning of the planet and the health of all of its inhabitants. This day was also meant to serve as a reminder that the water we use for everyday activities, as well as the streams, rivers and lakes in our communities, are all connected to the oceans in one way or another. The Earth's surface is more than 70 percent water, and more than 97 percent of it is found in the Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Southern and Arctic Oceans. **Use this activity to learn more about the Arctic Ocean and the species that depend on it for survival!**

Materials you will need:

- Electronic device with internet connection
- Writing/art supplies
- A copy of the *Canada's Arctic Region* infographic

Activity time!

Explore the *Canada's Arctic Region* infographic to learn more about some of the better-known species that live in Arctic ecosystems. Then, using your new knowledge, match the following words to their proper definitions:

WORD BANK		
Arctic tern	Lynx	Arctic
Sea ice	Polar bears	Polar night
Beluga whale	Arctic hare	Boreal forest
	Permafrost	

DEFINITIONS

A wild cat that lives in the boreal forest.

A large animal that lives in the sea and communicates using different songs and sounds.

This bird flies over great distances between its breeding and overwintering grounds.

Formed by the freezing of seawater.

A period of darkness that lasts more than 24 hours and happens in regions north of the Arctic Circle.

A large carnivorous mammal that lives in the Arctic and usually hunts seals.

A small mammal with large ears and feet that lives in the tundra and uses its white fur as camouflage in the wintertime.

The term for permanently frozen ground.

A region in Canada that has lots of evergreen trees and wetlands.

A region in the north that makes up more than 40 per cent of Canada's land area.

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Now that you've learned more about the animals that live in the Arctic, think about how each animal is connected to the Arctic Ocean. Create a new infographic, similar to the *Canada's Arctic Region* infographic, that describes the connection between the animals you read about and the Arctic Ocean. Focus on how these animals and the ocean are interconnected (i.e., how they depend on each other or benefit from each other). What would happen to the Arctic environment if you were to remove one of these animals?

Share your learning adventure with us!

We want to see your amazing infographics! Share them by tagging [@CanGeoEdu](#) on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram and using the hashtag [#OnlineClassroom!](#)