

International Polar Year 2007–2008

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Icy description

Ask the students to write a description of an Antarctic landscape to read to a blind person (base the description on pictures and photographs of the Antarctic).

Diary entry

Ask the students to imagine that they are living in the Antarctic as a scientist, working on research concerning climate change and global warming. Have the students write daily diary entries for their first week on the job.

Flags

Show students a copy of the flag of Antarctica (the Graham Bartram design: see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Antarctica). Discuss the appearance of the flag. Ask the students to design their own Antarctic flag. Have them explain the colours and symbols they chose.

Explorers

- Encourage students to research an Arctic or Antarctic explorer using the Internet or books from the library. Ask them to write down facts about the explorer, what the purpose of the exploration was and details of the exploration (such as the route, stops along the way, information discovered and the duration of the expedition). Include any unusual facts.
- Present to the class details of a present-day expedition to the polar regions and what the purpose of the expedition was (the Australian Government Antarctic Division site will help with this). Talk about how modern-day expeditions differ, in particular, the differences in purpose.

As far south as you might go ...

Research the history of the South Pole. Who was the first explorer to reach the South Pole? When was the first permanent base established at the South Pole? How many people currently live and work at the South Pole? Do an Internet search to help you. The following site will get you started:

- en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Pole
- www.southpolestation.com/

Emperor penguins

Use books and the Internet to learn about emperor penguins. Ask the students to write a story with the title 'My Day as an Emperor Penguin'. The story should specify what time of year it is as the season has a significant bearing on the day-to-day activities of a penguin.