

On Top of the World : Teaching suggestions

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Activity 1

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1. Get a student to read the instructions out loud and check that the students understand them.
2. Let the students work together.
3. Stop the activity and elicit feedback.

Activity 2

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1. Get a student to read the instructions out loud and check that the students understand them.
2. Let the students do the activity individually before checking in pairs.
3. Monitor closely.
4. Stop the activity.
5. Elicit feedback. **Answers: 1. False (it's the Arctic – the Antarctic is around the South Pole). 2. True, with Matthew Henson, by dog sleigh, in 1909. 3. True 4. False – the north magnetic pole is in the Canadian Arctic. 5. False. Polar bears live in the Arctic. Penguins live in the Antarctic (it could be said that they are poles apart!) 6. True Inuit is the name for the semi-nomadic people living in the Arctic region who were previously referred to as Eskimos.**

Activity 3

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6. Get a student to read the instructions out loud and check that the students understand them.
7. Let the students do the activity individually before checking in pairs.
8. Monitor closely.
9. Stop the activity.
5. Elicit feedback. **Answers: 1. pole position 2. Poles 3. poleaxed 4. poles apart 5. flagpole**

Activity 4

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1. Get a student to read the instructions out loud and check that the students understand them.
2. Let the students form their questions then begin their conversation, in English, in pairs or small groups.
3. Monitor closely.
4. Stop the activity and elicit feedback.

Activity 5

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If your students don't have access to computers in the classroom, set this for homework.

Answers:

1. **c) The thickness of the ice has allegedly reduced by approximately 40% in the last 25 years.**
2. **c) Sweden is not laying claim to the Arctic seabed or the North Pole.**
3. **See below.**

Quick Quiz

Read the clues below and write the solutions on a piece of paper. Then take the first letter of each answer and rearrange them to find a word connected with this month's Talking Point subject: 'On Top of the World.'

1. The ice in theARCTIC...region around the North Pole is apparently melting at an alarming rate.
2. If the polar ice caps melt, we will be able to reach the energy reserves underneath them, for the first time in.....HISTORY.....
3. The Northwest Passage, would cut shippingTIMES.....between Britain and Japan by 50%.
4. EarlyWARNING...stations that have been standing derelict since being decommissioned at the end of the Cold War are being reactivated in Canada, it has been reported.

Answers: THAW (T for Times [3], H for History [2], A for Arctic [1], W for Warning [4]).

Activity 6

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This activity can be set as homework to be followed up and consolidated in a future lesson generating more discussion. What did most students feel about the question? What reasons were put forward in each case? Did the students read anything which changed their minds on the topic? (etc.)

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