

6

Greenland – The Land of Snow and Ice

Lesson Plan

Contents

- ▶ Location and extent of Greenland
- ▶ Physical features
- ▶ Climatic conditions
- ▶ Vegetation and wildlife
- ▶ The life of the people

Objectives

- ▶ Learning about life in the Arctic or Frigid Zone: Greenland
- ▶ Understanding how its location affects the climate, the physical features, the flora and fauna and lifestyle of the people.
- ▶ Compare it with the life of DRC learnt earlier.

Teacher's Aids

- ▶ Globe, maps, atlases, magazines, internet, blackboard, etc., can be used to make this lesson interesting.

Tips for Teacher

- ▶ Can start a project to dress up little dolls in clothes of the different countries the students are learning about in this class.
- ▶ Recall movies like Titanic or Ice Station Zebra to familiarise the region.
- ▶ Making a tray model of the region always helps as visuals can be powerful memory aids.

Gear Up and Background

- ▶ Read aloud and explain the lesson with the help of the globe, maps, atlases etc.
- ▶ Gear up refers to the 'reindeer'. Do the students know where the 'office' of Santa Claus is located? It is in Finland. Locate Finland to which mail addressed to Santa Claus goes. Talk about the legend of Santa Claus.
- ▶ Remember to point out that while there is winter in the Northern Hemisphere it will be summer in the Southern Hemisphere and vice-versa.

- ▶ Also draw attention to the melting of ice due to global warming and the rising of the sea level.

/// Location and Extent

- ▶ Explain location of Greenland on globe and map with reference to Arctic Circle, distance from location and Prime Meridian.
- ▶ Show the surrounding seas, bays, etc. Explain what bays and straits are.
- ▶ The neighbouring countries and continents.
- ▶ Explain that it is a part of Denmark, pointing out Denmark on the map/ globe/atlas.

/// Climatic Conditions

- ▶ Explain how the climate of Greenland is affected by its location; why the location affects it.
- ▶ Give details about the climate of Greenland. Explain what icebergs and glaciers are.
- ▶ Explain why does the sun never sets for many weeks/ months using the blackboard.
- ▶ Explain life in an igloo or a toupig. Compare with the tepee the Red Indians lived in.
- ▶ Ask students how they would live in a place like Greenland.

/// Vegetation and Wildlife

- ▶ Explain why vegetation is sparse and of what kind it is.
- ▶ Similarly the wildlife of the place should be explained, drawing attention to the thick fur or heavy fat-laden skins of the animals.
- ▶ Ask them what birds are generally found in cold areas. Clue – penguins, seagulls, etc.

/// Life of the People

- ▶ Explain the reasons for the sparse population – the bitter cold, harsh living conditions, few economic activities.
- ▶ For survival and development, dependent on fishing and hunting. Explain what kayaks, harpoons, sleds, umiak, etc., are. Compare the boats with canoes and catamarans.
- ▶ Explain migration of population.
- ▶ People called Eskimos or Inuit and Europeans are the main inhabitants.
- ▶ Dress, houses, transport and lifestyle based on climatic conditions.
- ▶ Explain what igloos and toupigs are. Small models can be made in class.
- ▶ Development of towns, education, hunting methods, oil and mining.