

CANADIAN GEOGRAPHIC IN THE CLASSROOM

Article 'The Polar Blog: Char Trackers'
Issue November/ December 2017



Learning Goal:

In Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, researchers and locals work together to keep Arctic fish healthy and abundant. In this lesson, students will learn about what researchers are discovering about Arctic char. Students will have the opportunity to virtually explore Cambridge Bay through an underwater dive.

Materials:

- Canadian Geographic article "The Polar Blog: Char Trackers"
- Live Dive Log (static1.squarespace.com/static/56021b47e4b04aa9439c6fcd/t/574d0d00859fd022e5b5a3d4/1464667392978/Student-FISH+EYE+PROJECT+LIVE+DIVE+LOG.pdf)
- Arctic Live Dive video (youtu.be/0igKvKryyxo)
- *The World Without Fish* by Mark Kurlansky (Optional)

The Lesson:

- Start by locating Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, on a map using Google Maps, Google Earth or your classroom map. Zoom out so students can see where they are located compared to Nunavut. If they live in Nunavut, ask students to locate their own community and discuss how they can travel from their community to Cambridge Bay. You may also want to show students a photo of Arctic char if they don't know what it is.
- Read the article as a class. As you go through the article, ask students:
 - ▷ Why is understanding the behaviours of Arctic char important?
 - ▷ Why is it important for the locals and researchers to work together?
 - ▷ How does Arctic char encompass the following: "food, community, culture, home, survival and history"?
- Tell students that they are researchers working for Polar Knowledge Canada and are going diving in Cambridge Bay to learn more about Arctic char. Optional: You may want to go through the presentation as a class: oceannetworks.ca/sites/default/files/teaching_resources/Slideshow_ArcticLiveDive.pdf
- Hand out the Live Dive Log (static1.squarespace.com/static/56021b47e4b04aa9439c6fcd/t/574d0d00859fd022e5b5a3d4/1464667392978/Student-FISH+EYE+PROJECT+LIVE+DIVE+LOG.pdf) to students and have them complete it as they watch the Arctic Live Dive video (youtu.be/0igKvKryyxo).

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Activity extensions:

- The article states that Arctic char are “food, community, culture, home, survival and history.” Assign a group of students to each of these aspects and have them research why Arctic char is important in that way.
- Read *The World Without Fish* by Mark Kurlansky. Have students write a short story or a comic imagining what the world would be like without fish, to illustrate why fish are important.
- Imagine you are a Polar Knowledge Canada researcher, but the government is thinking about continuing research without using local knowledge. Write a letter advocating for the continued cooperation with locals and explain why Inuit traditional knowledge is so important.

