

CANADIAN GEOGRAPHIC IN THE CLASSROOM

Article The Polar Blog – tiny creatures, big lessons
Issue July 2016



Lesson Overview

Students will create a ‘discovery wall’ using *Canadian Geographic*’s The Polar Blog as a guide. Students will also learn how insects are vital to determining seasons, the types of insects found in the Arctic and climate change.

Materials

- 1 copy of July 2016 Canadian Geographic
- 2 yellow bowls
- Computer with internet connection
- Smart phone, tablet or camera for taking pictures
- Art supplies to create the discovery wall: glue, markers, stapler and tape.

Grade level

K-5

Time

Ongoing throughout the school year

Links to Canadian Standards for Geography

Geographic Skill 1: Asking Geographic Questions

- Distinguish between geographic and non-geographic questions
- Why is the Arctic a significant location?

Geographic Skill 2: Acquiring Geographic Information

- Make and record observations about physical characteristics of places.

Geographic Skill 3: Organizing Geographic Information

- Construct a diagram to display geographic information

Geographic Skill 4: Analyzing Geographic Information

- Use texts, photographs, and documents to observe and interpret geographic trends.

Geographic Skill 5: Answering Geographic Questions

- Apply generalizations to solve geographic problems and make reasoned decisions.

Lesson Activity

- To begin your class’s creation of their insect discovery wall, have students develop questions about bugs and insects and place their questions on the discovery wall. Ask students “Why are bugs important?” to prompt a class discussion about their importance.
- Read parts from the Polar Blog in the July 2016 issue of *Canadian Geographic* to your students. Using the magazine, past *Canadian Geographic* issues, or images online, search for photos of Canada’s Arctic from all seasons. Show students so they can get an understanding of what the seasons are like in Canada’s far north.

CANADIAN GEOGRAPHIC IN THE CLASSROOM

Article The Polar Blog – tiny creatures, big lessons
Issue July 2016



- Ask students questions like: “Which season would you find the most insects in the Arctic?”, “What insects would you find in the Arctic?”, “What may harm insects in the Arctic?”, “How does climate change impact insects?” and “Why would insects like living in the Arctic?”, “What role do insects play in the ecosystem?” Add these questions to the discovery wall.
- Locate a place around your school where you can dig a small hole to hold one of the yellow bowls. Place the second bowl in a different location. Have students create a map of their school and note where the bowls are for the discovery wall. Possible locations can be in gardens, under trees, bushes, fences, etc.
- Throughout the year have students work together to answer the discovery wall questions by regularly checking the bowls throughout each season. Have students take photos of what they see and the insects that they discover in the bowls and then add these to their discovery wall. To help students investigate bugs read the following [Canadian Geographic](#) blog post together as a class.
- At the end of the school year have students examine their insect discovery wall full of answered questions, photos, and learning that the students have done and that can be shown off to their parents. Happy insect hunting!