

The Resources Below

The Arctic has been exploited for its resources for hundreds of years.

Walrus, seal and fish

Early records show that **walrus tusks** and some sealskins were traded in **Roman times**. Certainly by the **16th century fishing** off the Grand Banks in the New World was big business. **Cod** was a major worldwide market commodity by then.



What other things do we extract?



Coal



Oil



Whale Hunting

Shipping Routes

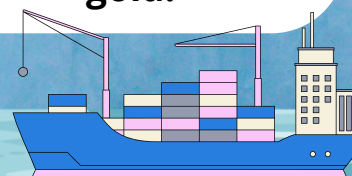
Currently, **three shipping passages** are in operation: the **Northeast Passage, the Northwest Passage, and the Transpolar Passage.**

While these passages are currently in use, other passages that previously were inaccessible are **now becoming accessible due to climate change** and sea ice melting.

The Ice is Melting.

As sea ice in the **Arctic Ocean** melts with each successive year of rising global temperatures, it has become **easier** and more common for companies to venture into the region for **fishing, shipping, and oil and gas** exploration.

Some of the minerals found in the Arctic are **diamonds, iron ore, nickel, copper ore, silver, zinc and gold.**



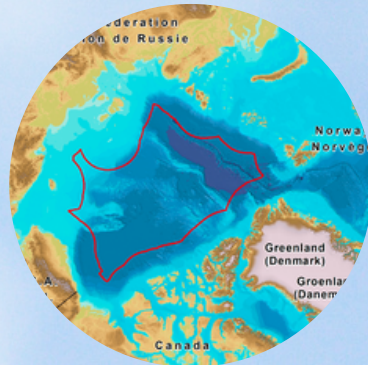
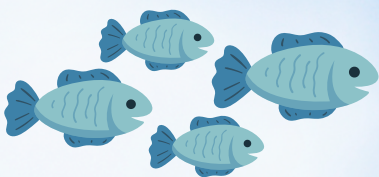
What Happened when Humans Arrived?

Many people have moved to the **tundra** to work in the **mines or oil rigs**. They have created new towns and roads, which disrupt the **feeding patterns** of many animals that try to pass the towns in search for food.



Fishing

In some regions of the Arctic fishing is **banned**. This area is 2.8 million square kilometres

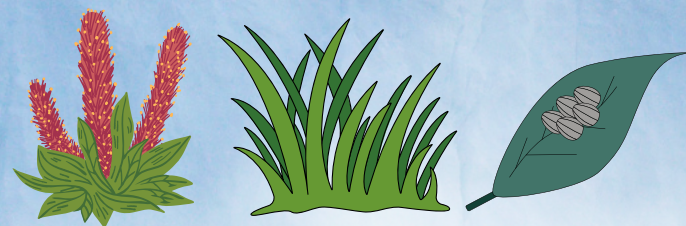


Environmental Protection in the Arctic

The Arctic, its wildlife and its four million inhabitants face a **major problem**: the region's lack of protection and control. There is **no overall Arctic treaty** to deal with the protection of the environment or the **flora and fauna**. Each country has its own rules and regulations.

What is Climate Change?

Did you know sea levels are thought to have risen **15-20cm** in the last 100 years due to melting ice?



WHY ARE GLACIERS MELTING?

Glaciers have been melting since the beginning of the 19th century. Scientists think this is because of human activities, especially the **burning of fossil fuels** which has increased the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere leading to global warming.

If all the ice covering Antarctica, Greenland, and in mountain glaciers around the world were to melt, sea level would rise about 70 meters (230 feet). The ocean would cover all the coastal cities.

