

## Lesson Plan: Polar Posters

**Time:** 1-2 hrs

**Level:** Key Stage 2-3 (adaptable)

Through this simple poster-making activity, children will learn about the landscapes, ecology and people of the Polar regions. Key skills developed: research and organising information.

**Task:** Make a fact-file poster detailing key characteristics of the Arctic or Antarctic. Schools are encouraged to share photos of their posters on Twitter tagging #PolarPosters and @Polar\_Research!

**Materials:** Access to books and/or computers, A3 paper, pens, pencils.

### Teacher steps:

**Step 1:** Depending on student level, introduce the Arctic and Antarctica as the Polar regions and explain that they are an important part of Earth's climate system. This TED Ed video gives a good introduction: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z5VRoGTF60s>

Key points in the introduction could include:

- The Polar regions hold major masses of ice which reflect heat into the atmosphere: the polar regions are important for regulating climate.
- Sea ice (ice which blankets the sea) affects how warm and cold waters move around the oceans.
- The Arctic is home to around 4 million people.
- Both the Arctic and Antarctic are home to plants and animals which are adapted to specific conditions.

**Step 2:** Split the class into groups of three or more students and assign each group a region; either the Arctic or Antarctic.

**Step 3:** Using the task sheet below, each group should use the available resources to find answers to the set questions.

**Step 3:** Each group should use their findings to create a fact-file poster about their region. This can be framed as a competition for the poster which gives the best answers, displayed in the best format.

**Step 4:** Once the posters are complete, the groups should be encouraged to consider the differences between the Arctic and Antarctic by looking at each other's work.

**Step 5:** Share your posters on Twitter tagging #PolarPosters and @apecs!

**Website resources:**

- <https://www.coolantarctica.com/>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zyhp34j/articles/zjg46v4>
- <https://discoveringantarctica.org.uk/>
- <https://www.sciencenewsforstudents.org/article/lets-learn-about-antarctica>

## Task sheet: Polar Posters

In your groups, work together to find answers to the questions below. When you have your answers ready, use them to create a fact-file poster about your Polar region. Think about how you can make your poster look exciting, so that other people can use it to learn about the Polar regions too.

### Questions:

1. Where is your Polar region?
2. How big is it?
3. What does your Polar region look like? Can you draw it?
4. What is the lowest temperature?
5. Do any people live in your Polar region? Who?
6. Which animals live in your Polar region? Choose three animals or birds. How many of them are there? Where do they live and what do they eat?
7. Name an explorer who visited your region. Who were they and what did they do?
8. Choose your favorite fun fact about your Polar region.