



Nunavut Snowmobile Activity

Materials:

- Nunavut outline card
- Town cards
- Blank Nunavut legend
- Snowmobile journals card

Set-up:

Ensure all materials are laid out and prepared for the lesson. Photocopy extra snowmobile journals if necessary.

Grades:

- 7-12

Time:

- Three lessons

Curricular expectations:

- TK

Introduction

Begin the activity by asking your students to stand around the map. Before walking on the map, have each student do a think-pair-share activity to describe the image they see before them. They should first look at the map and think of a word or sentence to describe it. After a couple of minutes, ask students to turn to the person beside them and discuss the similarities and differences between the words/sentences that they each selected. Once all partner groups have had a chance to discuss their answers, ask groups to share their description with the rest of the class.

Next, invite students to explore the map independently. Ask prompting questions such as “what do you see on the map in front of you?” “What is missing from the map?” “What do you think the different colours on the map represent”?

Tell students that it is an image that was compiled by the Canadian Space Agency using RADARSAT- 2 data. Explain to students that they are going to explore the map and use it to plan a snowmobile trip.

Development

Distribute the chains to your students and ask them to add Nunavut’s borders onto the map, using the Nunavut outline card for assistance. Once the territory has been outlined, have students place the Town cards in the correct locations on the map. Discuss patterns and trends about the location of towns in Nunavut.

Have students line up around the map in partners. Explain that each group will be planning a snowmobile trip. They will use the map and all of its different components to assist them.

Show students the five essential elements of a map (title, border, compass, scale and legend). When you discuss the legend, tell your student that this map doesn’t actually have a legend, as a mosaic of hundreds of RADARSAT-2 images were used to create this map. This means that the colours on the map have not been assigned a meaning. In order to plan their trip, students must first create their own legend to understand what the land is like. Using the blank Nunavut legend, have students create their own legend of Nunavut using their previous knowledge of the land. Discuss how important legends are to understanding the story a map is telling.

Next, explore the scale with your students. Have them calculate the distance between a variety of different locations on the map.



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Using the chains provided, work together to outline Nunavut. Discuss Nunavut's size and allow time for students to talk about what makes this territory unique.

Instruct your students that they are now ready to plan their snowmobile trip. Using the map, each group must identify at least 4 destinations on their trip. Each location must not be within a 10 km radius of another. Each planned journey must bring students back to where they began without any legs of the trip overlapping with each other (i.e., student will come "full circle").

Distribute a snowmobile journal card to each group, in addition to a dry-erase marker, and allow time for students to fill it out. For each point they will have to use both information from the map and their prior knowledge to complete all parts of the journal. Students will also need to determine what the weather will be like and the equipment they will need. Finally, students will need to determine the distance of their trip.

Conclusion

Once all groups have completed their snowmobile journal cards (on the map and in class), have each student present their trip to the rest of the class. Discuss the similarities and differences between each trip planned and have students elaborate on why they chose the routes that they did.

Expand your horizons

Have your students go on their snowmobile trips if possible. Work with their parents/guardians to get the proper permission and support needed. Afterwards, have them compare their snowmobile journals with their actual journals to see how accurate their map reading skills were.

