



Antarctica Day Flags – From the Classroom to Antarctica

Aims:

- To teach about Antarctica as a place on our planet where many nations work together sharing their scientific research to peacefully protect this pristine area
- To increase students' global awareness of international cooperation through the Antarctic Treaty System of 50 nations
- To create flag designs for Antarctica, reflecting students' interests and inspiration
- To connect classroom activities with scientists in Antarctica. Students' flags from around the world will be displayed in Antarctica. Selected schools may have an opportunity to speak to a scientist at the Princess Elisabeth Station in Antarctica via skype

Background

- Antarctica is not owned by anyone and is governed by the Antarctic Treaty System
- Antarctica does not have a flag as it is not owned by a single country
- Antarctica is the coldest, driest and windiest continent with temperatures as low as -89°C
- There are research stations representing many different nations around the continent
- Scientists work together, share information, and communicate their findings globally

Online resources

- 5 minute film about Antarctica Day: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Ak-bl5EKEM>
- Powerpoint "Introduction to Antarctica Day activities" <http://www.ourspaces.org.uk/antarctica-day.html> (bottom of page)
- Previous flag designs and daily updates: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/154649031246711/>
- Antarctic education resources: www.educapoles.org

Materials

A4 paper

Pens, crayons etc. (try and use materials which will not cause glare when photographed/scanned)

Camera (preferred) or scanner– so that flags can be sent to Antarctica

Activity

1. Ask students to design flags drawing images that are inspired by Antarctica.
2. Select 5 representative flags per class and photograph with a digital camera or scan (**jpg preferred**).
3. E-mail to liz.pasteur@polarfoundation.org by **25th November 2013** or she can invite you to place them in a Dropbox folder. Files must be smaller than 10MB.
4. The images received from around the world for Antarctica Day will be sent to Princess Elisabeth Station in Antarctica where they will be displayed at a special dinner celebration. An e-mail will be sent back to the school with a message.
5. All of the flags can be displayed in the classroom or school hallway arranged as a composite banner celebrating Antarctica Day 2013.



This activity is being organised together with Our Spaces and Polar Educators International.