

Unit Guide

Impact of Glacier Melt in Alaska on the Population of Local Animals and the Inuit

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This unit integrates the subjects of language arts, history, science and informational literacy skills through the study of the impact of glacier melt in Alaska on the population of local animals and the Inuit. This unit is coordinated with the unit of the art teacher, further expanding the cross curricular impact of the unit. The first part of the unit focuses on studying the Arctic tundra biome and glaciers in order for the students to develop background knowledge on these topics. The students will then study how and why the glaciers are melting, and then study how this change impacts Arctic animals. The students will then study the Inuit people, both past and present day, and complete a Venn diagram to compare/contrast how the Inuit culture has changed over time. The students will study how the glacier melt impacts the Inuit, who are still so closely connected to their environment. In the final component of the unit, the students will make connections to home by exploring global warming and how we can help by making changes locally. Students will be creating awareness posters to share what they have learned with the rest of the school community.