

INTERNATIONAL 2007 2008 POLAR YEAR

International Polar Day - People

24 September 2008

Who: Anyone interested in global communities (Students, Teachers, Scientists, Artists, Travellers...).

What: An opportunity to build connections and exchange ideas among Arctic and non-Arctic schools.

Why: To expand our knowledge of the everyday experiences of polar and non-polar communities and to encourage a broader understanding of global connections.

Where: Schools, community centres, museums, science centres around the world.

When: Wednesday, 24 September, and throughout the week.

- How:**
1. Do the activity on the reverse side in your classroom, or visit www.ipy.org for more activity ideas.
 2. Launch a Virtual Balloon showing your location at www.ipy.org and check in frequently to see communities pop up across the globe.
 3. Listen to and talk with researchers during a live radio event (web-streamed or live depending on time zone).
 4. Learn about polar science, become a polar ambassador, participate in future IPY Polar Days.



Learn more about polar People at www.ipy.org

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People in the Arctic have developed skills, strategies and community knowledge to survive harsh polar conditions. Resource exploitation and political activities imposed by non-Arctic communities have changed the livelihoods and well-being of Arctic residents in good and bad ways; climate change adds new challenges. Researchers and community leaders work together to determine how these changes affect the health, education, material well-being, culture, food supplies, natural resources and economics of Arctic communities. Combining 'western' science with traditional knowledge enhances our understanding of the vulnerability and adaptability of Arctic communities.

A community - a group of interacting people in a common location, sharing cultural, ethnic and moral traditions.

Preparations:

- Plan class discussions related to the questions below
- Register your class and share your plans at <http://polarday.tiged.org>

Explore your community:

1. How would you describe your community?
2. What is life like where you live?
3. How does the physical environment of WHERE you live affect HOW you live?
4. What are some of the changes occurring in your community?
5. What issues are you experiencing in your community?
6. How is life different for you than for your parents or grandparents at the same age?
7. What kind of community would you like your children or grandchildren to live in?

Learn about another community:

- If you live in a non-Arctic community, connect with an Arctic community to learn how they describe their community.
- If you live in an Arctic community, connect with a non-Arctic community to learn how they describe their community.

Share your ideas and discoveries on <http://polarday.tiged.org>:

1. Post video, audio, presentations, or photos from your class discussion in the Gallery
2. Post your answers in the Discussion section and make a link to your Gallery materials
3. Compare your answers and ideas with information from other communities:
 - What similarities do you find? What differences do you find?
 - How did this activity help you understand your community and connect to other communities?

To learn more: Post questions in the *Ask an Expert* section on <http://polarday.tiged.org>

Make a Mark!: Launch a virtual balloon on the Polar Day map at www.ipy.org

