



# Arctic Adventure

Real World Contexts for Talk and Writing

## Using the Arctic Adventure DVD

The DVD includes:

- ten video clips from the Catlin Arctic Survey
  - four slideshows
  - a PDF of classroom activities
  - a 60-page Video PDF screen version of the classroom activities, with video clips and slideshows embedded
- NB: Video PDF will only open in Reader 9 or above Download this free program from <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>**
- folder of images for use in programs such as iMovie, PowerPoint or Picture Power 3.

To access the folder of PDFs and images on the DVD:

- PC: navigate to the 'Windows Explorer' program (Start > All programs > Accessories > Windows Explorer). When you see the folder called 'EMC\_AA\_Assets' copy it to your hard disk.
- Mac: double-click the DVD icon and copy the folder to the hard disk.

## Acknowledgements

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# Contents

		On DVD
Sections	Pages	Video & Slideshows
Teachers' Notes	2-3	
1. Wanted: Arctic Adventurers Aged 11-15	4-6	1: Wanted Arctic Adventurers Aged 11-15 a. Video Clip 1 b. Slideshow 1
2. Congratulations – An Introduction to the Arctic	7-9	2. Congratulations – An introduction to the Arctic a. Video Clip 2 b. Video Clip 3
3. Orientation weekend – Building the Team	10-14	
4. Off to Ice Base	15-16	
5. Arrival at Ice Base	16	5. Arrival at Ice Base a. Video Clip 4 b. Video Clip 5 c. Slideshow 2
6. Out onto the Ice – A Wildlife Adventure	16	6. Out onto the Ice – a Wildlife Adventure a. Video Clip 6 b. Slideshow 3
7. Pemmican, Pemmican and More Pemmican – A Meal fit for Explorers	17	7. Pemmican, Pemmican and More Pemmican – a Meal fit for Explorers a. Video Clip 7
8. Whiteout – 10 Tips for Surviving Life at Ice Base	18	8. Whiteout! 10 Tips for Surviving Life at Ice Base a. Video Clip 8
9. Accident	19	9. Accident! a. Video Clip 9 b. Slideshow 4
10. Wildcard	20	
11. A Phone Interview	20	11. A Phone Interview a. Video Clip 10
12. Overheard	21	
13. Escape from the Arctic – The Final Chapter	22	
14. Young Ambassador Presentation Evening	22	

# Teachers' Notes on Arctic Adventure

*N.B. This is a photocopiable publication. A printable PDF is included on the DVD.*

## The Arctic Survey material

This fictional simulation uses authentic material generously provided by the Catlin Arctic Survey 2011. We hope that, in addition to providing an exciting context for creative writing and speaking and listening work, the video clips, images and blog extracts will spark pupils' interest in the important scientific and environmental work of the Arctic Survey team.

### An Introduction from the Catlin Arctic Survey Website

Catlin Arctic Survey is a unique collaboration between scientists and explorers to undertake field research in the Arctic.

While there is much debate about our changing environment, one thing is absolutely clear: we need more factual information. The Catlin Arctic Survey enables the monitoring, measuring and collection of information to improve scientific understanding of the processes involved in, and the impacts of, climate change.

On this third Catlin Arctic Survey, scientists and explorers are examining the surface layers of the Arctic Ocean. They are researching how changes within the seawater beneath the floating sea ice may be affecting powerful ocean currents that influence prevailing climate and weather patterns worldwide.

Increased levels of freshwater from melting sea ice, ice caps and glaciers, and warming Arctic waters, may radically unbalance the processes which sustain the most significant of these currents: what is known as thermohaline circulation.

The Catlin Arctic Survey is focused on the impact of this increased freshening of the Arctic Ocean's water, and the potential changes this could cause to Earth's global ocean circulation system.

In parallel, scientists from the US, UK and Canada are conducting experiments at a unique research station on the frozen Arctic Ocean with the support of experienced polar explorers and guides.

From <http://www.catlinarcticsurvey.com/>

### A glossary of terms used in the activities

Basecamp: South Camp Inn, Resolute Bay in Canada.

Ice Base: where the scientists live and work in the Canadian Arctic. Ice Base is reached by propellor plane.

Scientists: a team of scientists live and work at Ice Base, conducting experiments on the ice.

Explorers: in addition to the scientists, a team of four explorers trek across the arctic, collecting data which will help the scientists determine the rate of ice melt. There's a helpful introduction to this aspect of the work on the BBC News website <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-12279028>

## Frozen Planet

David Attenborough's documentary about the polar regions would provide an engaging and informative context for this simulation. The DVD of the series is widely available.



## An overview of the simulation

In the Arctic Adventure simulation students are placed in the role of Young Ambassadors appointed to raise awareness of environmental change among young people.

The simulation provides 14 activities, offering a range of creative writing and speaking and listening activities for both individuals and groups (the Young Ambassador team).

The simulation as a whole can be completed in 4 to 5 weeks, based on 2 hours of lesson time and one homework a week. If you do not have this amount of time available, it's possible to give students a flavour of the simulation and the range of different activities by picking and choosing four or five of the tasks, for example:

- Activity 1: Wanted Arctic Adventurers Aged 11-15
- Activity 4: Off to Ice Base
- Activity 9: Accident
- Activity 13: Escape from the Arctic.

It is envisaged that students will work in the same groups throughout the simulation and that stimulus material in the form of video clips and still-image slideshows will be viewed in a whole class context.

As Young Ambassadors for the Survey, the students are expected to share their experiences of the expedition via a blog. While the simulation requires students to imagine that these are being published and read online, in practice this 21st-century version of the diary can be handwritten and shared on the classroom wall or in a folder. If you want to increase the authenticity of the simulation, you could use one of the free services such as Blogger or Word Press to set up a web blog.

Similarly, when the Young Ambassadors are asked to create a 'talking head' video report for the website in Activity 6, there is no need for the report actually to be recorded or uploaded to the blog. Instead each team of Young Ambassadors could take it in turns to present their 'talking head' video report to the class.

### Notes on Activity 9

Each group will choose a person to come and ask you, in role as expedition leader, what the problem is. The basic facts are these:

- it's a serious problem:
- the summer thaw has begun and the ice is cracking
- it is not safe for the plane to land on the ice runway
- the team has only one day's supply of food left.

This online BBC report from an earlier Arctic Survey expedition gives some idea of what is happening: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/7962021.stm>

### Notes on Activity 10

Activity 10 'Wildcard' is slightly different and offers an opportunity to add a new angle to the simulation. There are two ways you might do this:

- come up with another occurrence which you present to the Young Ambassador teams (for example, a crisis at home, an unexpected deadline, a surprise scientific discovery, a visit by a team of journalists etc)
- ask each team of students, out of role, to come up with a scenario, which is then presented to another team of Young Ambassadors. The development of the scenario in itself requires another form of creative thinking and writing.

# 1. Wanted Arctic Adventurers Aged 11-15

## The Chance of a Lifetime – Getting Selected

- Read the Press Release on becoming a Young Ambassador for the Arctic Survey.

### Press Release



### Wanted Arctic Adventurers Aged 11-15

A 'thin blue line' of fresh water immediately beneath the Arctic sea ice may hold the key to understanding changes in ocean currents that influence the climate of Europe and the East Coast of North America.



The Arctic Survey team of polar explorers and scientists has spent the last two months in the Arctic examining the surface layers of the Arctic Ocean. With specialist explorers working alongside leading oceanographers from the United States, Canada and the UK, they have been researching changes to sea temperature, increased freshwater and ocean currents in one of the world's most extreme environments.

For the final week of the expedition, the team will be joined by a team of four Arctic Survey Young Ambassadors. These students, aged between 11 and 15, are being appointed to raise awareness among young people of the changing polar environment. They will do this via blogs, video and audio reports from the Arctic, as well as contributing to a presentation evening at the end of the Survey.

Any young person interested in becoming a Young Ambassador is asked to see 'Applying to become an Arctic Survey Young Ambassador' for full details of the expedition and how to apply.\*

Find out more about the work of the Survey and the conditions the team experience living in the Arctic on these websites:

Catlin Arctic Survey (<http://www.catlinarcticsurvey.com/>)

BBC Learning Zone (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips/meet-the-catlin-arctic-survey-team-members/7112.html>)

BBC News 1 (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/7962021.stm>)

BBC News 2 (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/7913443.stm>)

*\* Please note: competition for these positions is tough. Last year we received more than 10,000 applications for the position of Young Ambassador to the Antarctic Survey.*

## Applying to become an Arctic Survey Young Ambassador (Video clip 1 & Slideshow 1)

We're delighted you are interested in becoming an Arctic Survey Young Ambassador. Full details of the role and the type of person we are looking for are included below.



- **To give you a flavour of life in the Arctic, have a look at our short video montage showing the scientists living and working at Ice Base and a slideshow of images of the Arctic: 'Wanted: Arctic Adventurers Video and Slideshow'.**

Still interested? Then read on to see if you are the sort of person we are looking for.

### What you need to do

- **Read the information about the role and type of person we are looking for.**

This year we are asking all applicants to write a letter to introduce themselves, explaining why the Arctic Survey Team should select them as Young Ambassador for this Arctic Adventure. Your letter should be no more than 300 words.

To make your application stand out you need to be attention grabbing both in what you say and how you say it.

- **Before you write your letter, read the advice from one of last year's Young Ambassadors, and an extract from her winning letter (see page 6).**
- **Write your letter of application.**

### The role

The main role of a Young Ambassador will be to get young people interested in the work the Arctic Survey is doing in the Arctic. As a Young Ambassador you will:

- spend a week in the Arctic living with, and observing the work of, the Survey team
- take part in an expedition to the Ice Base where the scientific experiments are taking place
- spend a day on the ice observing the wildlife
- keep a web blog of your experiences in the Arctic
- contribute to a video report for the website
- act as contacts for the media – you might have to give an interview at short notice, or write a report for a newspaper
- take part in a presentation evening after the expedition.

Could you be the person we are looking for?

### The person

As Young Ambassador you will need to be:

- adventurous
- willing to live in a challenging environment far from the comforts of home
- a good team player
- independent, able to take the initiative
- imaginative, with a good sense of how to grab the attention of your peers
- an interesting person with a good sense of fun!

Does this sound like you? Then enter our Arctic Survey Young Ambassador competition!

## Advice on applying from last year's winner

- 350 words is not a lot – don't waste words just saying the obvious.
- Show the selectors that you are interested in the Arctic Survey and have watched some of the video clips.
- Let the selectors know what makes you suitable for the role but avoid clichés and empty phrases ('I always give 110%', 'This is the chance of a lifetime').
- Make your introduction come to life with anecdotes and examples.
- Experiment with different ways of beginning your introduction so that it immediately grabs the attention of the selectors (for example, begin with a personal experience).
- An important part of your role as Young Ambassador is writing blog updates – make sure you show the selectors that you can write accurately and in a lively and interesting way.
- Remember: you will be the representative of the Arctic Survey Team. They need to know you are reliable and trustworthy as well as adventurous.
- Don't send your first draft. Try different ways of writing the introduction – get feedback from your family and friends.

## Extracts from last year's winning letter

I have an open and enquiring mind. I search for questions and when I think I have an answer, I invent more questions. When I get home from school, I throw down my bag, pick up my bike and cycle straight down our lane to watch the birds, animals and insects. I film and photograph them and combine these images with research to make abstract montage films! I can send you some!!

If I sound like a lonesome, mad scientist so far, then you couldn't be more wrong! I can play as part of a team too as my mates on the hockey team will tell you. Though I naturally want to take the role of leader because I am friendly, calm and bursting with ideas, I do know my place on the team and that is wing defence. Wing defence is not a romantic or heroic position but is one of the vital cogs that keep the whole machine working.

Let me be part of this exploration and I will repay science and the spirit of adventure for the rest of my life by having the opportunity to fulfil the potential bubbling inside me!



## 2. Congratulations – An introduction to the Arctic (Video clips 2 & 3)



Arctic Survey  
Headquarters  
London

Dear ....

Many thanks for your application to become Arctic Survey Young Ambassador.

This year a record number of young people applied to become a member of the team. The standard of applications was extremely high, with the judges commenting both on what a lot of very impressive young people there are and on the quality of the writing.

We're therefore particularly delighted to tell you that your application has been successful and that you will be joining the Arctic Survey in three weeks time as one of the Arctic Survey Young Ambassadors.

A member of the team will be in touch to discuss the practical details of the expedition. In the meantime we would like to invite you to an orientation weekend where you will meet the rest of the Young Ambassadors, get kitted out and undergo some essential team building exercises.

To prepare you for your trip and to give you a sense of what life is like at the Arctic Survey, we are enclosing a pack of material which we suggest you study before the orientation weekend:

- video clips of the Arctic and the Survey team
- blog extracts from members of the Survey team.

Once again many congratulations and I look forward to meeting you at the orientation meeting.

Yours sincerely,

The Arctic Survey Team



■ Look through the material you've been sent, to get some first sense of what life in the Arctic Survey is like. You could record your impressions as a mindmap of facts, impressions and associations.