

Geography

What Would It Be Like To Live Near The Arctic Circle?

Background Information

Iceland is covered by ice, glaciers and geysers and has more than 20 active volcanoes. The country lies on two tectonic plates along which the volcanoes are located: the Eurasian and North American plates. The lava, which came from the volcanoes, on the plate borders formed the island.

In this unit, the children will:

- Use maps, atlases, globes and digital mapping to learn about the region
- Focus on geographical regions, identify human and physical characteristics, key topographical features and land-use patterns of Iceland
- Look at climate zones, biomes and volcanoes



Map Work:

- Use maps, atlases, globes and digital mapping
- Use eight points of a compass, four and six-figure grid references
- Understand and interpret keys on maps



Key Content:

- Identify and label main European countries and capital cities
- Learn about different biomes
- Learn key features of the tundra
- Label maps of Iceland, showing physical features, land use and climate as well as cities
- Look at geothermal activity and volcanoes in Iceland
- Look in detail at Snæfellsjökull volcano
- Create an information text of key physical and human features of Iceland.

Key Vocabulary:

Biome: a large naturally occurring community of flora and fauna occupying a major habitat, e.g. forest or tundra.

Habitat: the natural home or environment of an animal, plant, or other organism

Tundra: a vast, flat, treeless Arctic region of Europe, Asia, and North America in which the subsoil is permanently frozen

Geothermal: relating to or produced by the internal heat of the earth

Volcano: a mountain or hill, typically conical, having a crater or vent through which lava, rock fragments, hot vapour, and gas are or have been erupted from the earth's crust.

