



Antarctica Day Flags – From the Classroom to Antarctica

Aims:

- To teach about Antarctica as a place on our planet where nations work together sharing their scientific research to peacefully manage 10% of the earth
- To create flag designs for Antarctica, reflecting student's interests and inspiration
- To connect classroom activities with scientists and educators in Antarctica

Materials:

Ordinary printer paper (easy for scanning) (A4 210 x297mm) (USA 8"x11")
 Different shades of markers and pens* (no glare when being photographed or scanned)
 Associated PowerPoint (or PDF) as a teaching tool
 Scanner or camera – so images can be created from the student drawings
 Email-student images to jberkman@ourspace.org.uk by December 7th 2012

Concept to teach:

This activity will increase student's global awareness of international cooperation through the Antarctic Treaty System of 50 nations studying climate and marine life in the Southern Ocean. Students' flags from around the world can come together in Antarctica.

The Basics:

- Antarctica is one of earth's 7 continents located in the southern ocean.
- It is largely covered by ice and the animals' home is in the ocean.
- The 1959 Antarctic Treaty applies to the Antarctic continent and the surrounding Southern Ocean to 60 degrees South Latitude, ~ 10% of earth.
- All territorial claims to Antarctica were set aside by the Antarctic Treaty.
- Antarctica does not have a flag as it is not owned by a single country.
- There are research stations representing many nations around the continent.
- Scientists study global climate and the marine ecosystem, working together in teams they share information, and communicate their findings globally.
- Penguins, whales, seals, fish, scallops, and krill live there and are part of the Antarctic Marine Ecosystem (see slides).

Activity:

1. Students are asked to design flags drawing images that are inspired by Antarctica - the ice & climate, the marine life, and/or the people from many nations working together.
2. The drawings are collected and representative flags are then made into digital images (photographed with a digital camera or scanned on a photocopier) and compiled for e-mailing to Antarctica (10MB max size limit per e-mail). Once images are in electronic form (jpg) the images need to be emailed to jberkman@ourspace.org.uk by December 7th 2012.
3. The images received from around the world from Antarctica Day will be sent to Gateway Antarctica in Christchurch, New Zealand where they will hitch a ride with researchers and educators and be displayed on December 25th during the holiday meal celebration. An e-mail will be sent back to the school with a message. The event will be documented and shared through Our Spaces and APECS websites.
4. All of the flags can be displayed in the classroom or school hallway arranged as a composite banner celebrating Antarctica Day 2012.

