

TEACHING GUIDE

Episode 2: Arctic

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Highlights & Recommended Questions

China's History in the Arctic (2:02 to 5:38)

- When did China begin looking into the Arctic? Where else have they been exploring?
- Who are the other major stakeholders in Arctic policy (otherwise known as the Arctic Eight)? How have they reacted to China's newfound interest in the poles?

China's Arctic Policy (5:38 to 15:03)

- What is the first point of China's Arctic Policy?
- What is China already doing to research climate change in the polar region? Why are they so interested in monitoring climate change in the Arctic?
- What is the second point of China's Arctic policy?
- What is the Polar Silk Road? How are countries and areas along the Polar Silk Road responding to China's investments? (refer particularly to the case study of the Yamal Liquefied Natural Gas project)
- Why does China want to send their ships through the Arctic Circle? How might this become a possibility in the next decade?
- Why is shipping in the Arctic an environmental concern?

Existing Regulations Around Shipping in the Arctic (15:45 to 19:09)

- Who controls shipping in the Arctic region?
- What is the Polar Code? Why are certain stakeholders calling for a stricter version of it?

China's Role in Future Governance (19:14 to 30:10)

- What is the third point of China's Arctic Policy?
- Who is a part of the Arctic Council and what responsibilities does the Council have?
- Why did China want to join the Arctic Council as an observer?
- What role have they played so far in the council? Why are states like Russia excited that China has joined?
- How has the United States reacted to China's recent actions?
- What would a potential 'Arctic Treaty' address?

General Discussion Prompts

- Do you think China's presence in the Arctic Council and in the Polar Silk Road will lead to net-beneficial or harmful?

- Why are countries like the United States afraid of China creating this ‘Arctic Identity’?
- Why is China’s increasingly larger presence important when considering the future of conservation and economic development in the Arctic?
- Is an Arctic Treaty a good idea?

Further Reading & Listening

- [China’s Arctic Policy](#) (government document)
- [China as a Polar Great Power](#) (book; Anne-Marie Brady, 2017)
- [Polar Code](#) (IMO document)
- [Polar Silk Road](#) (analytical paper; Tillman et al, 2018)

Relevant Organisations

- [Arctic Council](#)
- [International Maritime Organisation](#)
- [World Wildlife Fund](#)
- [Ocean Conservancy](#)
- [Greenpeace](#)

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