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TEACHER'S EDITION

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ISSUE DATES	Sept. 1	Sept. 8	Sept. 22	Sept. 29	Oct. 13	Oct. 27	Nov. 3	Nov. 14	Dec. 1	Dec. 8	Jan. 5	Jan. 12	Jan. 26	Feb. 2	Feb. 16	Feb. 23	Mar. 9	Mar. 23	Mar. 30	Apr. 13	Apr. 20	May 4	May 11 & 18
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TEACHING THE COVER STORY

Polar Bears in Peril

Standard SCIENCE—

Students should understand that environmental changes can alter physical environments, making it difficult for species that cannot adapt.

Summary

Scientists say polar bears are suffering because of global warming's effects on the Arctic region.

Pre-Reading Discussion

● Ask your students what they know about the Arctic. What is the weather like there? Who or what lives there? What do they think would happen if conditions in the Arctic changed drastically.

Background

- Due to shrinking Arctic sea ice, scientists say the polar bear is in danger of becoming extinct. Scientists say global warming is behind the melting.
- Experts say global warming affects the entire planet. Areas that used to be wet are drying out. Ocean levels are rising. But scientists are not sure how much the climate will change or what the exact effects will be.

- Last spring, the Bush administration put the polar bear on the federal Endangered Species List of animals considered to be "threatened" with extinction.
- There is disagreement about the distinction's significance. The Bush administration says that putting polar bears on the Endangered Species List does not require the United States to limit potential threats to the Arctic or to "fix" global warming. Environmentalists, for the most part, strongly disagree.

Post-Reading Discussion

● Have your students discuss other ways in which they think that the planet might change if the world continues to see increases in temperature.

Mini Lesson Plan

Ask your students, as a class, to say how they use fossil fuels. Then, ask students to create a circle graph based on the responses of the entire class. Ask students to list ways in which people can cut down on the use of fossil fuels.

Resources

● For kid-friendly information

TEACHING TIP OF THE WEEK

Using This Issue

Election 2008 is over, but the learning continues!

- Explore the power of numbers in politics with this week's **page 2** story about the congressional **balance of power**.
- Use this week's reproducible **black-line skills master** on **page T4** in tandem with the **Editorial Cartoon** on **page 7** of the student magazine, and build your students' **visual analysis skills**.
- Use this week's **writing skill** activity on **page 8** of the student magazine, and advance your students' skills with a discussion of **how to write a book report**. Enjoy!

—Dara Sharif, Editor
dsharif@scholastic.com

about global warming, go to this U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Web page: www.epa.gov/climatechange/kids/index.html.

● For additional background resources on climate change, visit the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change site: www.ipcc.ch/.



We are committed to your satisfaction. You can contact us at 1-800-724-6527.

ANSWER KEY

The answer key
is available in the
print version
of this
Teacher's Edition

Presidential Pets p. 6

Standard

LANGUAGE ARTS: Students should be able to conduct research on issues and interests by generating ideas and questions, and by posing problems.

Summary

President-elect Barack Obama promised his daughters a puppy. Americans weigh in on the breed of dog the future First Family should get.

Pre-Reading Discussion

- Does your family have a pet? What qualities make it a good pet?

Background

- President-elect Obama's older daughter, Malia, has allergies, so the family needs a hypoallergenic dog. Other factors to consider include size and temperament.
- Almost every U.S. President has had a pet. Many interesting creatures

This Week Online



www.scholastic.com/sn56

How to Use Blogs in the Classroom

Blogs are a widely used tool for expressing opinions. *Scholastic News Online* supplies safe, kid-friendly blogs complete with teacher lesson plans and reproducibles. Your students will learn the rules of blogging and how to express their opinions effectively. Students can comment on critical-thinking questions related to the daily news stories, recommend their favorite books, and provide their thoughts on the current Sticky Situation. In addition, they can follow the *Scholastic News Kid Reporters* and ask them questions about their experiences. Also available online: a "Blogs in Plain English" video.

have lived in the White House.

Post-Reading Discussion

- What challenges and benefits will caring for a pup bring to the Obama family?

Mini Lesson Plan

- Have students visit www.presidentialpup.com to read about the five dog breeds the American Kennel Club recommends for the Obamas. Based on this information, have them write two paragraphs about the breed they think the Obamas should pick, as well as the breed that would be best for their own family, and why.

Resources

- Meet Barney, one of President Bush's Scottish terriers, at www.whitehouse.gov/barney.
- Learn more about adopting and caring for a pet at www.hsus.org.

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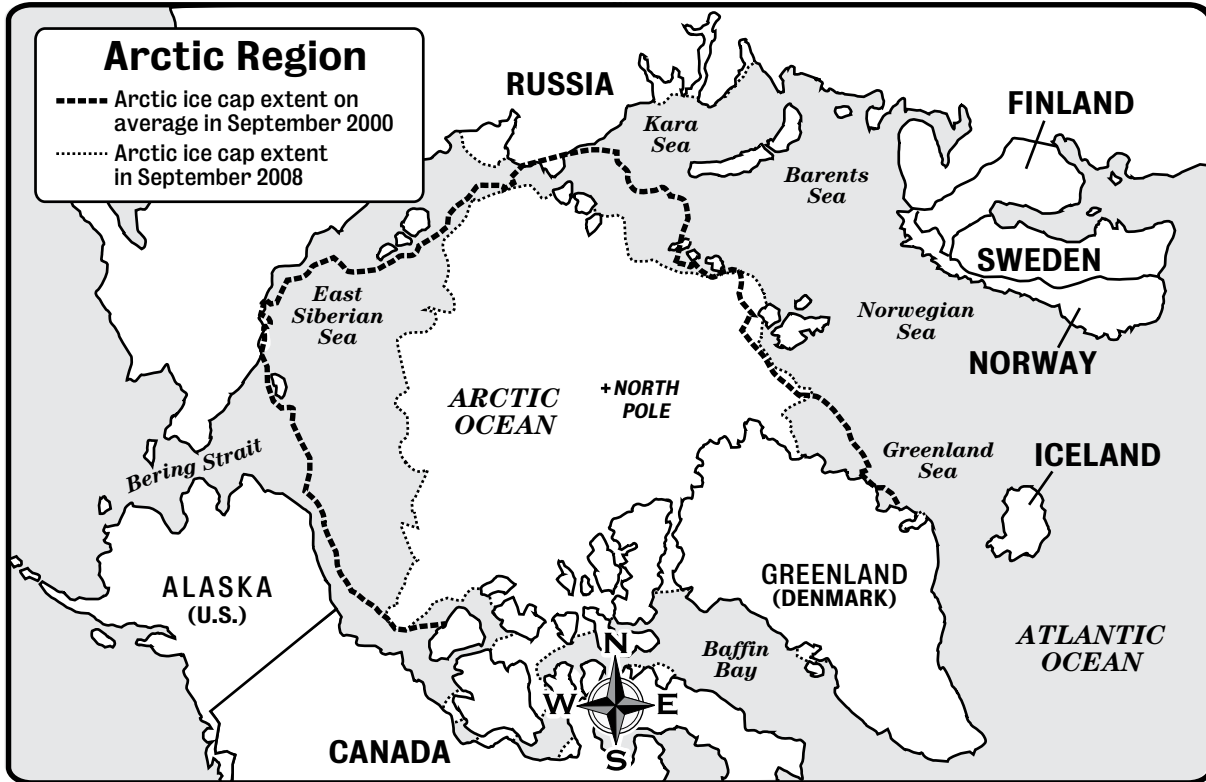
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Northern Exposure

Polar bears and other Arctic animals live on the Arctic ice cap. The Arctic ice cap is the frozen Arctic Ocean and includes the North Pole. The area naturally shrinks and grows, but many scientists fear the sea ice on which Arctic animals depend is shrinking too rapidly. The place map shows sea-ice levels over the past eight years.



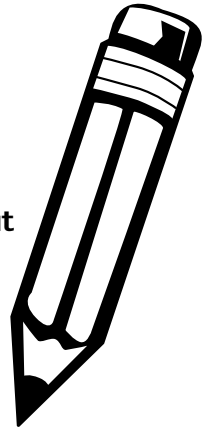
Source: National Snow and Ice Data Center

- How many countries are in the Arctic region?
 (A) six (B) eight (C) ten (D) twelve
- According to the map, over the last eight years, the Arctic ice cap has _____.
 (A) shrunk (B) grown (C) not changed (D) gotten colder
- In 2000, the frozen area of the Arctic Ocean, on average, was ____ U.S. shores.
 (A) farther from (B) closer to (C) west of (D) none of the above
- From the map, you can tell that over the past eight years, the habitat of polar bears has _____.
 (A) increased in size (B) gained more ice (C) decreased in size (D) seen more birds
- Based on the map, what can you state about the condition of the East Siberian Sea between 2000 and 2008?

Name: _____

Express Yourself

An editorial cartoon is a visual expression of a person's opinion on a topic or an issue. *Scholastic News* regularly publishes editorial cartoons. One appears on page 7 of this week's issue. You can draw your own! Think about a school issue or topic about which you have a strong opinion. Then follow the instructions below to learn how to visually express yourself!



1. RESEARCH THE ISSUE. Get the facts surrounding the issue on which you want to express your opinion. What is the issue? What are the different sides of the issue? What supporting details can you use to support your opinion?

2. DEFINE YOUR OPINION. Write down a few topic sentences or key words to sum up your position on the issue. These ideas will help you create your editorial cartoon.

3. SKETCH YOUR IDEAS. What symbols or images best represent the issue? What symbols or images best represent your opinion about the issue? How can you put them together in a single image? On a separate sheet of paper, draw a rough draft, or sketch, of the images you select.

4. DRAW YOUR EDITORIAL CARTOON. In the box to the right, draw the final draft of your editorial cartoon. Make sure you label, or identify, important characters, places, and symbols so that readers can understand what your cartoon is about.

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