Pack Your Sled for An Arctic Exploration

OBJECTIVE
Given limited resources and various methods of travel, students will chart a course across the Arctic.

MATERIALS
- copies of map on page 23, enlarged 130% on 11” x 17” paper
- ruler
- pencils
- reference books on arctic explorers such as Frederick A. Cook, Sir Hubert Wilkins, Robert E. Peary, Matthew Henson, or Will Steger

BACKGROUND
Early arctic explorers needed to plan carefully in order to survive harsh environmental conditions. Even with modern communication and travel technologies, arctic explorers today must also plan carefully. Food shortages, broken gear, and worn shelter can all bring disaster to an expedition.


ACTION
1. Discuss as a class the expeditions of early explorers. What were the hardships? In what ways is exploration easier today?

2. Discuss specific items people would need to survive. List items on the board. Weight is very important when traveling by sled, boat, or plane. Can students approximate the weights of the items listed?

3. Divide students into working groups. Distribute the enlarged copy of the map. NOTE: The map scale applies only when page is enlarged 130%.

4. Have students choose starting and ending destinations. Also choose supplies and methods of transporta-

5. Use the map to chart a course. Student groups can present results to class.