

AQ26 - Arctic Activities

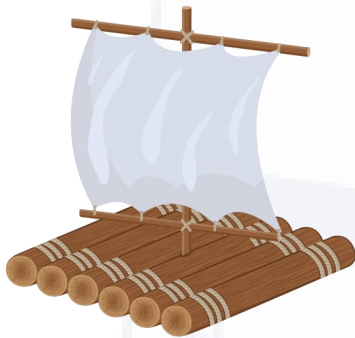
Race to Settle on Svalbard

Svalbard is surrounded by many countries from the arctic region and there is much debate over which nation was first to settle there.

Different theories suggest settlers coming from Russia, Norway and the Netherlands.

The Spitsbergen Treaty of 1920 gave Norway legislation over Svalbard.

Here is an activity that you can do to decide for yourself who is right in their historic claim on Svalbard.



Build a mini raft

Divide section members into group and assign each group a nation that has claim to be the first settlers on Svalbard.

Draw or mark out a large circle on the floor , place an item in the middle of the circle to represent Svalbard.

Provide each team with arts and craft materials, glue, rubber bands, lolly sticks, paper, tape, pencils, string etc. Ensure each team has the same amount of items.

Teams sit on the outside of the circle and race to be the first to construct a vehicle that can travel from the edge of the circle to the centre island.

Teams can build a raft with a sail to try to blow across the circle, or maybe add some wheels to make a land yacht.



Make it BIGGER



Use a paddling pool and floating materials to make a raft that teams can blow to an island in the middle. You could also try racing your rafts down a stream.

For older sections, build full size rafts that teams can race on water.