



Reel Fun
Film Festival



Thin Ice

SAATTUQ

47 minutes

7-12

Documentary

This is an excellent documentary narrated by Tom Jackson explaining how global warming is affecting life in the Arctic. Polar bears, walrus, musk ox and caribou are all part of a delicate ecosystem now threatened by climate change. Saattuq means thin ice in Inuktitut, and the Inuit are experiencing this first hand, forever changing their traditional way of life of hunting on the ice for food and clothing.

The thinning of the ice is opening up new areas for resource exploitation and now the rest of the world wants a piece of Canada's Arctic; the planet's final frontier.

Thin Ice takes us from the headlines and political speeches to the frontlines of Canada's Arctic - where global warming is not just a distant threat, its impact is now.

Themes: Science and Social - global warming in the Arctic, the lives of the Inuit, the polar bear, the caribou and Canada's sovereignty of the expanding Arctic waters.

Activities to complete before or after watching the film:

Answer and discuss any or all of the following:

1. What is global warming?
2. What causes global warming?
3. Who owns the North?
4. Who will protect the North?
5. What is the International Passage?
6. What affect will global warming have on the European and Asian trade routes?
7. Discuss why animals migrate?
8. Write letters to your local politicians about global warming and your concerns.
9. Discuss and investigate different solutions to slow down global warming.
10. Discuss and study the life of the Inuit people.
11. Study the Arctic ecosystem.

Facts from the film:

- The Arctic is losing 70,000 square kms of ice every year.
- Spring comes one month earlier



- A box of cereal costs \$9.00 and Tide costs \$24.00
- Polar bears are dying because they have to travel farther to find food
- Polar bears need to gain 450lbs in order to have a cub
- The route from Europe to Asia is 7000kms shorter through the Northwest Passage than the Panama Canal
- The Northwest Passage is patrolled by the RCMP
- Methane is frozen under the tundra
- The ice use to be 8 feet thick
- Denmark and Canada are fighting over who owns Hans Island