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The Arctic: Evolving Claims

Gregory F. Roman

Ronald Reagan High School, Milwaukee Public Schools, romange@milwaukee.k12.wi.us

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The Arctic: Evolving Claims

Essential questions:

Where is it?

Which countries have territorial rights over it?

How and why have territorial rights evolved?

Contemporary Map

Based on the position of the Arctic Circle, which countries would you assume have territorial rights in the Arctic region?

Arctic?

Can you identify any modern day territories?

World Map 1590

Compare the area above the Arctic Circle (Circulus Arcticus) in the 1590 and 2008 maps. What differences do you note?

World 1719

The area above the Arctic Circle is now better defined. Why do you think that is?

North Pole 1728

Based on information presented on the map and in the resource notes, which country was the leader in exploring the Arctic up to this point?

World 1778

Besides the British, what other European country had made discoveries above the Arctic Circle as indicated by the map?

Arctic 1835

Which explorer had made it the closest to the North Pole by the time this map was produced? What latitude did he and his expedition team reach, and when did they reach it?

Arctic 1879

What do the items in red lettering on the map indicate?

Which explorer in 1875 reached about the same latitude north as Parry in 1827?

Map of the North Pole Regions 1907

Which countries are indicated on the map as having made explorations in the Arctic up to this point?

Which country's explorer had made it the closest to the North Pole?

Arctic 1912

When did Peary reach the North Pole?

How do you think he knew he was there at 90 degrees?

Admiral Robert E. Peary

Does this mean that the United States should have territorial rights to the North Pole? Explain your answer.

Recognition of Peary by Congress

Based on the Congressional record, what method(s) did Peary use to determine he had reached the North Pole, and how was it verified?

1910 La Conquete du Pole

According to the imagery on this poster, which countries are making competing claims on the North Pole?

Why do you think countries would be competing for this claim?

Arctic Basin 1974

What do you think is the significance of using 200 nautical miles as a measurement on the map?

What can you infer that bathymetry means, and why would it be important for territorial claims?

Which countries have above sea level land mass that extends beyond 80 degrees north?