

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Who Owns the North Pole?

Canada may claim the North Pole, and Russia isn't happy.

No humans live at the North Pole — just polar bears, reindeer, and puffins! The top of Earth is in the middle of the frozen Arctic Ocean, and it doesn't belong to any single country.

Many countries would *like* to own the North Pole, though. Nations with nearby land — such as Russia, Canada, Norway, and Denmark — have tried to claim the North Pole before. And this Monday, Canadian leaders said they plan to claim the area again!

Canada is now preparing maps to try to prove that it should control the North Pole, which is 508 miles away. “We are drawing the last lines of Canada,” a Canadian leader told reporters.

Russia is not happy about this news. On Tuesday, Russia's President Vladimir Putin ordered his military to increase its **presence** in the Arctic. Another Russian leader added that Russia must be able to “protect its national interests” in the area.

Why are so many people interested in the faraway frozen ice sheet? Well, the ice around the North Pole has been melting. This is creating new shipping routes and places to drill for oil and gas. The area could be worth a lot of money someday!

The world is watching to see what happens next. Stay tuned!

By Alexandra Friedell



Russia's President Vladimir Putin

FACT:

Penguins do not live near the North Pole. They only live in the bottom half of the planet.

ACT:

Share what you have with others who are interested.

VOCABULARY:

presence: being in a place; attendance



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The Canadian postal code for the North Pole is H0H 0H0, because stories say that Santa Claus lives there.