



# Arctic Explorer — Lesson Plan

Grade: Pre-K–2 | Duration: 40–50 minutes | CASEL Domain: Self-Management

---

**Objective:** Students will discover that empty or harsh environments hide extraordinary beauty and that perseverance and trust reveal hidden wonders.

**Essential Question:** *"What extraordinary things are hiding in places that look empty?"*

**Materials:** The personalized story, White and blue paper, Cotton balls and glitter, Crayons (white, blue, silver, green)

**Vocabulary:** Arctic, Explorer, Tundra, Aurora, Fox, Glacier, Resilience, Footprint, Ice cave, Snowstorm

## ANTICIPATORY SET (5 MIN)

Show a white piece of paper. Ask: "Is there anything here?" (Write with white crayon first.) Paint over it — reveal the hidden picture. "Sometimes we have to look harder to find the wonder."

## DIRECT INSTRUCTION (15 MIN)

Read aloud. Pause at the vast empty white — "Would you keep going?" Pause at the ice cave and aurora — celebrate the hidden beauty. Emphasize: the hero only found these because they kept walking.

## GUIDED PRACTICE (10 MIN)

Follow the Guide game in pairs. Discuss: how did trust feel? How did it feel to be guided vs. to guide?

## INDEPENDENT PRACTICE (10 MIN)

Create aurora borealis art on black paper. Write: "I kept going and found \_\_\_\_."

## CLOSURE (5 MIN)

Gallery walk of aurora art. Share: "One 'empty' place that surprised me with beauty was \_\_\_\_."

## ASSESSMENT

Observe trust during guide activity. Review aurora art and writing. Exit ticket: "What did the hero find by not giving up?"

## DIFFERENTIATION

**Support:** Use hand-over-hand for white-on-white art. Provide templates for aurora painting.

**Extend:** Research a real arctic animal and its survival adaptations. Write an "Arctic Field Guide" entry.

## HOME CONNECTION

Send home white-crayon paper. Families paint over it together and discover the hidden picture.

---