

# Lords of the Arctic

The unique wildlife that thrives in the Arctic's stark landscape has long captivated our imaginations.

Ice plays a critical role in maintaining this fragile ecosystem. As temperatures rise because of global warming, will these northern plants and wildlife be able to adapt?

Through its extraordinary footage of polar bears, thick-billed murres, bowhead whales, muskox and caribou, *Lords of the Arctic* permits us to observe the impact of climate change on the wildlife of the North.

The world of the polar bear, a symbol of the Arctic's strength and vulnerability, is tied to the changing seasons of ice and light and, like all life in the Arctic, is directly impacted by climate change. As their home slowly melts away, will they and their unique world disappear as well?

*Arctic Mission* is a collection of five documentary films that explore the impact of global warming on Canada's North.



Directed by **Caroline Underwood**  
Written by **Caroline Underwood** and **Jean Lemire** in collaboration with **Thierry Plantanida**  
Cinematography **Marc Gadoury**  
Underwater cinematography **Mario Cyr**  
Location sound **Richard Lavoie, André Boisvert**  
Editor **Bruce Annis**  
Sound editing **Martin Pinsonnault**  
Original music **Hervé Postic**  
Narrated by **David Suzuki**  
Produced by **Glacialis Productions (Jean Lemire)**  
In co-production with the **National Film Board of Canada (Eric Michel, Colette Loumède and Sally Bochner)** and **Gedeon Programmes (Stéphane Millière)**

With the participation of **Canadian Television Fund**, created by the Government of Canada and the Canadian Cable Industry, **CTF: Licence Fee Program**, **Telefilm Canada: Equity Investment Program**, **Québec: Film and Television Tax Credit - Gestion SODEC**, **Canada: Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit program**, **SODEC: Société de développement des entreprises culturelles - Quebec**, **Ministère de la Culture et des Communications du Québec**

With the collaboration of **Télé-Québec**, **CBC Television - Nature of Things, France 5, Centre national de la cinématographie Canada-France, Ministère délégué à la recherche et aux nouvelles technologies**

A **Canada-France** co-production  
Shot in high-definition

Photographs **Jean Lemire, Stanislas Deville**  
Graphics **Mardigrade inc.**

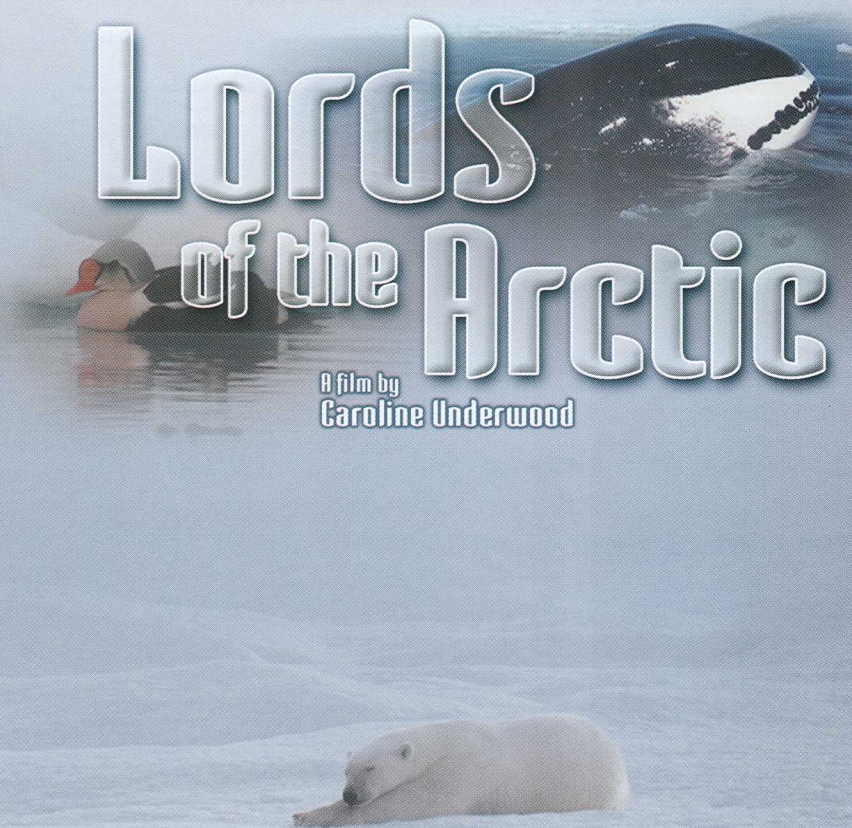
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ARCTIC  
MISSION

Lords of the Arctic

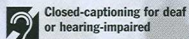
Lords of the Arctic

A film by  
Caroline Underwood



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International (514) 283-9450  
Web site www.nfb.ca

52 minutes

VHS  
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the *Arctic Mission* collection:

Canada



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PRODUCTIONS  
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# Study Guide

## Target Audience

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Senior Elementary, Secondary School and Adult Education

## Connections

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Geography, Climate Change, Human and Physical Systems, Global Issues, Local Environments, Habitat, Biology, Biodiversity

## Objective

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To develop a better understanding of a complex issue (global warming) as it relates to a specific time and location.

## Duration

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3 hours, including instructional and screening time.

## PRE-VIEWING ACTIVITIES

1. Explain to students that they will work in pairs and produce a diagram showing the effects of global warming on the habitat and habits of Arctic wildlife.
2. Ask students: What is **biodiversity**? What is an **ecosystem**? What do we know about the effects of **climate change** on our planet, on our country, or even on the local area where we live? Who is responsible for climate change? Can we establish a direct link between climate change, ecosystem and biodiversity?
3. Record students' answers and encourage debate, but remember that at this stage, the aim is to stimulate interest in the topic. Students will look back at their ideas after they watch the film.
4. Read the film synopsis on the back of this videojacket, and then screen the video. Have students pay close attention to the animals that live on the pack ice and that are struggling to adapt to the changes in their environment. Encourage note-taking on *early thawing* and *late freezing* of the ice.

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## POST-VIEWING ACTIVITIES

1. Allow a few minutes for general discussion.
2. In teams, have students choose an animal shown in the film and describe how global warming is altering its habitat and state of health. The written text should also include a diagram. The following Web sites may be helpful:  
[www.nfb.ca/sedna/arcticmission/ma\\_ressources/sc\\_faune.html](http://www.nfb.ca/sedna/arcticmission/ma_ressources/sc_faune.html)  
[www.nfb.ca/sedna/arcticmission/ma\\_ressources/sc\\_climatologie.html](http://www.nfb.ca/sedna/arcticmission/ma_ressources/sc_climatologie.html)
3. Quiz: Have teams that have chosen the same animal make up a quiz for the rest of the class. Then have groups take turns giving the quiz orally to the rest of the class.
4. Group Discussion and Review: Expand the discussion to include other animals that are trying to adapt to a changing environment. Review the main causes of climate change.
5. Additional Research: Individuals may do a comparative study of two animals that live in very different habitats yet are both being forced to adapt to a changing climate as a result of global warming.