

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Arctic Claims

**Directions:** Read the background information about Arctic territory disputes. Then write a clear argumentative response using evidence. Follow the prompt carefully.

Several countries border the Arctic region, including Canada, Russia, Norway, Denmark through Greenland, and the United States through Alaska. As sea ice decreases, more parts of the Arctic Ocean become accessible to ships, researchers, and resource exploration. Each of these nations has made claims to extend their control over sections of the Arctic seabed.

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea allows countries to claim areas of the continental shelf if they can show that the seafloor is geologically connected to their landmass. Because multiple countries argue that certain underwater ridges belong to them, overlapping claims have created disagreements. These disputes affect shipping routes, environmental protection efforts, and control of natural resources. Governments must decide whether to pursue scientific cooperation, diplomatic negotiation, or more aggressive strategies when asserting their claims.

**Writing Prompt:** Should Arctic nations prioritize shared scientific cooperation or national territorial expansion when dealing with Arctic territory claims? Write a well supported argumentative response that clearly states your position and uses evidence from the background information. Your response should be one to two paragraphs.

Include:

- ⇒ A clear claim
- ⇒ At least two pieces of evidence
- ⇒ Logical reasoning that connects evidence to your claim
- ⇒ A concluding statement