

Northern Passage Answer Key

1. Thick, year round ice made navigation dangerous and prevented regular travel.
2. Rising Arctic temperatures have thinned and reduced sea ice, making summers more ice free.
3. Possible answers: faster shipping routes, lower transportation costs, increased scientific access, new economic opportunities.
4. Possible answers: oil spills, disturbance of marine mammals, ecosystem damage, pollution.
5. Canada claims it is internal waters, while other nations view it as an international strait open to global shipping.
6. Answers will vary but should reference increased competition, cooperation needs, or diplomatic tensions.
7. Answers will vary but must use evidence from the passage.

Teacher's Guide

- Support grades 9 to 12 in analyzing a real world Arctic case study.
- Build understanding of geopolitical issues, climate impacts, and resource management.
- Encourage evaluation and synthesis through higher level question prompts.

Differentiation Tips

- Pre-teach terms such as internal waters, international strait, and Arctic Archipelago.
- Provide guiding questions or sentence stems for students who need additional structure.
- Offer advanced learners the option to research a historical expedition through the Northwest Passage and compare conditions.

Engagement Ideas

- Show a map tracing the Northwest Passage to reinforce geographic context.
- Begin class with a brief discussion about why countries value control over shipping routes.