

Battle for the Arctic: drill or not to drill?

Discipline	SVT	Niveau	Terminale
Thème :	Enjeux contemporains du monde moderne - 1 séance		

Compétences :

Écouter, visionner et comprendre des contenus disciplinaires dans le contexte linguistique et culturel de la section	X
Lire et comprendre des contenus disciplinaires dans le contexte linguistique et culturel de la section	X
Parler et interagir à l'oral en mobilisant des contenus disciplinaires dans le contexte linguistique et culturel de la section	X
Écrire et interagir à l'écrit en mobilisant des contenus disciplinaires dans le contexte linguistique et culturel de la section	
Rechercher et exploiter des informations pour faciliter la coopération internationale dans le contexte linguistique et culturel de la section	

Document 1: Greenpeace

The message is clear: Norway, it's time to choose people over oil. 35 activists from 25 countries around the world are in the Barents Sea to demand an end to Arctic drilling.

The activists halted the operation of the rig, and after several hours of demanding an end to the drilling in the Arctic, the Norwegian Coast Guard interfered with the peaceful protest, arresting the Arctic Sunrise ship, the activists and crew members.

Just 10 days before ratifying the Paris Agreement, in June 2016, the "environmentally friendly" Norwegian government granted new oil licenses. Now, a year later, Statoil has just started to drill for oil in the northernmost area ever licensed by Norway.



Source: <https://www.greenpeace.org/international/story/6938/the-arctic-sunrise-has-been-seized-heres-why/>

Document 2: Deep Water Horizon

Deepwater Horizon was an ultra-deepwater, dynamically positioned, semi-submersible offshore drilling rig. Built in 2001 in South Korea by Hyundai Heavy Industries, the rig was leased to BP* from 2001 until September 2013. In September 2009, the rig drilled the deepest oil well in history at a vertical depth of 35,050 feet (10,683 m) and measured depth of 35,055 ft (10,685 m) in the Tiber Oil Field, approximately 250 miles (400 km) southeast of Houston, in 4,132 ft (1,259 m) of water.

On 20 April 2010, while drilling, a blowout caused an explosion on the rig that killed 11 crewmen and ignited a fireball visible from 40 miles (64 km) away. The fire was inextinguishable and, two days later, on 22 April, the Horizon sank, leaving the well gushing at the seabed and causing the largest oil spill to ever occur in U.S. waters.

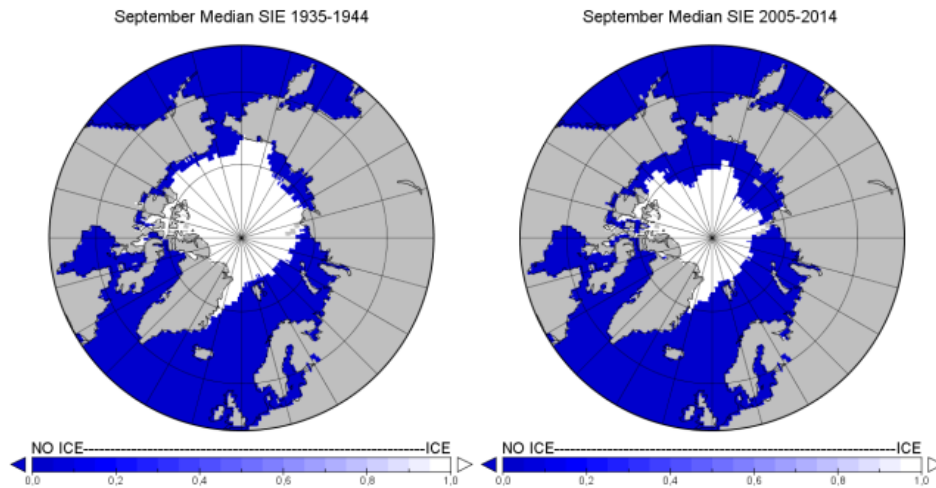
* BP = British Petroleum

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon

Document 3: Battle for the arctic: drill or not to drill (6'14")

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xyn4dAcP-Mc>

Document 4: Ice melting



Median September Arctic sea ice extent for the lowest decade of the pre-satellite era (1935-1944, left) and for the lowest decade of the satellite era (2005-2014, right):

Source: <https://neven1.typepad.com/blog/2016/01/september-arctic-sea-ice-extent-1935-2014.html>

Document 5: Shell company

We are a global group of energy and petrochemical companies with an average of 86,000 employees in more than 70 countries. We use advanced technologies and take an innovative approach to help build a sustainable energy future.



Source: <https://www.shell.com/about-us.html>

Document 6: Inuit point of view

President Barack Obama's conditional approval last week [May, 2015] of drilling by Shell in the Arctic Ocean's Chukchi Sea triggered a flotilla of several hundred kayakers who protested in Seattle. But in northernmost Alaska, the people with arguably the most to gain and lose—the Inupiat—are now divided.

"People think of our villages as quaint, but we have real needs: schools, power plants," says Richard Glenn, a whaling captain and vice president of a regional native corporation representing North Slope Inupiat. **"It's not an issue that we approach lightly. We've done a lot of soul-searching."**

Many Inupiat leaders now support the drilling, citing financial reasons. Prudhoe Bay, the nation's largest oil field, drives their economy, and taxes on the industry account for nearly all government revenue. But the future looks bleak because the oil pumping through the Trans-Alaska Pipeline has dropped 75 percent since 1988 and is falling 5 percent a year.

"Everybody's skeptical," says Leo Ferreira, president of the Village of Point Lay, whose native corporation is one of the two that do not support Shell. **"If there's an oil spill, it will start a chain reaction and start killing off the sea animals."**

Source: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/news/2015/05/150522-Inupiat-Shell-offshore-oil-Arctic-Alaska-ocean-whale-sea/>

Activity content :

Watch the video and read the documents attached, in order to get knowledge and arguments to express a point of view for or against drilling in Chukchi Sea.

Final task :

You will randomly be affected to one of both position, and you will debate with an "opponent".

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