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Explorer Classroom Guide : Afterschool Edition (K - 4) Arctic Exploration | Jeff Kerby

Explore the Arctic with Jeff Kerby! This guide is designed for out-of-school time programs to get the most out of the Explorer Classroom event. After the event, please share your thoughts, activities, and learnings with us on Twitter [@NatGeoEducation](https://twitter.com/NatGeoEducation) using [#ExplorerClassroom](https://twitter.com/ExplorerClassroom).

October 21, 2020, 4:00 PM ET

BEFORE YOU TUNE IN

SIGN UP

Register [here](#)! The first six student groups to sign up will be featured on camera and will have the chance to ask the Explorer questions directly.

BEFORE THE EVENT

If you plan to share this event with students virtually or encourage their participation independently, check out our tips for *Kids working Independently* (p.7) in the [Family Guide to Using National Geographic Education Resources](#) and our virtual tips throughout this guide.

This event is recommended for learners ages K-4. Build your group's knowledge about the Arctic prior to the event. Share one of these activities or any combination of the linked resources with your group that best fits your needs:

- **Read** the biography of ecologist and photojournalist [Jeff Kerby](#) out loud to familiarize yourself and your students with his work.

Virtual Tip: If your students are joining the event independently or with their family, send their family an audio recording of your biography read aloud.

- Jeff uses photography to highlight pressing conservation challenges. **Watch** [Definitions in the Field: Conservation](#) (0:43) to learn about conservation.
- **Interact** with [this article](#) from *Explorer* magazine and play the video to learn about mapping and globes. Then use a map or globe to find your town, and then the Arctic, where Jeff explores.

- **Create** your own Arctic ecosystem with this printable [coloring page](#)! None of the suggested resources fit your needs? Find more in our [Resource Library](#).
- **Brainstorm** questions for the Explorer that either focus on the Explorer or the Explorer's work. Help your students revise their questions making sure they 1) only ask one thing; 2) have a clear purpose; and 3) are specific. You may need to work together through a few drafts to arrive at a solid final question. Review questions together and select two favorites to ask on-air (if you [registered](#)) or via **Twitter** [@NatGeoEducation](#) using [#ExplorerClassroom](#).

Virtual Tip: Use [Google Jamboard](#) or [Padlet](#) to collect student questions before the event. Narrow down your question by looking at the most frequently asked question or prioritizing which questions to ask the Explorer.

DURING THE EVENT

Prior to the event, share with your students how to use the graphic organizers listed below so that as you and your students listen during the event, students can take notes.

Two-Column Chart: Print copies or ask your students to draw their own two-column chart. Ask your students to write or draw anything the Explorer said that surprised them in one column and in the other, write questions about those surprises.

Cause-and-Effect Diagram: Print copies or ask your students to draw two boxes. In one box ask your students to write or draw what the Explorer says happens in the Arctic (effect). In the other box ask your students to write or draw why they think it happens (cause) or why the Explorer says it happens.

AFTER THE EVENT

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Debriefing as a group is an important part of the learning journey. Discussion helps learners process ideas, reflect, and make new connections. Use these questions to help provide context to the event. The questions are open-ended and designed to facilitate a discussion about the event you participated in together. You know your afterschool group best! Modify these questions as necessary to spark conversation.

1. What is something you thought was important during the Explorer Classroom event? Did you already know about this or is it new to you?
2. What was one new thing you learned during the Explorer Classroom event you didn't know before? What is one question you still have?
3. Why is exploration important?
4. What is something you would like to explore? Why?
5. What skills, tools, or knowledge would you need to explore?

REFLECTION ACTIVITY

We encourage students to reflect on what they've learned from the Explorer during the event by completing one of the following activities and sharing their work with the group, a friend, or family member. Share their great work with us on Twitter—[@NatGeoEducation](https://twitter.com/NatGeoEducation) [#ExplorerClassroom](https://twitter.com/ExplorerClassroom)—so the Explorer can see how much they've learned!

- Draw a picture illustrating one thing you learned from the Explorer.
- Act out what you learned about Jeff and his work. If you have stuffed animals, take them out and teach others in your home about them. Consider making your own Explorer Classroom at home like he did!
- Make a poster about the Explorer's work and cheer them on. Share it on Twitter [@NatGeoEducation](https://twitter.com/NatGeoEducation) [#ExplorerClassroom](https://twitter.com/ExplorerClassroom) and we'll make sure they receive the encouragement!
- Record yourself talking about what you learned from Jeff and how you could help. Share it with a friend and invite them to watch the recording of the show.

Virtual Tip: During group video time (ex. Zoom or Google Hangouts) students can share their drawings or their acting or poster in a virtual show-and-tell.

EXTENSION RESOURCES

These are additional resources your afterschool group can use to continue exploring the Arctic with National Geographic Education.

- *Join in the Explorer's Mission:* What are your students passionate about? Encourage them to take some time to talk to friends about their passions and help spread the word, like Jeff does with the changing climate in the Arctic!
- *River of Ice:* Jeff is an ecologist and photojournalist who tells stories about the Arctic and how it is changing. M. Jackson is a scientist who researches glaciers. Both have an important role in raising global warming awareness. Read this article about M. Jackson's work in a digital edition of *Explorer* magazine for grades 2-5.
- Read about the adventures of another Arctic Explorer in [*Along Came a Polar Bear*](#) from *Explorer* magazine.

To watch past Explorer Classroom events, check out this [YouTube playlist](#).

Looking for more ways to engage your students online, in-person, or at home?

Find more on our [Learn Anywhere](#) page.