

Geography in the News

June 2025

Arctic meltdown ignites new Cold War: UK faces rising climate and security threats

Geography in the News aims to stimulate discussion about the relevance of geography to our lives and its importance in helping us to make sense of the world around us. We have selected a relevant news article with links to our A-Level specification and suggested questions you can discuss with your class.



Article: This issue relates to an article, written by climate reporter, Victoria Seabrook, for Sky News.

Introduction

This article warns that melting Arctic ice is accelerating climate change and creating new security threats for the UK.

[Click here to access the article](#)

Discussion prompts

- Explain why temperatures in the Arctic are warming 3.5x faster than global average temperatures.
- Explain why Arctic warming causes increasing risks to geopolitical stability.
- What are the potential consequences of increased accessibility of Arctic shipping routes for the UK.
- To what extent is climate change likely to become the dominant driver of future geopolitical tensions in the Arctic region

Specification links:

A level

5.6b Climate change affects stores and flows, size of snow and glacier mass.

7.7a Tensions can arise over the acquisition of physical resources (Arctic oil and gas) where ownership is disputed and disagreement exists over exploitation.

7.7c Political spheres of influence can be contested leading to tensions over territory and physical resources.

7.9c The future balance of global power in 2030 and 2050 is uncertain and there are a range of possible outcomes.