

Arctic journey – answers



Story starter!

The journey had gone well so far. The huskies barked encouragement to each other, pulling together, straining against the weight behind them. The edge of the lake was in sight, one hundred metres away. He muttered a prayer to himself, begging for the ice to take the weight of the sled. Ninety metres. He shivered as the icy wind whipped against his red-raw cheeks and snow-encrusted beard. Eighty metres. They would reach the land soon.

It was then that he heard it. CRACK...The sled shuddered. Seventy metres.

CRACK... He could see the water through the ice. CRACK... The ground beneath him started to shatter...

Question time!

The title of this picture is 'Arctic Journey'. What clues can we get from the picture that the explorer is in the Arctic?

Answers could include:

- frozen lake
- huskies are pulling the sled
- snow covering the land in the distance
- the man is wearing warm clothing

Why do you think the explorer muttered a prayer to himself?

- He was frightened and worried that the ice could crack at any minute and he would plunge into the freezing cold ice.

How do you think the huskies in the picture feel?

- Tired – would they know that the ice was about to break? Could they feel it moving under their feet?

Have you ever seen a frozen lake? Why are they so dangerous?

- **NEVER EVER STAND OR PLAY ON FROZEN WATER**
- You never know how deep the water(in this case, the lake) could be
- There could be a strong current in the water
- Your body would go into shock if you fell into water, particularly freezing water