

AQ26 - Arctic Activities

Arctic Clothing Experiments

Modern textiles have been developed to provide a good level of protection from the cold and wet of polar regions. However, in the early 1900s when Shackleton and Worsley were exploring these area, they had to rely on natural fabric such as wool for jumpers, hats and socks, leather for their boots, animal furs for gloves and canvas material for trousers and jackets.

Experiment with different types of materials to determine which ones are best at keeping warmth in and which are good for keeping damp out.

Take pieces of wool, cotton/denim, leather, rubber (from rubber gloves), polyester etc.

Try hanging samples of the material on a washing line and spraying with water, or submerging them in water.

Which materials take on water and which remain dry?

Wrap the sample materials around an ice block or cool pack.

Which materials start feeling cold to touch and which stay warm?

Use this information to create a layered material that would be good for Arctic exploration.

