



Across Baffin Bay—Greenland

Most of Greenland is covered by a thick ice cap and is uninhabitable, but almost 50,000 people live on the southwestern edge of the island, from near Cape Farewell to Disko Island and north as far as Melville Bay.

There are a few sheep farms in an area which was occupied by Norse farms a thousand years ago, but most of the inhabitants fish for a living. In recent years the population has been concentrated in relatively large communities for social, educational and medical advantages, and housed in large apartment buildings. There are good primary, secondary and vocational schools, and the Greenlanders have been literate since the middle of the last century. A former colony of Denmark, Greenland was granted home rule in 1979. The Greenland Parliament now has control over such things as trade, taxation and the fishing industry, while Denmark retains control over defence and foreign affairs.

NASA's Earth Resources Technology Satellite took this photo of a portion of the Northwest Passage. The largest iceberg, at bottom centre, measures 10 by 20 miles.

The Other Side of The Pole—Russia

Russia's northland is more hospitable than Canada's. The tree line is 500 miles farther north than in Canada, and the Atlantic Gulf Stream pours warm water along its arctic shorelines, providing year-round ice-free ports. While much of the Canadian North is rock scraped bare by glaciers, Siberia has a good supply of oil. It also has 800,000 people, some forty times as many as live in the Canadian north country.