

Comprehension Passage:

The Arctic region, once perceived as an impenetrable, icy wilderness, is undergoing rapid transformation due to climate change. The once-permanent sea ice is now retreating at an alarming rate, opening up previously inaccessible areas to human activity. This change has ignited a global race for resources, as countries vie for control over vast untapped reserves of oil, natural gas, and minerals that lie beneath the melting ice.

While some nations see this as an economic opportunity, others are alarmed by the environmental and geopolitical risks involved. The melting ice threatens local ecosystems and the livelihoods of indigenous communities that have lived in harmony with the Arctic environment for centuries. Polar bears, seals, and other wildlife that rely on the ice are struggling to adapt to their shrinking habitat. Furthermore, scientists warn that the Arctic's fragile environment is particularly vulnerable to oil spills and other industrial accidents, which could have catastrophic consequences.

In addition to the environmental risks, the geopolitical implications of the melting Arctic are profound. The region's newfound accessibility has led to increasing militarization, as countries such as Russia, the United States, Canada, and Norway seek to assert their dominance over the region. Disputes over territorial claims have intensified, raising concerns about potential conflict in a region that has traditionally been one of peaceful cooperation.

The international community faces a critical challenge: how to balance the economic potential of the Arctic with the need to protect its environment and prevent conflict. Some experts argue for the establishment of a comprehensive international treaty that governs the use of the Arctic's resources, similar to the Antarctic Treaty. Others believe that individual nations should be responsible for managing their own Arctic territories, but with international oversight to ensure environmental protection.

Questions:

- What is the main reason for the increasing interest in the Arctic region, according to the passage?
- How is the melting of sea ice affecting the wildlife in the Arctic?
- What are the geopolitical risks mentioned in the passage as a result of the melting Arctic?
- What solution do some experts propose for managing the Arctic's resources?
- Why do some people view the melting of the Arctic ice as an economic opportunity?

B I U ab III

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Answer#1:- According to the passage, the main reasons for the increasing interest in the Arctic region are the economic interests of the nations who believe to reach to the untapped resources of oil reserves, natural gas and minerals that lie beneath the melting. Another reason is that geopolitical implications of the melting Arctic are profound as it has led to increased militarizations, as countries such as Russia, the United States, Canada and Norway seek to assert their dominance over the region.

Answer# 2:- The melting Arctic is threatening the local ecosystems and causing the habitat destruction of wildlife and, thus, rendering them to adapt to their shrinking habitat. Animals like bear, seals and other wildlife that rely on the ice are struggling with their habitat shrinking. Furthermore, the scientists believe that the Arctic environment is fragile and particularly vulnerable to oil spills and other industrial incidents. Thus it is impacting the wildlife.

Answer#3

The geopolitical risks as a result of the melting Arctic are the increased militarization as countries such as Russia, USA and Canada, Norway seek to assert their dominance over the region. Thus the increased militarization, control over the resource and the regional dominance will produce geopolitical implications in the Arctic regions.

Answer#4

Experts suggest a comprehensive ^{International} Arctic treaty that will govern the use of the Arctic resources, similar to Antarctic treaty. Other experts believe that there should be individual national responsibility for managing their own Arctic territories, but with international oversight to ensure environmental protection.

Answer#5

Some people think of the melting Arctic as economic opportunity, ~~as~~ because they would be able to gain the control and dominance over the region which is rich with resources of oil, natural gas and minerals that lie beneath the melting ice.

There should be at least two sentences in the answer.

