

Corrigé - MP - Concours blanc -
SYNTHESE DE DOCUMENTS – type CCINP
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The benefits and risks of mining the Arctic

With climate change, the mineral-rich Arctic is turning into a trove coveted by many. The dossier wonders how legitimate it is to mine this pristine territory. It is composed of two articles in favour of mining - a recent *Economist* leader/editorial (Document 1) and an undated opinion piece by Mads Frederiksen, the former executive director of *The Arctic Economic Council* (Document 3) - and two articles from *The Guardian*, respectively reporting the 2021 election in Greenland (Document 2) and a 2023 UN summit about Indigenous peoples' fears of "green colonialism" (Document 4). After describing the ripple effects of climate change on Arctic mining, the presentation will focus on what is at stake, geopolitically and locally.

Climate change is damaging the Arctic badly (Documents 1 and 3), but it is also offering new opportunities. As mentioned by all documents, it is replete with minerals that are essential to the green transition and that the melting ice makes easier to exploit (Document 1). From uranium to titanium, « crucial minerals » are deemed a priority around the world since, Mads Frederiksen insists, the decades to come will see an increasing demand for green minerals. Nonetheless, the stakes are high.

From a geopolitical standpoint, mining the Arctic could be impactful. By commodifying its resources, Greenland could win economic security, thus independence from Denmark (Document 2). Moreover, with the melting ice opening shipping routes (Document 1), transporting these commodities will be easier. That seems to be appealing to the Chinese who, when it comes to rare earths, already have a clear competitive edge. That's why Mads Frederiksen as well as the editor of *The Economist* are raising the alarm. Mining in our own sphere of influence is paramount if we are to preserve our energy security.

But local challenges must be taken up. Arctic communities are divided. Indigenous populations are increasingly vocal about protecting their culture and territory. Although they recognize the need for a green transition (as they said at the UN) they judge some projects less sustainable than they claim to be. As « guardians of nature », they want to have a say in decisions. Likewise, during Greenland's 2021 election, the Inuit Party warned against environmental risks and campaigned for a moratorium on mining. However, the Sami's accusation of « green colonialism » is adamantly rejected by Frederiksen. Indeed, mining will also benefit local populations economically and socially since mining companies will invest massively in local economies. Similarly, Greenland's ruling social democratic party pointed out the benefits the territory could reap from mining projects.

The Arctic is at a crossroads : By engaging in mining and thus kick-starting the energy transition, it could boost its economy, but doubts remain as to whether it could do so without further endangering its territory. **440 words**

Pour compter les mots, le rapport de CCINP précise que l'on compte 1 seul mot par notation pour la source, pour le nom de l'auteur, pour la date.

« Pour information, la date, la source (et l'auteur éventuellement) ne compteront chacun que pour un seul mot. »

Autres remarques:

Le plan choisi est un plan thématique, ce qui évitera ici le risque d'une confrontation des documents deux à deux. Cela ne veut pas dire, non plus que le plan 1) description 2) benefits 3) risks était totalement impossible.

L'accroche a servi à CONTEXTUALISER, en mettant en exergue, le réchauffement dans la région arctique et les convoitises qu'elle suscite. L'ACCROCHE NE SERT PAS À FAIRE JOLI. En contextualisant tout de suite, vous évacuez en quelque sorte la question du changement climatique (cela aurait évité à certains de me répéter dans leur développement que le changement climatique était.. fantastique !) pour vous permettre de vous concentrer sur le coeur de la problématique.

Climate change has ripple effects :

- The reality of climate change in the Arctic Doc 1, Doc 3
- The necessary green transition requires green materials (all documents)
- The Arctic has green minerals galore (all documents)
- Mining is becoming all the easier thanks to the ice melting (doc 1)

The geostrategic challenge :

- Independence from Denmark ? doc 2
- The shipping routes : advantages Doc 1, Doc 2
- Energy independence : Challenging China's interest in the Arctic's resources and China's current « competitive advantage » in green earth mining (doc 1, doc 3)

The local challenges

- cultural :
 - protecting the local cultures Inuit Party Doc 2
 - accusations of green colonialism vs. Nindbyism Doc 4 Doc 3
- economic and social prospects
 - CC is raising new questions for the Arctic
 - Election in Greenland over mining Doc 2,
 - Doc 4 « sustainability mining projects »
 - Mining could bring wealth (hence, social advances too) to the Arctic Doc 1, 2, 3

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