

# An Inuit Community



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# An Inuit Community

## List of Vocabulary

### Arctic Animals

husky, seal, Arctic Hare, Arctic Char, mussels, clams, Lake Trout, sea sculpins, polar bear, caribou, Arctic Fox, walrus, ptarmigan, whale, snowy owl, snow goose, tundra wolf, musk ox, reindeer, ermine, marten, lemmings, voles, Arctic Tern, Arctic Wolf.

### Arctic Plants

Arctic Poppy, lichens, mosses, Sea Bluebell, Whiplash, Saxifrage, Black Spruce Tree, shrubs, grasses, sedges

### Inuit Clothing

seal skin boots, hide, skins, parka, sinew, waterproof trousers, decorated, fur, beads, snow goggles, inner suit, outer suit, caribou skin, sealskin, hood, leggings, mittens

### Inuit Homes

igloo, sod house, tent, frame house, snowhouse, snow blocks, sealskins, frame, poles canvas, dome-shaped, hole, tunnel, storage rooms, window, stones, driftwood, whalebone, cave house

### Weapons

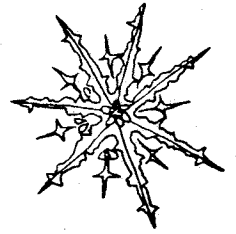
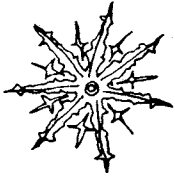
harpoon, gun, spear, knives, bolas (stones on a string), bows, arrows, lances

### Inuit Food Past

seaweed, berries, blubber, raw meat, raw fish, birds, musk ox, polar bears, whales, roots, stems, plants, walrus liver, skin of the white whale, soup of hot water and seal blood, bannock bread (oatmeal)

### Inuit Transportation

fan hitch, frame, paddle, airplane, dog sled, motor boat, skidoo, kayak, umiak, walked, whip, driver



## Inuit Hunting and Fishing

hunt, track, breathing hole, seal, walrus, fish, imitate, crawl,  
harpoons, trapped, polar bear, caribou

## Inuit Words and Meanings

Inuit or Yuit - people

Eskimo - eaters of raw meat

umiak - hunting boat

kayak - one man boat

kamiks - boots

komatik - sled

ulu - cleaning tool

igloo - snowhouse

agloo - hole for fishing

Nanook - polar bear

kazigi - dance house

teriginiak - Arctic Fox

Netchek - seal

shaman - wise man

amulet - magic charm

tupiq - tent

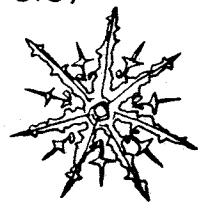
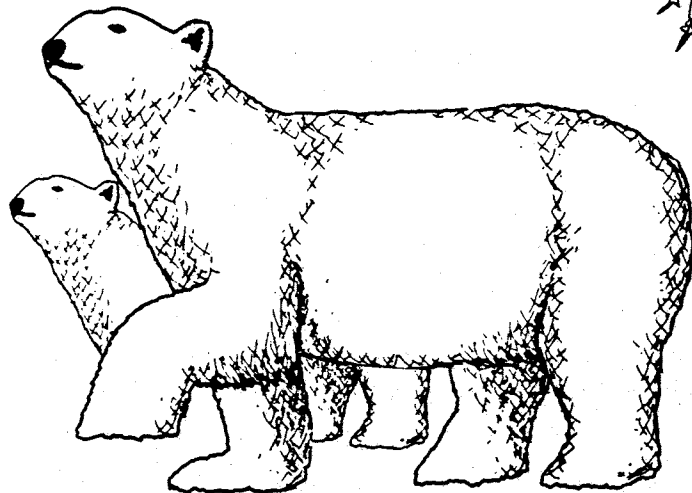
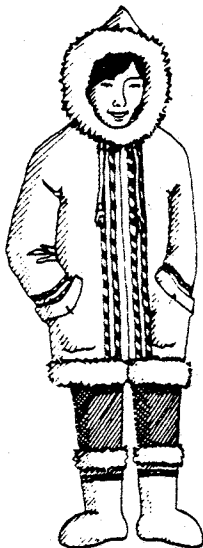
quarmak - stone and sod house

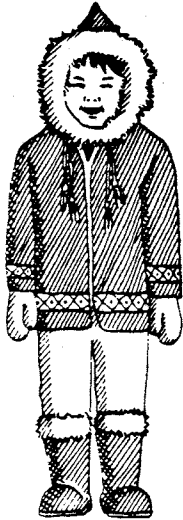
Inuktitut - language

kudluk - stone blubber lamp

## Other Inuit Words

ice, snow, blocks, antlers, bone, permafrost, sealskin,  
soapstone, ivory, blizzard, tundra, northern lights, harness,  
tattoo, glacier, snowfield, whalebone, Arctic, Inuit, North Pole,  
Arctic Circle, cold, oil lamp





## MOOSESEE'S INFORMATION CARD 1

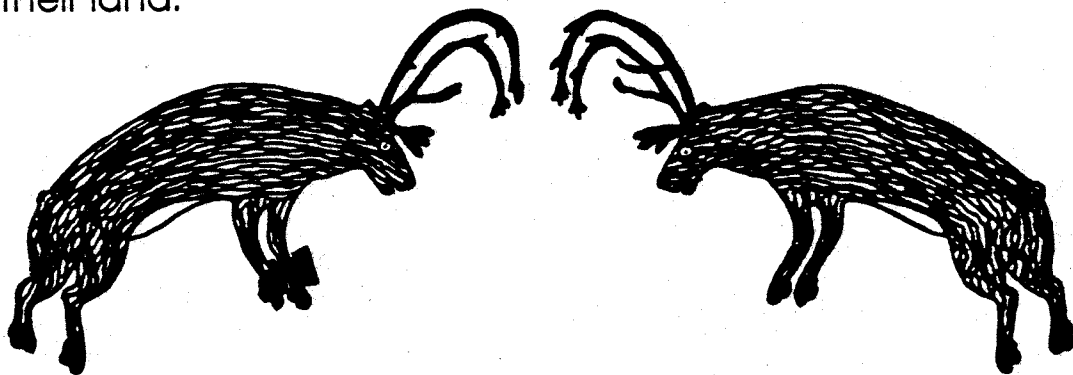
### Early Inuit People

The Inuit were once called "Eskimo". The word Inuit means "people" and Eskimo means "eaters of raw meat". The Inuit people live in the northern parts of the world called the Arctic. The Arctic is a cold, barren place which stretches across Alaska, northern Canada and Russia. It is often called "the land of the midnight sun".

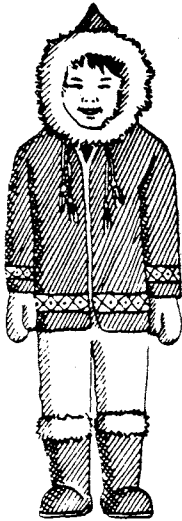
Inuits have light brown skin, straight, black hair and wide faces with high cheekbones. Early Inuits lived in small groups. The group could be the size of one family or several hundred people. The Inuit people had their own special laws. One important law was everyone helped each other to survive and to live peacefully. They even helped those who did not work at hunting and other work even though they did not like them.

An Inuit family might be made of a husband, wife, their unmarried children, married sons and their wives and children. They all lived in one house or a group of shelters.

The Inuit loved their children and seldom punished them. They lived a simple life and continually struggled to eat and keep warm. They were a happy people and learned to live comfortably with the things that they found in their land.



## Mooseese's Information Card 2



### Early Inuit Homes

The early Inuits had a winter and a summer home. The Inuit winter home was made of blocks of snow. Hard packed snow was cut with a sharp, straight, bone knife called a "snow knife". Today the knife is made of steel. The blocks were piled up in circular rows. The rows got smaller and smaller at the top to form a dome-shaped house or igloo. A hole was left at the top to let out the smoke.

Sometimes small storage rooms were attached onto the igloo. The doorway to the igloo was a long, low tunnel of blocks. The low tunnel helped to keep out the cold winds. Inside the igloo the Inuit built several levels of snow. Lamps, eating utensils and their belongings were placed on these different levels. One level was used as a bed and sitting area. It was covered with animal skins.

The igloo was heated and lit by a soapstone lamp called a "kudluk". A small window made of sealskin was put in the igloo. Later a pane of glass that they bought at a trading post was used. Inuit hunters often built igloos when they were out hunting. A clever Inuit could build one in an hour.

The Inuit people also built homes of sod and stones. Stones were gathered from the seashore and the sod was cut from the grasslands. The stones were laid one on top of the other to make the walls. The cracks between the stones were stuffed with sod. The roof was made of whalebone and driftwood. It was covered with pieces of sod. Inside the sod house were different platforms or levels. One dirt platform was used as a sitting and bed area. Smaller platforms were used for storage and used as tables. The sod house was lit and heated by a soapstone lamp.