

INUIT



Where the Inuit live in the world

Inuit, a people inhabiting small enclaves in the coastal areas of Greenland, Arctic North America (including Canada and Alaska), and extreme northeastern Siberia. The name Inuit means the real people.



Traditional skills of men

Men hunt, fish, and build houses.



Food sources such as game and fish are considered community property.

The Inuit Igloo

The word igloo comes from the Inuit term *iglu*, meaning “house.”

In the past the Inuit made igloos out of building blocks cut from snow banks.

Some igloos were lined inside with skins, which trapped a layer of cold against the walls, allowing the temperature to be warmer without melting the snow.

An igloo usually housed two families throughout the winter.



Traditional skills of women

Women make clothing, dress animal skins, and cook.



What's for dinner?

The traditional Inuit diet consists mainly of fish, seals, whales, and related sea mammals, the flesh of which is eaten cooked, dried, or frozen.



The seal is their staple winter food and most valuable resource. It provides them with dog food, clothing, and materials for making boats, tents, and harpoon lines, as well as fuel for both light and heat.

What's for dinner?

In the interior of Alaska and Canada, caribou are hunted in the summer.

To a lesser extent the polar bear, fox, hare, and Arctic birds, chiefly sea birds, also furnish important supplies.



Today many Inuit work for wages and buy commercially prepared food.

Inuit Art

From prehistoric times Inuit tools have been noted for their careful construction and the artistry of their carved ornamentation.

Ivory from walrus and whales is fashioned into figurines representing animals and people, and into decorated knobs, handles, and other tool parts.



Inuit Art

Driftwood and whalebone are carved into ceremonial masks, some small enough to be worn on women's fingers during a ritual dance.



Inuit Art

Inuit performing arts center on ceremonial songs and dances.

The principal musical instrument is the shallow, tambourine like drum.

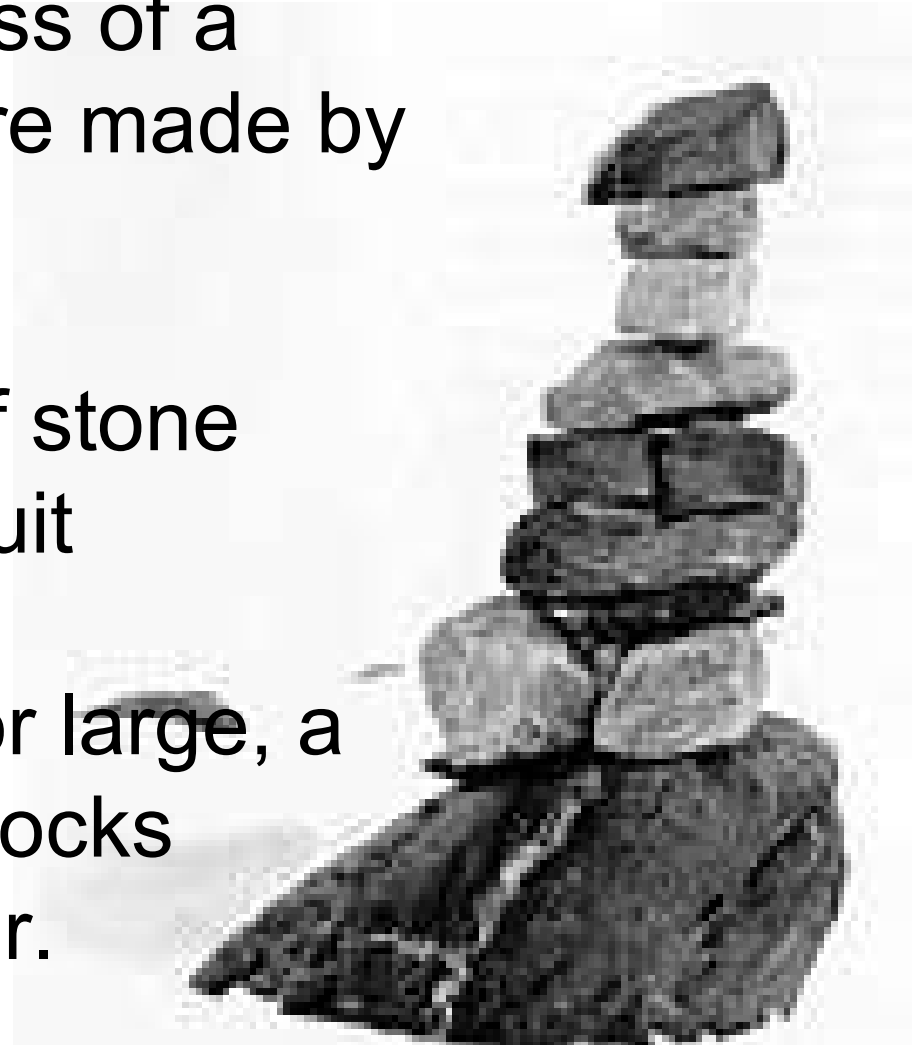


Inuksuk

Inuksuk means “likeness of a person” is a stone figure made by the Inuit

Inusksuit means lots of stone figures made by the Inuit

Inuksuk can be small or large, a single rock or several rocks balanced on each other.



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