

The Inuit People



The Inuit are the aboriginal inhabitants of the North American Arctic, from Bering Strait to East Greenland, a distance of over 6000 kilometers. As well as Arctic Canada, Inuit also live in northern Alaska and Greenland, and have close relatives in Russia. They are united by a common cultural heritage and a common language. Until recently, outsiders called the Inuit "Eskimo." Now they prefer their own term, "Inuit," meaning simply "people." There are about 40,000 Inuit in Canada

Historical Background

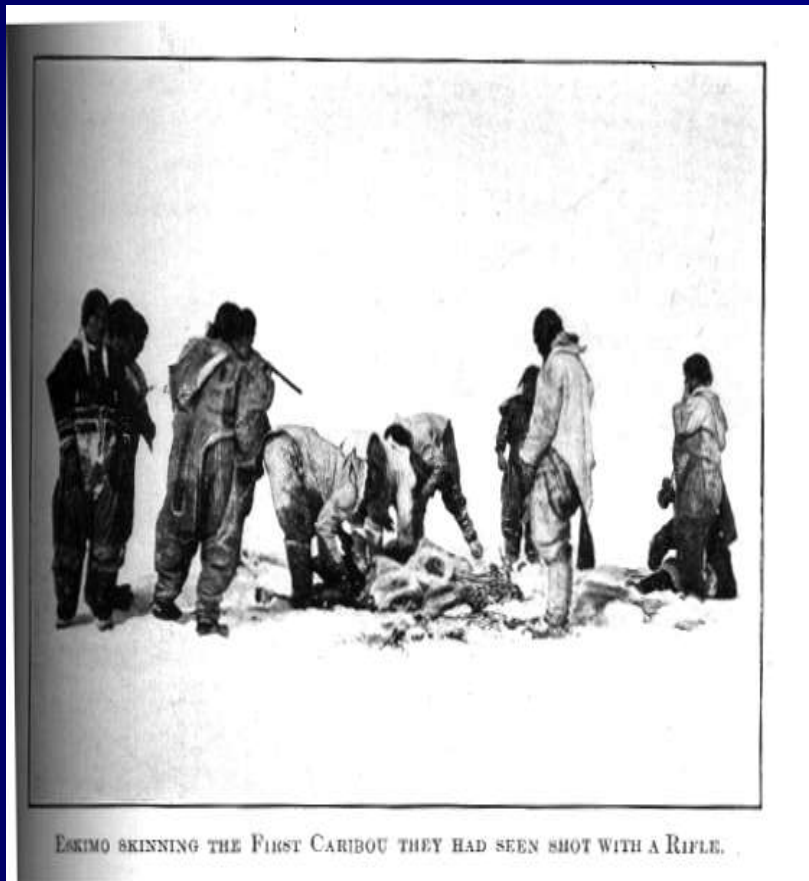


- According to archaeological research, the origins of the Inuit lie in northwestern Alaska. These first Alaskan Inuit lived on the seacoast and tundra, where they hunted seals, walrus, whales, and caribou. They and their ancestors were the first Arctic people to become expert at hunting the larger sea mammals, such as the bowhead whale.

Historical background 2

- First Nations and Inuit in Canada find themselves living in "Fourth World" conditions. This means that many of them experience Third World socioeconomic conditions within the boundaries of a wealthy, industrialized, First World nation
- First Nations and Inuit, families, and communities find themselves with decreased levels of self-sufficiency. For instance, as a result of their upbringing in residential schools, generations of First Nations and Inuit have been unable to develop traditional knowledge and skills, including basic parenting skills.

culture



- The Inuit were a nomadic culture that circulated almost exclusively north of the timberline, the *de facto* southern border of Inuit society. To the south, Native American Indian cultures were well established, and the culture and technology of Inuit society that served them so well in the Arctic was ill-suited to the sub-Arctic, so they did not displace their southern neighbours. Their relations with southerners were generally hostile, but at other times cordial enough to support trade.

Culture



- Inuit games
- Traditional Inuit games were individual tests of strength, skill or agility. Most were designed to be used in small spaces , such as an igloo or tent, and required little or no equipment.

culture

- Throat Singing Music In Inuit Culture
- Originally, Inuit throat singing was a form of entertainment among Inuit women while the men were away on hunting trips. It was an activity that was primarily done by Inuit women although there have been some men doing it as well. In the Inuit language Inuktitut, throat singing is called *katajjaq*, *pirkusirtuk* or *nipaquhiit* depending on the Canadian Arctic region. It was regarded more as a type of vocal or breathing game in the Inuit culture rather than a form of music.



Religious Practices

- Christianity, Shamanism
- The Inuit religion was very complex nature worship. Everything had a soul and was spiritually connected. The universe was at harmony with its elements and the powers of nature possessed a neutral position towards man.



Shaman's Coat

Religious practice 2

- The Inuit didn't have sacred buildings. The nature was sacred, and the Inuit was a child of nature; but life was not a paradise; man's capability of doing evil represented a constant threat to harmony.

clothing



- Warm clothing was important to the Inuit tribes. Sealskin was usually worn in the summer. In the winter caribou skin was worn. Caribou skin was light weight yet very warm.

clothing



- Clothing consisted of coat, trousers, stockings, shoes or boots. In very cold weather two of each garment were worn. The inner one had the fur against the skin, the outer one had the fur outside.
- Boots are called *kamiks*. They are made from sealskin because it lasts long, is warm, and isn't hurt when it gets wet.

Clothing



- One Inuit garment, the hooded coat called the parka, has been adopted by skiers and others who spend time in the cold. An *atiqik* is a Inuit parka made with goose down

Housing and Travel



- They lived in houses made of driftwood and sod, and almost certainly spoke an early version of the Inuit language, Inuktitut.
- That picture shows how they moved. They could move with their house on sled.

Housing and Travel 2



Constructing an igloo

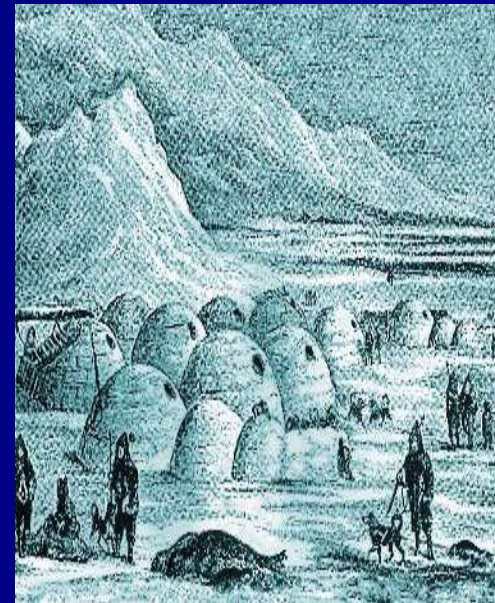
An **igloo** translated sometimes as **snow house**, is a shelter constructed from blocks of snow, generally in the form of a dome

Other Inuit people tended to use snow to insulate their houses which consisted of whalebone and hides. The use of snow is due to the fact that snow is an insulator (due to its low density). On the outside, temperatures may be as low as $-45\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ($-49\text{ }^{\circ}\text{F}$), but on the inside the temperature may range from $-7\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ($19\text{ }^{\circ}\text{F}$) to $16\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ($61\text{ }^{\circ}\text{F}$) when warmed by body heat alone

Family Life

- Family ties have always been of great importance to the Inuit. Having a large family was always considered desirable.

Traditionally, women have often assumed a secondary role in Inuit society. At mealtime, an Inuit woman was required to serve her husband and any visitors before she herself was permitted to eat. But at the same time, a common Inuit saying extolled women in this way: "A hunter is what his wife makes him." The women were the ones who gathered firewood, butchered the animals, and erected tents in summer and igloos in winter.

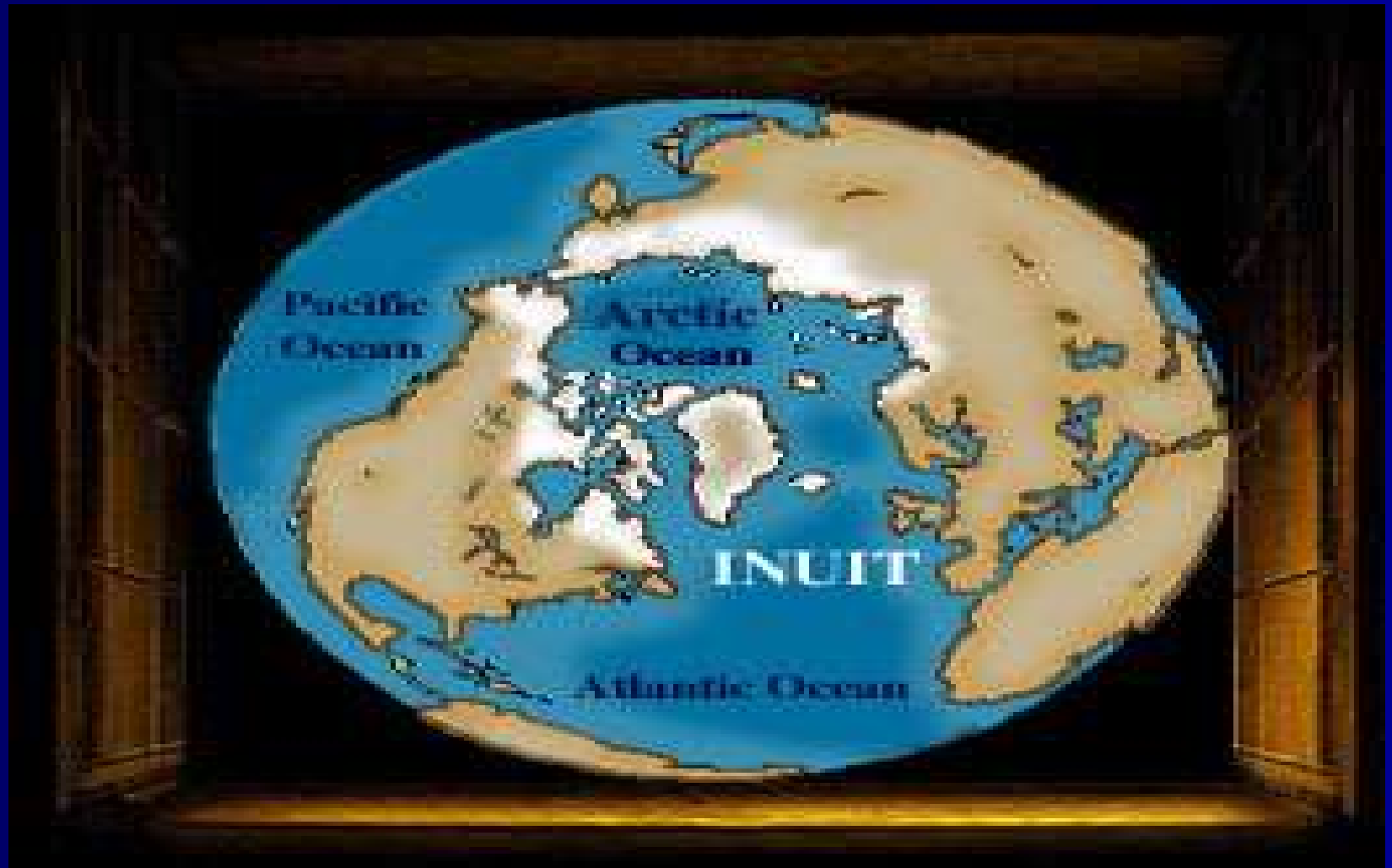


Language

Δ Δ̇ i	▷ ▷̇ u	◁ ◁̇ a	" h
Λ Λ̇ pi	> >̇ pu	< <̇ pa	< p
∩ ∩̇ ti	∩ ∩̇ tu	∩ ∩̇ ta	∩ t
ρ ρ̇ ki	∩ ∩̇ ku	∩ ∩̇ ka	∩ k
∩ ∩̇ gi	∩ ∩̇ gu	∩ ∩̇ ga	∩ g
∩ ∩̇ mi	∩ ∩̇ mu	∩ ∩̇ ma	∩ m
σ σ̇ ni	∩ ∩̇ nu	∩ ∩̇ na	∩ n
∩ ∩̇ si	∩ ∩̇ su	∩ ∩̇ sa	∩ s
∩ ∩̇ li	∩ ∩̇ lu	∩ ∩̇ la	∩ l
∩ ∩̇ ji	∩ ∩̇ ju	∩ ∩̇ ja	∩ j
∩ ∩̇ vi	∩ ∩̇ vu	∩ ∩̇ va	∩ v
∩ ∩̇ ri	∩ ∩̇ ru	∩ ∩̇ ra	∩ r
∩ ρ̇ qi	∩ ∩̇ qu	∩ ∩̇ qa	∩ q
∩ ∩̇ ŋgi	∩ ∩̇ ŋgu	∩ ∩̇ ŋga	∩ ŋg
∩ ∩̇ nngi	∩ ∩̇ nngu	∩ ∩̇ nnga	∩ nng
∩ ∩̇ ti	∩ ∩̇ tu	∩ ∩̇ ta	∩ t

- Inuktittut, the language used by the Inuit in the eastern Arctic, had no written form until one was developed by a missionary in the 1800's. The language is written in syllabic symbols corresponding to groups of sounds.

Map of geographic area



How they adapted the land in which they lived



- The Inuit are the descendants of what anthropologists call the Thule culture, a nomadic people who emerged from western Alaska around 1000 and spread eastwards across the Arctic, displacing the related Dorset culture (in Inuktitut, the *Tuniit*). Inuit legends speak of the Tuniit as "giants", people who were taller and stronger than the Inuit, but who were easily scared off and retreated from the advancing Inuit. By 1300, the Inuit had settled west Greenland, and finally moved into east Greenland over the following century.

3 images



house

3 sources in Bibliography

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