

INUIT STUDY GUIDE

TEST DATE: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24th

We have just finished our Social Studies unit on the Inuit. Below is a study guide for your child to review over the next week. All of the information that your child needs to know is on this guide. The test, taking place on Thursday, February 24th will be in the form of matching, true and false, fill in the blank and short answer. I ask that you review this information with your child and we will do a quick review next Thursday morning. Thank you!

The word Inuit means **people**.

The Inuit lived in the northern parts of **Canada, USA (Alaska), Greenland, and Russia**.

The Inuit were **Nomads**. This means that they didn't always live in the same place; they were travelers.

The main language spoken by the Inuit is **Inuktitut**.

An **Inuksuit** is a stone statue shaped like a man. Students should be able to tell me two uses of an Inuksuit: it would point out a good fishing spot or where someone had camped, it was used as a marker to guide travelers, it could show a hunter where they stored their meat and skins, it could warn of danger and could funnel caribou towards the hunters. Some also thought it held spirits.

INUIT HOMES

The Inuit word for home is **Iglu**. The Inuit had three types of homes: 1. **Sod Homes** were built with a frame made out of sticks or bones and had mud and grass as walls. 2. **Snow Homes** were made out of snow. Snow was laid out in a circle and built up to form a dome. There was usually a long tunnel as an entrance. 3. **Tent Homes** were made by using animal bones or sticks for a frame and large animal skins would be sewn together and draped over the frame. Rocks were used to hold down the bottom of the tent. Today most Inuit live in modern homes.

INUIT FOOD

The Inuit ate the meat of many different animals including **caribou, seal, fish, birds, polar bears, and whales**.

Some important tools that the Inuit used hunting were the **kayak** (used to travel on water), **harpoon, spear, bow and arrow**. They made knives out of animal bones and used them as well.

The seal was an important source of food to the Inuit. They ate its meat, used the skins for clothes and the blubber was used in their lamps.

Fishing was an important means of getting food for the Inuit. In the summer they would set up a stone weir, or trap, built in shallow water. The Inuit would spear the fish. In the winter the Inuit would put a hole in the ice and use a line to catch the fish.

Today there are grocery stores where the Inuit get most of their food.

INUIT CLOTHING

The Inuit needed to dress warm due to the cold weather. Caribou skins were the best for parkas and trousers because they were the warmest. They wore hand sewn boots called kamiks and had mittens and toques all made out of caribou skins. Snow goggles were made out of narrow pieces of ivory or bone with small slits in them - it helped prevent snow blindness.

INUIT TRAVEL

The Inuit had different means of travel. Below are some definitions your child should know:

Umiak - this was a large walrus or sealskin boat used for travel. It would carry the women, children and even the dogs.

Kayak - this was a hunting boat. It was a small boat with enough room for one person, their hunting tools and their catch.

Qamutik - this was the sled that the dog team pulled over the snow in the winter.

The dog team was an important form of transportation for the Inuit. They were able to pull a sled with people and belongings on it. Today a lot of the Inuit people use snowmobiles to get around. There are advantages and disadvantages to each. Some advantages of a dog team are they can help the Inuit find their way home in a snowstorm, they do not break down like a snowmobile and if they get lost or trapped they can eat their dogs. The advantages of a snowmobile are they are much easier to maintain than team of dogs and they are a lot faster.

HAPPY STUDYING!!