

# *Inuit*



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# Overview of the Inuit

The Inuit people live in the far northern areas of Alaska, Siberia, and Greenland. The Inuit are an Aboriginal people who make their home in the Arctic and South arctic regions of Siberia, and North America. The Inuit are also well known for eating raw meat.





**Basic**  
**Needs**

# Food

The Inuit would usually eat animals such as Caribou, Seals, Walrus, Polar Bear, Arctic Hares, Musk Oxen, Birds, and Fish like Salmon and Whitefish.



# Clothing

The two main materials for clothing were caribou skin and sealskin. Inuit usually wore a coat/parka with two layers of Caribou skin or Sealskin, an inner layer with the fur facing the skin, and an outer layer with the fur facing out. Underneath, the second layer would be the same fur for more warmth, because it is very cold where they live. The Inuit would usually wear fur trousers, made of caribou or sealskin. Traditionally, they would wear two layers of the trousers. Also, most pieces of clothing are home made.





## *Clothing- Boots/other*

For their boots, a hunter would wear Sealskin boots (or kamiks, a softer boot made from animal skin) and again, there were usually two or even three layers. The Inuit also didn't wear socks because it would soak up sweat. They would also wear thick mittens that were very long so that they would cover the parka.

## Transportation

Inuit would travel through with sleds that dogs would pull for them. During the winter the Inuit would travel to go hunting in one man kayaks.



# Tools

Inuit people would use stone to make tools with animal skins. They would make War Harpoon, War Club, Spear Thrower, Cable Backed Bow, Bolas, Toggling Harpoon, Kakivak for Fishing, and Ulu.



Ulu





# ***About the Inuit***



## *Social Structure*

In Inuit, family groups were the most important group. They usually lived in groups of about 5-6 people. When people got married, men would fish, hunt, and build houses. Women would cook, make clothing, dress animal skins, and looked after the children. The inuit didn't really have a leader or chief, except for the N.A.N.A (next page). Unlike other tribes, it was expected Inuit always help each other and share their wealth.



## Government

In 1963, the Northwest Alaska Native Association, also known as the N.A.N.A, was formed by Willie Hensley who was also their leader. The Inuit had individual freedom when hunting season comes. They go into partnership and choose a leader.

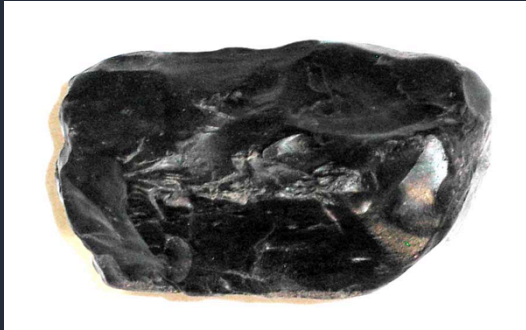
## Peacemaking

The Inuit are a very isolated group, so there are not very many wars. But when there was wars, they gave what they had to make peace.



## Trading

The Inuit traded with what was available in their territory. They traded with things such as animal skin, driftwood, flint, soapstone, and copper. They traded with materials because back then they didn't use money. They only traded with what they had a lot of. In return they would get things that they didn't have.



## *Their personality:*

The Inuit didn't just trade to get things, they traded because they wanted to help out. The Inuit were very nice to everybody and always wanted to help other tribes. They didn't like killing much either, so there weren't very many wars.





## *Beliefs and Religion*

Traditional Inuit religion is a form of Animism. Animism is the belief that everything is living and has a spirit. Inuits believed everything happens through a spirit.

People wore magical charms and talismans so they could control the spirits.

Also, when animals were killed for food the Inuit performed rituals so the animals' spirits wouldn't get offended, but today a lot of Inuit moved to Christianity.



# *TRADITION*



## Drum

The Inuit drum is a traditional Inuit instrument across the North. Drumming was performed at various celebrations such as successful first hunt of a boy or the birth of a child. The popular music scene has greatly evolved over the last 20-30 years.



## Dance/Singing

The Inuit use their drums to make their own music called Katajjaq also known as throat singing. Throat singing is traditionally women who do duets, face each other and try to “beat” the other one in singing. While they sing they sometimes dance too. The dance is more Inuit tradition.



## Storytelling

Another one of the Inuit traditions is storytelling.

The Inuit passed on information to the younger generation through storytelling. They did this very often and that's where we got most of the information we have today.





## *Fun Facts!*

- Inuit means “The People” in Inuktitut.
- An Inuit person is known as an Inuk.
- Inuktitut is their language.
- Inuit were unable to farm and grow their own food.
- There is believed to be a mythical creature where the inuit lived, named Qallupilluk. He would wait underwater and pull unsuspecting people down for food.



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Thanks for watching

