



WORLD BOOK WEB

Inuit Scavenger Hunt – World Book Student

Learn about the fascinating culture of the Inuit people and how they managed to live in one of the world's harshest environments. Use the World Book Web to find the answers to the questions below.

Find it!

1. Who are the Inuit?
2. Where is their homeland?
3. How has their environment shaped the Inuit way of life?
4. How did the Inuit use their environment to survive?
5. What type of environment and climate do the Inuit live in?
6. Why is it difficult to describe a general way of life for all Inuit?
7. Looking at traditional life of the Canadian Inuit, what factors affected group size?
8. Why did groups form large winter villages on the coast of Labrador?
9. Who did a traditional Canadian Inuit household consist of?
10. How did Canadian Inuit resolve disputes?
11. What types of food did Canadian Inuit eat?
12. What did Canadian Inuit wear?
13. Describe Canadian Inuit dwellings.
14. Inuit used sleds to transport goods and people. What different materials did they use to build the sleds and what does it tell us about the Inuit people?
15. How were sleds propelled?
16. How did the Canadian Inuit keep themselves waterproof when in their kayak or umiak?
17. Name three types of tools and weapons and explain how these were used by Canadian Inuit to hunt and fish?
18. The Inuit believed all things had spirits and they followed many rules to please the spirits, explain one special rule they followed?
19. What was the *blanket toss*?
20. What were the two related language groups of the Inuit?
21. How do the Inuit live today?

Did you know?

The Inuit were formerly called Eskimos. The term Eskimo comes from a Native American word that may have meant eater of raw meat, netter of snowshoes, or speaker of a foreign language. Many Inuit consider this term insulting. They prefer the name Inuit, which means the people or real people, and comes from a language called Inuit-Inupiaq.

Inuit Scavenger Hunt Answers:

1. Inuit are people who live in and near the Arctic.
2. Their homeland stretches from the north-eastern tip of Russia across Alaska and northern Canada to Greenland.
3. Inuit have always lived near the sea, which has provided much of their food. The first Inuit hunted bowhead whales and other mammals. As the Inuit spread eastward, they modified their way of life to suit the Arctic environments they encountered.
4. The Inuit fish, hunt seals, walrus, and whales. On land, they hunted a type of deer caribou, musk oxen, polar bears, and many smaller animals. The Inuit used the skins of these animals to make clothes and tents. They crafted tools and weapons from the animals' bones, antlers, horns and teeth. Inuit make boats out of animal skin.
5. The Inuit live in one of the coldest and harshest regions of the world. Most kinds of plants and animals cannot live as far north as the Inuit do. Conditions include continual sunlight in summer and continual dark in winter. Freezing conditions that only go above freezing for only two or three months a year. There is very little rain, making the Arctic technically a desert. Rivers, lakes, and the sea remain frozen for much of the year. The ground on land is permanently frozen.
6. The Inuit have always lived in small groups scattered over a huge region. Consequently, many differences developed among the cultures of the widespread Inuit groups.
7. The size of Inuit groups varied in size from a single family to several hundred people. The size of the groups depended on the amount of food available in different seasons.
8. Inuit groups often formed large winter villages to share the food and other necessities provided by the killing of a bowhead whale. Many of these larger communities split up during the rest of the year.
9. In most regions, an Inuit household consisted of a married couple, their unmarried children, and the married sons or daughters and their families.
10. Inuit societies often settled disputes by contests of strength or some other peaceful means. Conflicts sometimes resulted in groups splitting off from one another. There were no written laws, Inuit groups governed themselves by traditional rules of conduct.
11. Bowhead whale, caribou, hares and foxes. Fish from sea, lakes and rivers. Berries and other plant foods when available. Delicacies includes skin of a beluga whale and fat from the backs of caribou. The Inuit often ate meat raw or frozen.
12. Men, women and children wore a hooded jacket called a *parka*, trousers or leggings, socks, boots and mittens made from the skins of animals. The Inuit often wore goggles of wood, bone, or ivory to reduce glare from the sun.
13. Most Inuit families had both a summer and winter dwelling. In the summer months, almost all Inuit lived in tents framed with wood and covered with seal or caribou skins. Winter dwellings were more complex. A large hole was dug in the ground, then rocks and sod were piled around the outer boundary of the hole to form walls. Rafters of wood or whalebone topped the walls and were covered with sod. Snowhouses or *igloos* were mostly inhabited by the Inuit when travelling as temporary shelters, only some used them as permanent winter residences.
14. The Inuit preferred wood as the material to make plank sleds. However, where wood was not available, the Inuit used whalebone and even frozen animal skins. This shows how adaptable the Inuit were to their environment.
15. Sleds were pulled by dogs. The Inuit kept as many dogs as they could feed, this was dependent on the climate.
16. The Inuit wore a special waterproof jacket made from seal intestine. The boater fitted the edge of the jacket around the edge of the kayak opening and tied the jacket in front to form a waterproof seal.
17. Student could answer with one of the following:
 - Long bone tools called probes to hunt seals at breathing holes during winter.
 - Idlak helped indicate when a seal was using a breathing hole.
 - Harpoons made from bone or ivory were used to kill seals.
 - Movable hunting screens were used to stalk seals on the ice during spring.
 - Bow and arrows were used to hunt caribou.

- Spears to kill caribou.
- Long, spearlike weapons called darts tipped with poison were used to kill whales.
- Stone traps were used to trap foxes and polar bears.
- Snares were used to catch birds and hares.
- Multipronged spears were used kill birds.
- A three-pronged spear called a leister was used to fish.
- Rocks were used channel animals and fish into traps.

18. Student could answer with one of the following:

- The wife of a hunter might offer a drink of water to an animal that had been killed to satisfy its spirit.
- In Alaska, the Inuit saved the bladders of seals they killed and performed a special ceremony each year where they returned the bladder to the sea to ensure good hunting in the year to come.
- The death of an Inuk involved wrapping the body in skins and covering with an arrangement of stones and placing tools and weapons with the body for use in the otherworld.

19. Blanket toss was one of the most popular Inuit games. A dozen or more people held a blanket made of walrus hides sewn together. With the blanket pulled tight they would then toss a person into the air with the person being tossed trying to land on his/her feet.

20. Inuit-Inupiaq and Yupik.

21. The traditional way of life has ended for most Inuit. They live in wooden homes rather than in snowhouses, sod houses, or tents. They wear modern clothing instead of animal skin garments. Most Inuit speak English, Russian, or Danish in addition to their native language. The kayak and umiak have given way to the motorboat, and the snowmobile has replaced the dog team. Christianity has taken the place of most traditional Inuit beliefs.