

information

Nunavut, Canada's Third Territory "North Of 60"



**On April 1, 1999,
Canada created
a third territory called Nunavut,
which was carved out
of the central and eastern area of
the Northwest Territories (NWT).
Inuit make up 85 percent
of Nunavut's population.
Nunavut means
"our land" in Inuktitut,
the Inuit language.**

NUNAVUT

In the 1970s, Inuit began to organize in response to the fast-paced changes taking place in the north and affecting their lives. Some of the Inuit's concerns were about how oil, gas and mineral exploration in the north would affect them. They also feared that their cultural well-being, so strongly tied to the land, was at risk.

Inuit believe they must give equal respect to the spirits of the land, animals and plants. These beliefs guide Inuit in using the land, sea and other resources wisely. Inuit want to continue their traditional use of the land – hunting and trapping as their ancestors

have done. In the face of resource exploration, Inuit are concerned about losing their traditional way of life.

In 1992, Inuit of the eastern Arctic began writing a new chapter in the story of Canada when they reached an agreement with the Government of Canada to create a new territory called Nunavut in 1999. Nunavut covers one-fifth of Canada — 2 million square kilometres, about three times the size of the island of Newfoundland — and is home to some 25,000 people, including 21,250 Inuit. It has 28 villages or communities, including the capital, Iqaluit, located on Baffin Island. That's where the territorial government is. About 4,500 people live in Iqaluit.

inuit

For many years Inuit in Canada were called Eskimos. Today, these northern peoples are referred to as "Inuit," the Inuktitut word for "the people."





Today, most Inuit use snowmobiles instead of sleds and dog teams, live in houses instead of igloos and wear snowmobile boots and commercially made parkas. But some still follow traditional ways and wear traditional dress.

A favoured coat, for instance, is the *amautik*, a parka with an oversized hood.

Women with young children like this coat because the large hood acts as a built-in baby pouch to carry their babies! Another favourite item is an *ulu*, a semi-circular knife that Inuit women

have used for centuries and still use today to cut up seal meat. And while young children watch television, their grandmother chews a caribou skin to make it soft before turning the skin into moccasins.



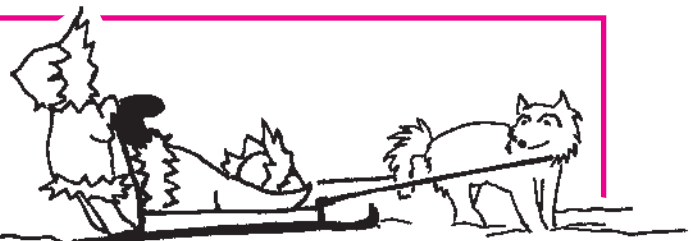
Today's Inuit strive to transmit the heritage of their ancestors to their children. In school, children learn Inuktitut as well as English. Community Elders teach life skills courses to ensure that young Inuit learn about their culture. Students gain practical experience in such traditional skills as hunting, butchering and skinning of slain animals, and preparation of Inuit food.

Activities for grades 5-6 on Nunavut

Activity #1

Inuit were very clever in making use of all their resources. Antlers, for instance, became fish hooks, and bones were turned into toys. But antlers and bones had other uses as well. Can you think of different ways to turn the animal parts listed below into clothes and tools? Be as creative as you can!

antlers • bird bones • fur • sealskin • fat
• intestines (waterproof!) • sinew (these are stringlike tendons that join bone to bone)



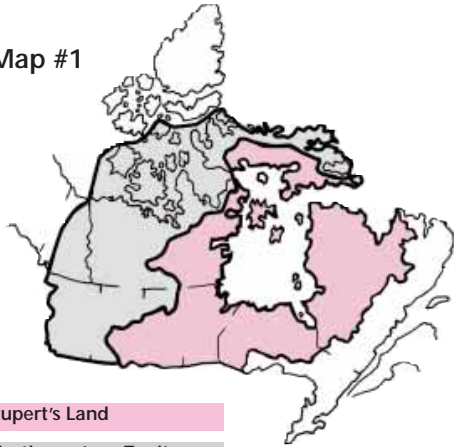
"Wood was so scarce, some Inuit used frozen fish wrapped in sealskin as dogsled runners. Talk about fish to go!"

Answers #1

Animal skins provided the basic materials to make tents and boats. Intestines were turned into waterproof jackets for kayakers. Caribou fur was used for parkas and pants, sealskin for boots.

Bird bones made excellent needles, and antlers became fish hooks or brakes for a dog sled. Sinew was used as thread. Animal fat was rendered into oil and used for heat and light.

Map #1



Rupert's Land
North-western Territory

Activity #2

As you can see in Map #1, the current NWT was once a much larger territory known as Rupert's Land and the North-western Territory. Compare this map to Map #2, noting how the larger land was divided into provinces and territories. Use coloured pencils to draw the lines across Map #1.

Map #2



Over time, the NWT was divided into other provinces and a territory: Manitoba in 1870, the Yukon Territory in 1898, and the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan in 1905. The boundaries of the NWT changed again in 1912, following the northward extension of Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec. Now that Nunavut has been created, the western territory is still known as the Northwest Territories.

Activity #3

During the winter, your local radio stations will broadcast snow conditions for your region or for local ski hills. Even if you're not a skier, you probably know what "fresh powder snow" looks and feels like. But just how frozen is a ski hill's "frozen granular base"?



In English, we have very few words for snow, but in Inuktitut there are at least 14 words! Do you think "frozen granular base" is *aniugaviniq* (very hard, compressed and frozen snow) or *pukak* (crystalline snow that breaks down and separates like salt)? Here are the 14 Inuktitut words for snow. How many conditions do you recognize? Try drawing a picture of these different types of snow!

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| aniugaviniq | very hard, compressed and frozen snow |
| apijaq | snow covered by bad weather |
| apigiannagaut | the first snowfall of autumn |
| katakartanaq | snow with a hard crust that gives way under footsteps |
| kavisilaq | snow roughened by rain or frost |
| kinirtaq | compact, damp snow |
| mannguq | melting snow |
| masak | wet, falling snow |
| matsaaq | half-melted snow |
| naturuvaq | drifting snow |
| pukak | crystalline snow that breaks down and separates like salt |
| qannialaaq | light-falling snow |
| qiasuqaq | snow that has thawed and refrozen with an ice surface |
| qiqumaaq | snow whose surface has frozen after a light spring thaw. |

some of these words are already in the krisskross puzzle.
can you add the right number of boxes and
place the remaining words in them?

5 letters

masak

pukak

6 letters

apijaq

7 letters

matsaaq

mannguq

8 letters

qiasuqaq

qiqumaaq

kinirtaq

9 letters

kavisilaq

10 letters

qannialaaq

natiruvaaq

11 letters

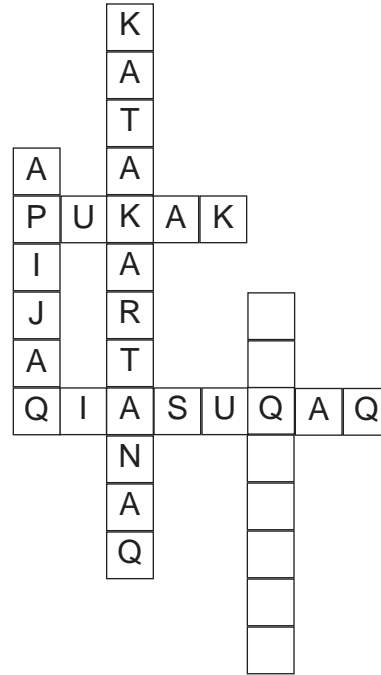
aniugaviniq

12 letters

katakartanaq

13 letters

apigiannagaut



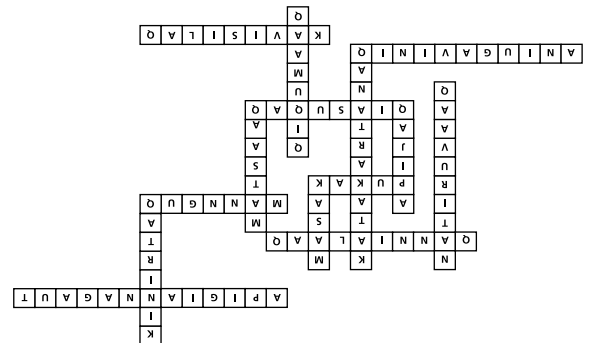
Activity #4 Nunavut Fast Facts

- If Nunavut's area is 2 million square kilometres, and Canada's is 9,970,610 square kilometres, roughly what percentage of the land mass is Nunavut? (hint: divide 9,970,610 by 2 million)
- 21,250 Inuit live in Nunavut, out of a total population of 25,000. What percentage of the population is Inuit?
- What is the capital of Nunavut?
- Three national parks will be created within Nunavut's borders. How many national parks will Canada then have?

ANSWERS #4

- 20 percent or 1/5 of land mass
- 85 percent
- Iqaluit (pop. 4,500)
- As of August 1997, there were 38 national parks and several other areas set aside. Nunavut's three parks will bring the total to at least 41.

SOLUTION TO KRISSEKROSS



This information is also available through the Internet at www.inac.gc.ca

Published under the authority of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Ottawa, 2000
QS-6120-001-EE-A3
© Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada
Cette publication peut également être consultée en français sous le titre : *Le Nunavut, troisième territoire du Canada au nord du 60° parallèle.*