

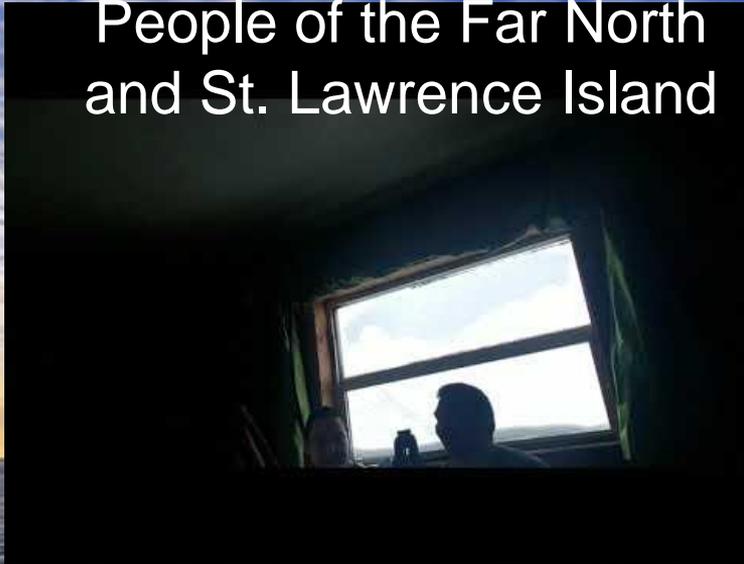
Far North Region: Inupiat and Siberian Yup'ik



1. **Watch the video** for an introduction to Native Cultures of Far North Alaska!
2. **Read the slideshow** to learn facts about this Native Culture
3. See the next slide for an introduction to an Inupiaq carver:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2gWLLL3rB00>

Siberian Yup'ik:

People of the Far North
and St. Lawrence Island



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sqXlmdSAqM>

Inupiat:

People of the Far North
and the Arctic Tundra



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2gWLLL3rB00>

Far North Alaska

Additional Approved Websites (click BLUE links)

Kids Search Encyclopedia for Arctic Alaska Facts
https://wiki.kidzsearch.com/wiki/Arctic_Alaska

Alaska Kids <http://www.alaskakids.org/index.cfm/know-alaska/Alaska-Geography/Regions>

Kids “Kiddle” Facts- Polar Climate
https://kids.kiddle.co/Polar_climate

Click on map to take you to Alaska Kid’s Corner site -
region information listed
<https://alaska.gov/kids/learn/region.htm>



Inupiat Eskimos



The **Inupiat** people occupy the Far North and Northwest regions of Alaska

Inupiat people moved to this region at least 6,000 years ago and maybe as much as 8,000 years ago.

Population thought to have numbered 9,000 people at time of contact.

Traditional Life - Pre Contact



Inupiat people did not have chiefs. **Wise elders** were sought out to make decisions for the family group or village.

Good hunters that killed many whales or caribou with few or no accidents were considered village leaders.

Inupiat had very traditional social roles. Males were the hunters. Women would gather foods, snare small game, sew and cook.

Pre Contact Shelters



This is **NOT** an Inupiat Eskimo house as many American people believe. It was only used as a temporary shelter if a hunter was caught outside while a storm was approaching.

Pre Contact Shelters

There are **no trees** in most of the Inupiaq lands.



Houses or shelters were made of driftwood and whale bone frames.

The **frames** were covered with animal skins and sod - chunks of ground.

Seal oil “lamps” - a dish like plate where seal oil was burned was all that was needed to heat the structure.

Pre Contact Shelters



These are are **sod houses** that were the more permanent homes of the Inupiat Eskimos. Usually these had a **long tunnel entrance** to trap the cold air before rising up into a **main sleeping area** that would trap the warmer air.

Traditional Shelters



The **seal oil lamp** was used to heat these “underground” houses. Seal oil was placed in the dish and a wick was lit to provide heat for the home.

Traditional Transportation

An **umiak** was the traditional open water boat of the Inupiat. Usually used for whaling. It could hold up to 40 people.

Constructed of a driftwood frame and split walrus or beaded seal hide covered with seal or whale oil.



Individual Inupiat hunters also used **kayaks** to hunt close to shore.

Traditional Clothing



Caribou clothing: lightweight, warm, durable.

Men, women, and children wore jackets and pants.

In winter they wore two suits; the **inner suit** had the hair turned to the inside, the **outer suit** had the hair on the outside.

The Inupiat made **overcoats** from seal intestines

Traditional Clothing



Like all native cultural groups, **traditional clothing** was based on the available resources in an area.

Caribou was the most commonly used hide, but ermine, marten, wolverine, wolf, beaver, and fox certainly would've been used if they were caught.

Traditional Subsistence Tools



Seal Floats

An Inupiat
whaling crew



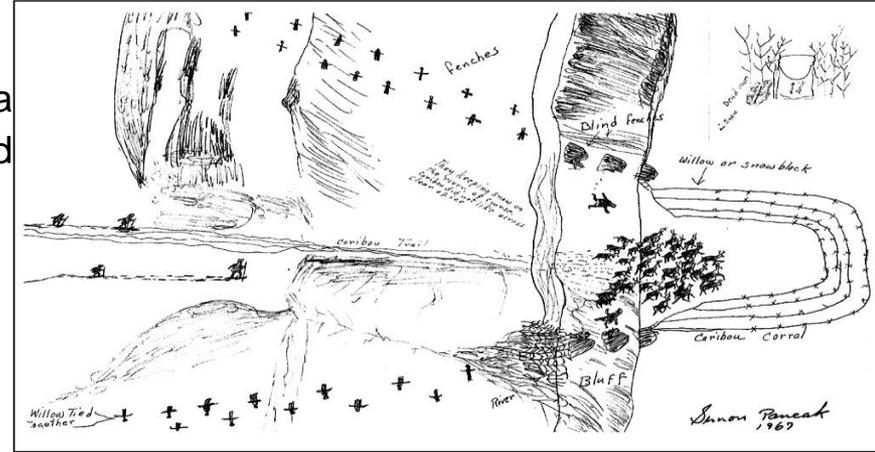
Toggle head
used for
harpooning
whales

Traditional Subsistence Tools



A pass that caribou use annually on spring and fall migrations. A place where a caribou fence would likely be placed.

An illustration of a caribou fence and how it worked.



Remains of an old caribou fence.



Modern Inupiat



Village of Kaktovik on the coast of the Beaufort Sea

Historically Inupiaq traveled little during dark winters. They usually traveled in groups. They used sleds and sometimes used up to four dogs to pull them. Inupiaq people moved to hunting and fishing sites in spring, summer, and fall and to trading sites in summer.

Today, Inupiaq may live in villages, use modern technology but still participate in subsistence activities.

Subsistence Foods



In coastal villages, **whaling** was a **key subsistence resource** due to the large amounts of meat it could provide a village.

Subsistence Foods



Traditionally, **whaling** was done in the spring and fall. Whale hunters waited at open “leads” until a whale blew. Then whalers took after the whales in umiaks equipped with harpoons and seal floats. Once a whale was struck, they’d follow and strike again and again attaching more and more floats to the whale. Eventually the whale would tire, a death strike would occur, and multiple whaling parties would pull the whale to shore.

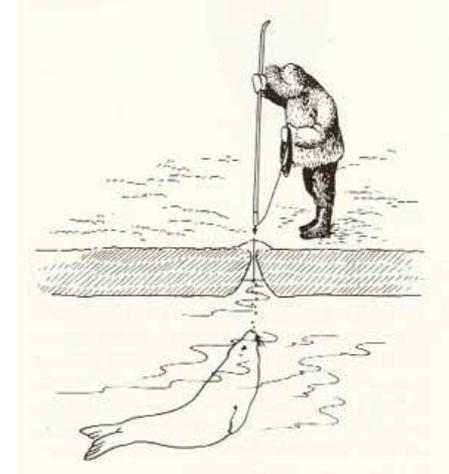
Subsistence Foods



Up Here: "It's the North's most ancient, dangerous hunt: the pursuit of the bowhead whale. The tradition fell silent in Arctic Quebec but has been reborn. By Robert Fr chette.

Modern whalers use modern technologies: motorized skiffs, harpoon guns with explosive heads, rubber buoys, and even forklifts

Subsistence Foods



Patience, Patience, and more PATIENCE!

Seal hunters would wait at blow holes until a seal surfaced for a breath.

The seal would then be speared.

Modern hunters shoot seals at breathing holes with guns.

Subsistence Foods



Walrus are also hunted. Hunters try to catch walrus napping on “haul outs”, where they shoot them, butcher them, and bring them back to the village.

Subsistence Foods



Inland Inupiat Eskimos were heavily dependent on **caribou**.

Coastal Inupiat would also hunt caribou.



Subsistence Foods



Other subsistence activities like **berry picking, harvesting wild plants and wild greens** still happens today as well.

Eskimo potatoes are a root that is dug underground that was an important wild plant eaten by the Inupiat.

Subsistence Animal Uses



Traditionally all parts of the animal were used from seal gut parkas, to caribou skin pants and parkas, to mukluks.

Today hides are still used for mukluk soles and uppers, drums, and skin coverings on umiaks!

North Slope Alaska



There are many Inupiat villages in the Far North. Notice where the villages are located. **Why is this?**

Far North Villages

Utqiagvik^(previously Barrow)

Population approximately 4,200



Utqiagvik is the regional hub for the Far North.

It is the largest village in the area and the closest village to Prudhoe Bay - the largest oil deposit in Alaska, the United States, and even on the North American continent.

This certainly contributes to the size of this village.

Far North Villages

Wainwright, Alaska

Population approximately 630



Based on its location, what resources do you think these people are dependent on?

Far North Villages

Point Lay, Alaska

Population approximately 250



The Fourth of July parade in Point Lay

An aerial shot of Point Lay

Transportation in Far North Villages



Common forms of travel in Inupiat villages in the Far North.

Inupiat Art



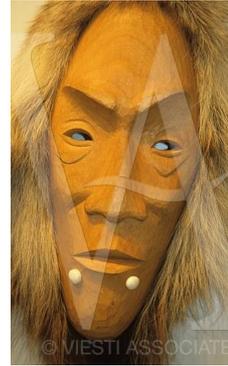
- Inupiat people danced to celebrate memorable deeds and to tell hunting stories. **Dances** told a story.

Inupiat Art



Traditionally men **carved** walrus ivory for hunting tools.
Nowadays whalebone and ivory are carved to represent images unique to Inupiat culture.
Often these carvings are sold as artwork.

Inupiat Art



Traditionally men carved **ceremonial wood masks**. This art form has been reproduced to incorporate the use of wood, whale bone, ivory, and even animal hide.

Inupiat Art



Woven grass baskets were probably used originally as storage containers. These are more artistic. What do you see that makes them uniquely Inupiat?