

The Inuit People

The Inuit are a group of people who live in the snowy regions of Greenland, Alaska* and northern Canada. The Inuit have their own history, languages and traditions.

If you were to meet an Inuk (a member of the Inuit people) today, their life might seem quite similar to yours. However, Inuit people have been around for thousands of years, and their way of life used to be very different. They developed many clever ways of finding food, travelling and making shelter.

Living Off the Land

The Inuit people used to be hunter-gatherers, which meant that they found all the food they needed from the land around them. They hunted animals such as seals, reindeer and even polar bears.

Hunters could be away from their families for days at a time on dangerous hunting trips, but it was worth it. The animals they caught provided them with food, and the Inuit also used the animals' skins to make clothes, shoes and tents. Even the bones of the animals came in handy for making tools.

As the Inuit could find or make everything they needed, money didn't exist in traditional Inuit culture.



An Inuit woman wearing a coat made of animal skins.

Glossary

Alaska — the most northern state in the USA

The text continues over the page. →

Getting Around

Most Inuit people live very far north, meaning that the land is usually covered in snow and ice. In the past, the Inuit built wooden sledges in order to transport themselves and their supplies across this challenging landscape. These sledges were pulled by packs of dogs.

Huskies were often used, as they are a breed of dog that have been specially bred to pull heavy sledges. They have thick fur to keep them warm in the freezing temperatures.

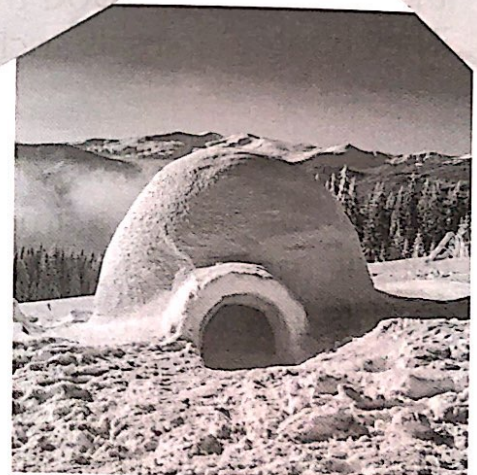


Huskies

The Inuit also built narrow boats called kayaks. These boats were small and swift, which allowed the Inuit to hunt for animals, such as fish and seals, in the water.

Home Sweet Home

Inuit people were traditionally nomadic, meaning they moved around and didn't live in one place for very long. They travelled to different places depending on the seasons to make sure they could find enough food.



A snow igloo

The Inuit lived in homes called igloos. When we imagine an igloo, we usually think of a dome-shaped shelter made of snow. However, the word 'iglu' in Inuktitut* just means house, so the Inuit call any home an igloo — whether it's made from snow, animals' skins or brick.

Glossary

Inuktitut — one of the main Inuit languages

Snow may seem like a strange choice of building material — especially in freezing climates. However, even snow igloos provide shelter from the cold wind and trap in enough heat to keep the people inside cosy and warm.

Some people imagine the Inuit lived in snow igloos all the time, but this isn't strictly true. The Inuit could build these sturdy snow houses with ease, but they were usually used as temporary shelters during winter, rather than permanent homes. In the summer months, the Inuit slept in tents made of animal skins.

The Inuit Today

Nowadays, Inuit culture is evolving. Instead of moving around from place to place, many Inuit people have settled in villages and built permanent homes. Many people also take advantage of modern technology to make their lives easier. Some Inuit people now prefer to travel across the snow using snowmobiles instead of sledges. This allows them to make journeys without having to stop along the way to let the huskies rest and eat.



A snowmobile

Some Inuit people now have paid jobs and use the money they earn to pay for food and clothes from shops, as well as other modern comforts like electricity and the internet.

However, not everyone is as keen to modernise all aspects of Inuit life. Many families continue to teach their children traditional Inuit skills, such as hunting and making clothes from animal skins.



Open the flap for the start of the text.

Unfold these pages before you start

Fact Retrieval Questions



FACT RETRIEVAL questions are about locating key bits of information in the text. Read 'The Inuit People' again, then have a go at these questions.

1) According to the introduction, what is a member of the Inuit called?

an Inu

an Inuit

an Inuk

the Inuits

Circle your answer.

1 mark

2) Read the paragraph beginning 'Hunters could be away...'

How long could hunters be away on hunting trips for? Tick **one** box.

days

several hours

months

weeks at a time

1 mark

3) Give **two** things that the Inuit used animals for apart from food.

.....
.....

2 marks

4) What type of dog has been bred to pull sledges?

Look at the section called 'Getting Around'.

.....

1 mark

5) Read the paragraph beginning 'The Inuit also built...'

Give **one** animal that the Inuit hunted in the water.

.....

1 mark

2b

Fact Retrieval Questions



6) Why did the Inuit move around depending on the seasons?

Tick **one** box.

- for a change of scenery
- to find enough food
- to find somewhere warmer
- to find better snow

Read the paragraph beginning 'Inuit people were traditionally nomadic...'

1 mark

7) Read the paragraph beginning '**Some people imagine the Inuit...**'
Where did the Inuit sleep during the summer? Circle your answer.

snow igloos

permanent homes

tents made of canvas

tents made of animal skins

1 mark

8) Read the section called '**The Inuit Today**'.
Based on the text, give **one** thing that the Inuit now use money to pay for.

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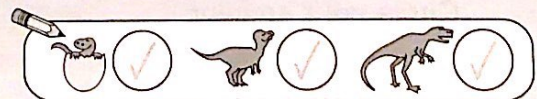
1 mark

9) Put a tick in the correct box to show whether each statement is true or false.

	True	False
Some Inuit people live in Greenland.		
Inuktitut is the only Inuit language.		
Snow igloos are very cold inside.		

1 mark

How many Reading Raptors does it take to retrieve a fact? Just one. They're that good. How did you do?





2d

Inference Questions

INFERENCE questions ask you to look beyond the words and figure out exactly what a text means. Read the text carefully, then see how you get on with these questions.

- 1) Read the paragraph beginning **'The Inuit are a group of people...'**
Find and copy a phrase which suggests that the Inuit live in cold places.

.....

1 mark

- 2) Read the paragraph beginning **'Hunters could be away...'**
What does this paragraph suggest about how the Inuit used the animals that they hunted?

They sold them.

They gave them as gifts.

They threw a lot of the animal away.

They used many parts of the animal.

Circle your answer.

1 mark

- 3) Why didn't money exist in traditional Inuit culture? Tick **one** box.

It was against the law.

The Inuit didn't like it.

The Inuit didn't need to buy anything.

No one had thought of it.

If you're not sure, go back to the section called 'Living Off the Land'.

1 mark

- 4) Look at the paragraph beginning **'Most Inuit people live...'**
This paragraph suggests that huskies are

lazy

strong

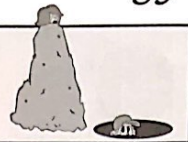
small

friendly

Circle your answer.

1 mark

Inference Questions



5) Read the paragraph beginning ‘**Some people imagine the Inuit...**’
 What evidence is there that the Inuit were experts at building snow igloos?

.....

_____ 1 mark

6) Why do you think the Inuit didn’t build permanent houses? Tick **one** box.

They were always moving around.

They didn’t know how.

They didn’t have the materials.

The houses kept falling down.

_____ 1 mark

7) Read the paragraph beginning ‘**Nowadays, Inuit culture is evolving.**’
 Why do some Inuit people use snowmobiles instead of sledges?

Snowmobiles are faster.

They don’t have dogs.

Snowmobiles are expensive.

They got bored of sledges.

Circle your answer.

_____ 1 mark

8) Read the paragraph beginning ‘**However, not everyone is as keen...**’
 How can you tell that some Inuit people think it’s important to hold on to traditions?

.....

.....

_____ 1 mark

Reading Raptors can answer inference questions while standing on one leg. How did you find these questions?



Word Meaning Questions



WORD MEANING questions get you to think about what specific words in the text mean. You can often use the rest of the sentence around the word to help you figure it out.

- 1) Read the paragraph beginning **'Most Inuit people live...'**
Find and copy **one** word which could be replaced with the word 'difficult'.

.....

1 mark

- 2) **'These boats were small and swift...'**
What does the word **'swift'** mean in this sentence? Tick **one** box.

quick	<input type="checkbox"/>	slow	<input type="checkbox"/>
long	<input type="checkbox"/>	short	<input type="checkbox"/>

1 mark

- 3) **'Snow may seem like a strange choice of building material...'**
Circle the word below that is closest in meaning to **'strange'**.

large	good	peculiar	lucky
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1 mark

- 4) **'The Inuit could build these sturdy snow houses with ease...'**
What does the word **'sturdy'** mean in this sentence?

.....

1 mark

- 5) **'Nowadays, Inuit culture is evolving.'**
What does **'evolving'** mean in this sentence?

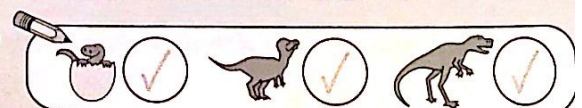
Think about what the rest of the paragraph says.

closing	disappearing	starting	changing
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Circle your answer.

1 mark

Reading Raptors win the Word Meaning Championships every year. How did you get on with these questions?



2c

Summary Questions



For **SUMMARY** questions, you often have to think about how to describe whole sections of the text in just a few words. Keep that in mind when you give these questions a try.

- 1) The section called **'Getting Around'** is about

a nomadic lifestyle

transport

modern life

Inuit shelters

Circle your answer.

1 mark

- 2) Read from **'The Inuit lived in...'** to **'...made of animal skins.'**

Which of these is a main idea in this part of the text? Circle your answer.

All igloos are made of snow.

Some things people believe about igloos aren't true.

The Inuit have never lived in snow igloos.

The Inuit travelled by sledge.

1 mark

2h

Comparison Question



For **COMPARISON** questions, you need to think about similarities and differences in the text. Think about everything you've read in *'The Inuit People'*, then have a go at this question.

- 1) Describe how Inuit houses have changed over time. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Try to give as much detail as you can.

.....

.....

.....

2 marks

Reading Raptors can't get enough of summary and comparison questions. How did you find these?

