

The Inuit People



Inuit People

The Inuit people are a community of indigenous people.

A group are called 'Inuit' people and a single person is called an 'Inuk'.

'Eskimo' is the term used for the Yupik, Iñupiat and Inuit peoples together, but it is not thought to be a nice term in some areas so we say 'Inuit' people instead.

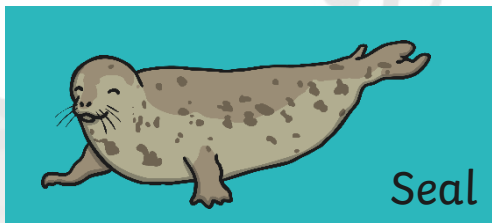
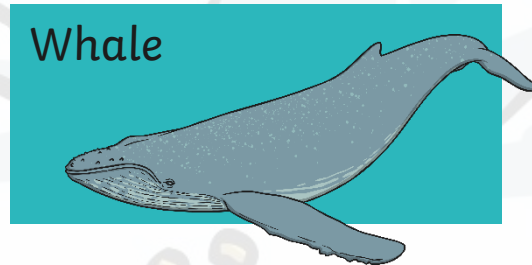
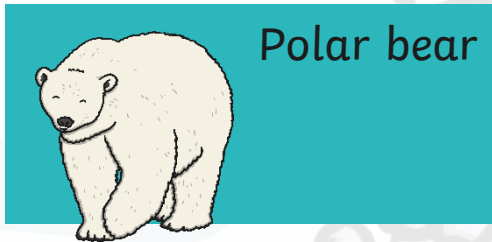


Diet

Inuit people hunt and fish, sometimes using harpoons.

Most of their diet is made up of meat, as not much can grow in such a cold environment.

They eat fish, wild berries, edible seaweed called 'kuanniq', seal, caribou, walrus, polar bears, even whales and sometimes Arctic foxes!



Where in the World

The Inuit people live in far northern Arctic areas. Populations of Inuit people are living in Greenland, Canada, Alaska, Russia and Denmark.

They used to live along the coast, but have travelled to new places.

They live in some of the harshest conditions on earth.

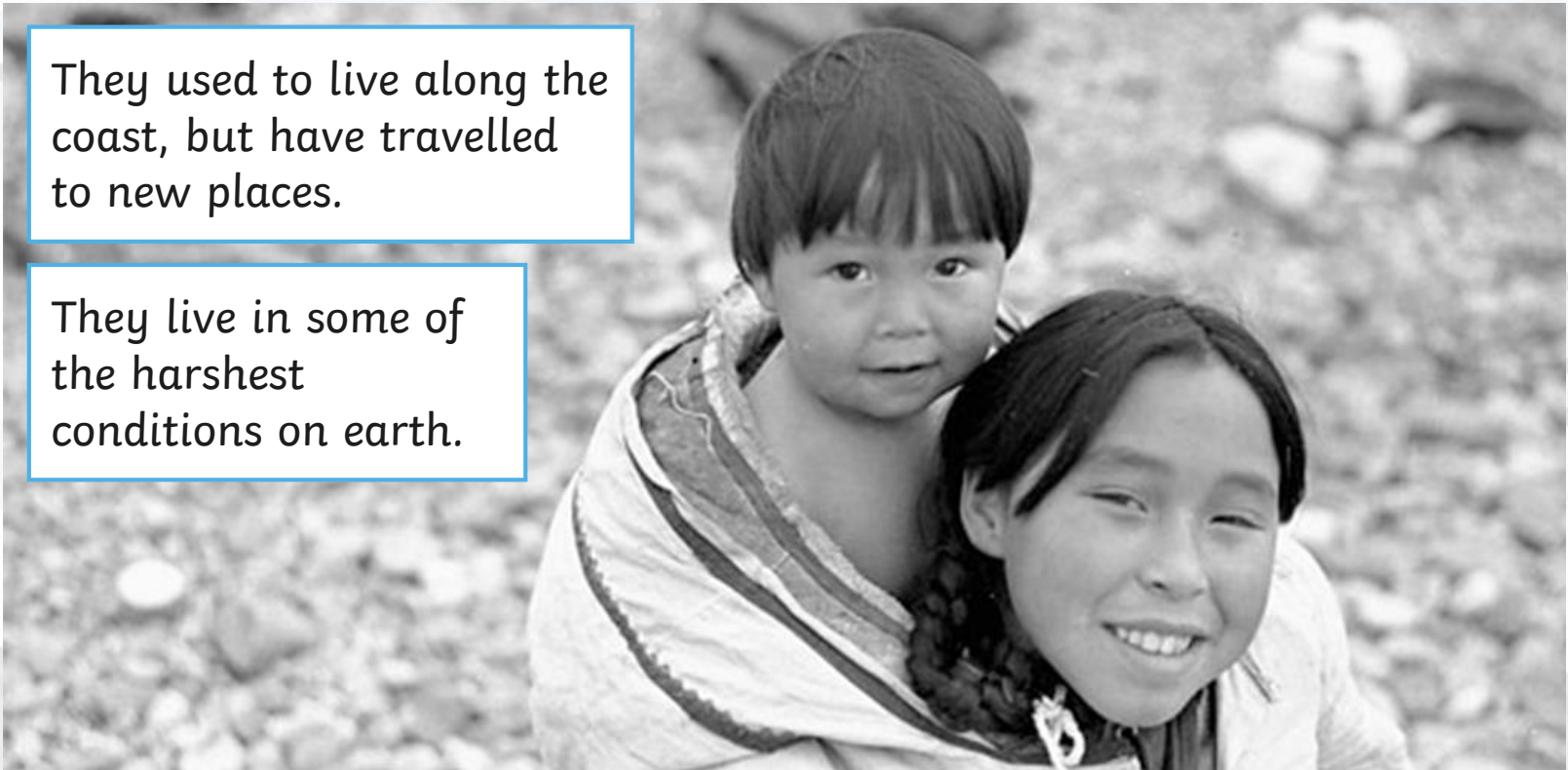


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Inuit Towns

The Inuit live in houses, in small communities similar to villages. Each one has shops, churches and schools.



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Homes - Igloo

A lot of Inuit people move around all year and don't stay in one single place.

They make igloos out of snow and ice, as a shelter when travelling.

These are perfect for them to stay in during the winter.



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Homes - Tents

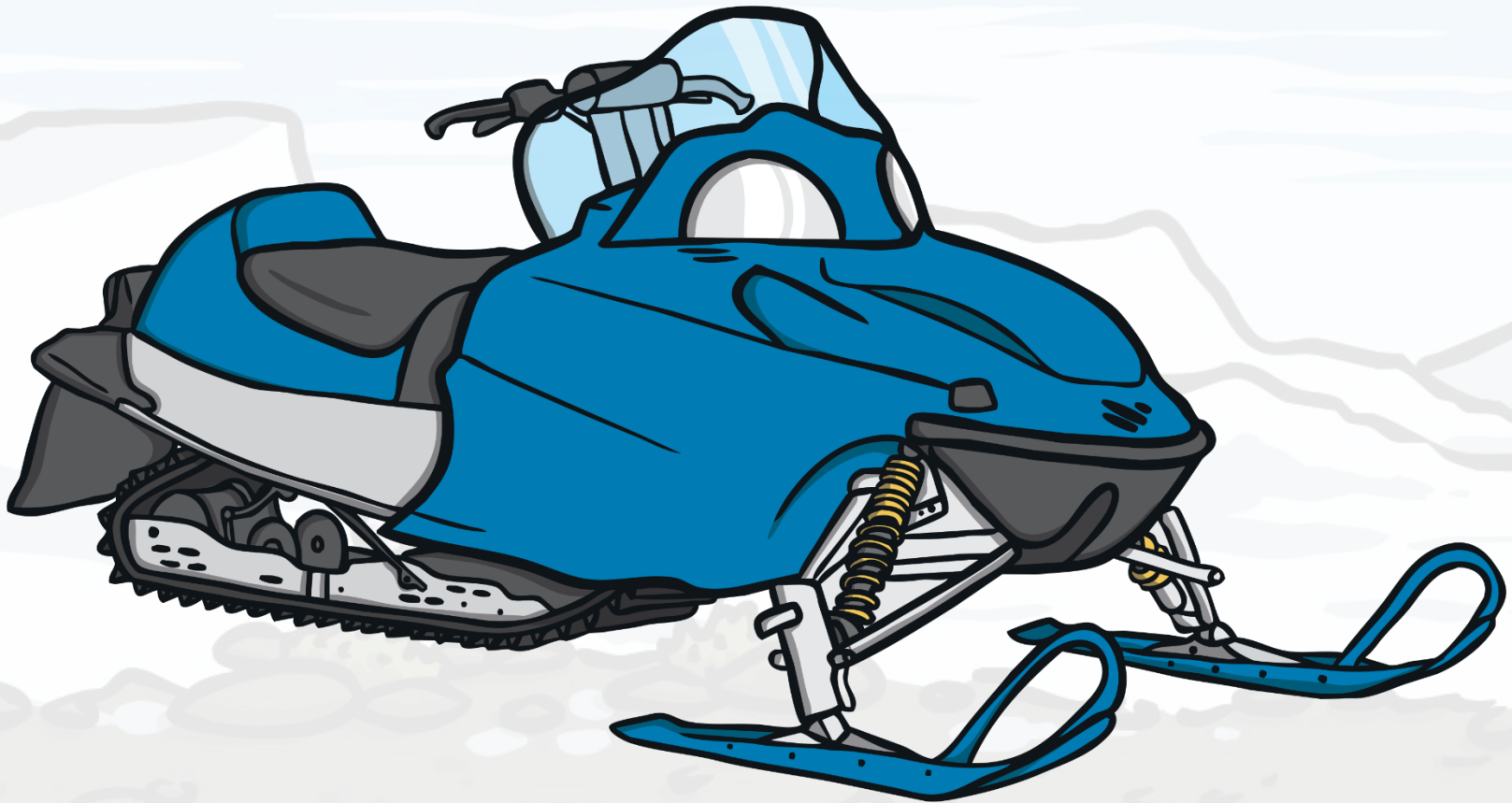
Tents are also used in the summer.

Some Inuit people make their own tents called 'Tupiq' from driftwood, whalebones and stretched animal skin.



Travelling

The Inuit tend to travel, fish and hunt using snowmobiles...



Travelling

...dog sleighs called 'qamutik'...



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Travelling

...and kayaks (which is actually an Inuit word). They also build stronger boats called 'umiaqs'.



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Clothes

Keeping warm is very important in such a cold climate so the Inuit people wear long parkas made from animal skins and furs.



They can buy their clothes from a shop, but some people still make their own. They wear tunics in summer.

Clothes



Babies are sometimes kept in the hood of their mother's parka.

They also wear warm, soft boots called 'mukluks'.



Hobbies

Their hobbies include:

- snowboarding
- playing hockey
- skiing
- ice fishing
- playing video games
- watching television
- skating
- art
- throat singing



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Throat Singing

The Inuit type of throat singing is often called 'katajjaq'. It is an entertaining duet performed by two Inuit people, usually women. They have a fun contest to see who can last the longest.

Karin and Kathy Kettler, the Canadian throat-singing sisters (who together are known as Nukariik), carry on the traditions of the elders from their mothers' village in Kangiqsualujjuaq, Nunavik, which is in northern Quebec, Canada.

Watch a clip of them performing.



Language

The oral Inuit languages are part of the Eskimo-Aleut family.



Inuit speak a few different languages: Inuinnaqtun, Inuktitut, Inuvialuktun and Greenlandic languages (Kalaallisut, Inuktun and Tunumiit).

The Inuit sign language is called Inuiuuk. It is now at risk of becoming extinct because only about 50 people still speak it.

Language

Have a go at saying these Inuit words yourself!

katajjaq = Inuit throat singing

umiaqs = strong boats they build

qamutik = dog sleighs

kuanniq = edible seaweed

mukluks = warm, soft boots

Tupiq = their own homes made from driftwood, whalebones and stretched animal skin



Fun Facts!

After hunting, the Inuit people often honour the animal's spirit by singing songs and performing rituals.

Although the Inuit don't eat many vegetables, they are some of the healthiest people in the world. This is fascinating to scientists!

Inuit people don't domesticate any animals except for dogs, which they used to pull their sleds.

