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Progress Check

The Inuit

Do you think you could live in a world with cold weather, dangerous animals and little daylight? Well, the Inuit have done so for thousands of years. Let's take a look at how they live their lives.

Where do they live?

The Inuit live in the frozen north of Canada, Russia and Alaska. In winter, temperatures can be as low as -50°C so it's very difficult for plants to grow. Even in summer it rarely gets above zero. The Inuit people have been living in extreme conditions for centuries, spending their entire lives on the snow that blankets the Arctic.

What do they look like?

The Inuit are short and well-built with almond-shaped eyes and straight black hair. They wear large, thick coats with big, fur-lined hoods called 'parkas' to keep warm during the cold winters. They also wear big boots and furry gloves to protect their hands and feet. The Inuit are a cheerful and friendly people who believe in sharing everything they have with others. Because they live in small groups they value harmony and frown on arguments and fighting.

How do they live?

Inuit men are hunters and they spend their days out on the ice looking for whales, seals and even polar bears to catch and bring back home. In winter they cut holes in the ice and go ice fishing. On winter hunting trips they live in temporary, dome-shaped houses called 'igloos' made from blocks of snow. They use dogsleds and snowmobiles to travel the frozen Arctic. Women can also go hunting, but most choose to stay at home and sew, cook, build tents and bring up the children. In order to make the most of the sunlight and warmth the Inuit go to bed very early and get up at 5 am to start their working day.

What are their traditions?

The Inuits keep their history alive through a tradition of storytelling. The elders teach their children about their history with mythical stories and legends. A popular tradition is the 'drum dance' held at births, weddings and funerals. The whole community gets together and performs songs and dances to the beat of a massive drum.



Reading

1 Read the text and choose the correct answer A, B, C or D for questions 1-5. ...

- 1 What is the writer doing in this text? ...
- A describing a tribe's habitat
 - B explaining a tribe's traditions
 - C giving information about a tribe
 - D detailing why the Inuit have survived
- 2 What do we learn about the Inuit from the text? ...
- A their lifestyle and customs
 - B how they spend their free time
 - C how they build their houses
 - D what makes them special

3 How does the writer describe the Inuit? ...

- A They are good fighters.
- B They are peaceful.
- C They are artistic.
- D They often argue.

4 What is NOT true about the Inuit? ...

- A They are happy people.
- B They respect their traditions.
- C They live together peacefully.
- D They cannot survive in the cold.

5 Which title best summarises the text? ...

- A Hunting for seals and polar bears
- B The people of the North
- C The history of a people
- D Living in the wild

Listening

2 Listen to a discussion about what makes a good friend. For questions 1-5 decide if the sentences are T (true) or F (false). ...

1 Dr Porrit says friendships are strongest at school. T F ...

2 Jane thinks that good friends listen without criticising. T F ...

3 Dr Porrit thinks disagreeing can be useful in a friendship. T F ...

4 Abbie says that friends with a sense of humour never argue. T F ...

5 Dr Porrit prefers friends that do not laugh very often. T F ...