

Historica Fair Project

Title: Hunting

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Describe your project:

Our project is about hunting Arctic animals in the North. We learned about the tools, the animals, and how to hunt the animals.

Resources: How Did You Find Your Information?

We used books like “The Inuit Thought Of It: Amazing Arctic Innovations” We also used magazines, our teacher, the internet and our families.

What Did You Find Out as A Result Of Your Research?

We learned about inuksuks and how they were used to ambush caribou. We also learned that you have to wait several hours when you hunt seals. We learned how to keep food after this been hunted.

Describe Your Personal Interest In The Project And Why You Chose It.

We think hunting is important because it's our Inuit tradition and we all go hunting. We do it for healthy food and the skins.

Hunting

One of the most important skills the traditional Inuit needed to know how to hunt. Hunting is a very good skill. To be a successful hunter, good effective hunting tools were needed. The Inuit used a variety of different tools for hunting different animals. By watching and observing each animal, the successful hunters discovered the best way to hunt it. Today Inuit hunters use rifles. Like traditional Inuit, they still-hunt for seals at breathing holes.

Traditionally, harpoons were used to catch beluga whales and seals. These harpoons had special sealskin float attached to them called an avataq.

Modern whale-hunting harpoons are often launched from a cannon on a ship.



The Inuit caught the beluga and tried to cut it up.

A traditional harpoon used for hunting had 5 parts:

1. long shaft
2. fore-shaft
3. harpoon head
4. line
5. float (avataq)

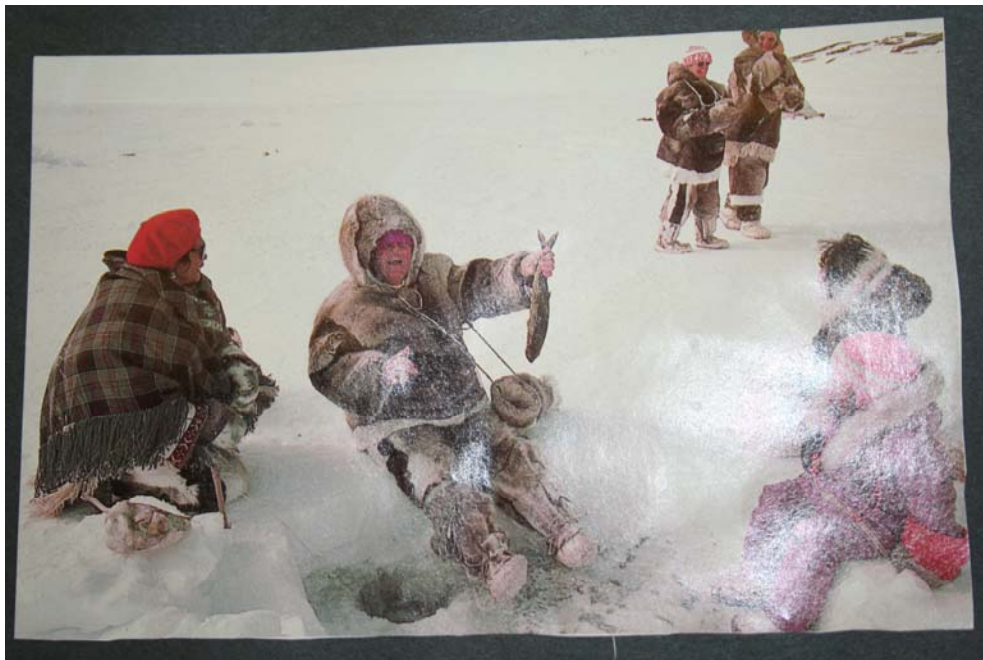
The long shaft, the main part of the harpoon, was made of wood. The shorter fore-shaft was attached to the top of the long shaft. It was usually made of ivory or antler. The harpoon head was made of bone. The tip of the head had a sharp point or blade to pierce the animal. A long length of line made from sealskin attached the harpoon to the float (avataq). The avataq was made from a complete skin of one seal. It was filled with air and plugged with a piece of ivory. The hunter held on the long-shaft when preparing to throw the harpoon from his kayak. When the harpoon hit the animal, the harpoon head on the fore-shaft stuck into the animal's body. The long shaft then separated from the fore-shaft. The hunter would not lose the dead animal from sinking to the bottom of the sea.



The person is trying to catch the seal with the harpoon.

Hunting Seals And Fishing

A special spear is called a kakivak was used to catch fish. It was made by attaching two pieces of caribou antler to the end of a long wooden pole. These pieces of antler were shaped into two prongs that grabbed the fish. A long spike between the prongs spears the fish. Skilled Inuit could pull a fish out of the water on the first try.



Somebody is fishing using a fishing hook.

Hunting Seals

Seals must come to the surface of the sea to breathe. They use breathing holes in the ice. These are excellent places to hunt seals. Inuit hunters learned this technique from watching polar bears catch seals. A group of hunters looked for an area where there were several breathing holes. It was very important to sit quietly without moving. Sometimes

hunters had to do this for hours at a time. It was very important not to scare the seals.

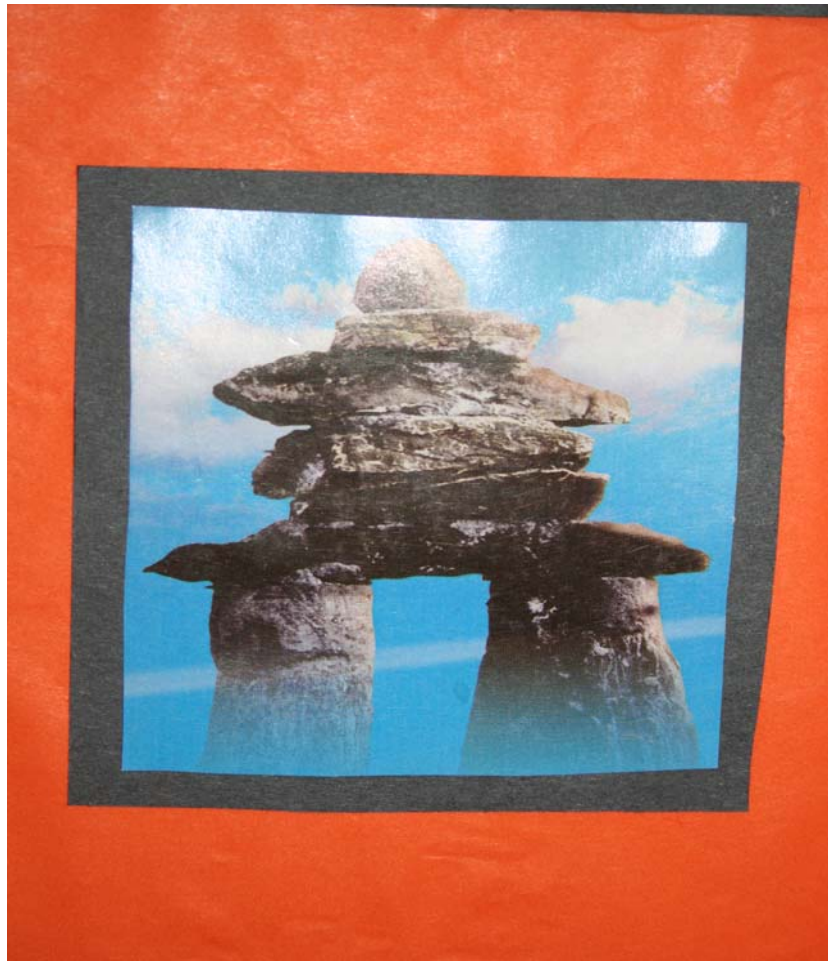


A hunter is waiting for a seal to breathe.

Inuksuk

An inuksuk is a pile of stones that guide the Inuit travelers. Inuksuk is a popular for name. The three uses of the inuksuk are:

1. To know any directions to follow.
2. Good places to hunt caribou.
3. To mark the places where caribou meat was stored.



Inukshuks help hunters not to get lost and they scare the caribou into the water.

Inunnguat

The meaning of the inunnguat is sometimes used to help hunt caribou and which means “Pretend Inuit”.

Traditional hunters knew the paths that caribou took when they migrated (move from place to place). If one of these paths was near a lake, hunters would build several inunnguat on either side of the path. The caribou would run towards the lake. The real Inuit would jump out of hiding and wave their arms. This scared the caribou and they would stampede into the water. Hunters holding spears waited in the kayaks on the lake. Caribou are much slower in the water, so they were easy to hunt. The hunters on the land used spears or bow and arrow.

