

Arctic Communities

Click on the pictures below to take you to the page with information about Arctic communities and how they change in summer and winter.

Transportation



Shelter



Food and Food Gathering



Clothing



Education/School



Recreation/Entertainment



Transportation

Summer

Many Inuit people use ATVs to get around in the summer! They wear helmets and use the road just like we do with our cars. These ATVs are parked in front of the Northern store where the residents do their shopping.



Getting around the Arctic is easy by helicopter but very expensive!



Supplies come in every day in the summer by plane to most northern communities. This is another easy, but expensive way, to get around the Arctic.



Arctic coastal communities travel by small boat, especially when the ice is gone. Kayaks or umiaks are another type of boat used in the Arctic during the summer



Transportation *Winter*

Snow sleds are still used for travel to the hunting grounds in some traditional villages like Umingmaktok.



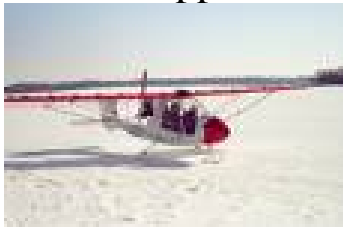
The old and the new! A sledge and snowmobile are waiting for the snow to arrive in the village of Umingmaktok.



These Husky dogs are trained to pull a snow sledge.



Ski planes travel to the Arctic during the winter delivering food and supplies.



Shelter *Summer*

Many Arctic communities have wooden homes just like in the south. They are very colourful.



When the Inuit people go hunting and fishing they live in tents in their summer camps. These tents are made out of canvas or caribou skin. Modern day camps often have store-bought nylon tents.



Shelter *Winter*

The Inuit's homes are heated by fuel that is barged into the communities in the summer.

They are built on stilts so as not to melt the permafrost. If the house was built directly on the tundra the heat from the house could melt the permafrost and the house would tip over. If they travel to hunt they would build a traditional igloo, a house made out of snow.



Food and Food Gathering

Summer

In the summer the people of the north shop in a grocery store just like you and me. They also hunt and fish to prepare for the winter. Caribou, musk oxen, polar bears and seals are important foods for the Inuit people. This Arctic char is drying in preparation for winter.



Food and Food Gathering

Winter

In the winter they live off the food that they have stored for winter but they can also shop at the grocery store. If the weather is good planes come in on a regular basis to deliver food. The food in the Arctic is very expensive to buy.



Clothing *Summer*

The Inuit people wear the same clothing as the rest of the people in Canada as their summers can be quite mild. Although, the women wear colourful, calico parkas trimmed with fur on cooler days. Men's parkas are a solid colour, cotton fabric. This cotton fabric protects the wool duffle that is under the parka.



Clothing *Winter*

The modern day Inuit wears warm clothes like most Canadians in northern climates but they continue to wear caribou and seal skin mittens, boots and parkas. Seal skin clothing is very important because it stays dry. This is essential outer wear when travelling.



Education/School

Summer

The children of the Arctic do not attend school in the summer just like the rest of the children in Canada. They often get out of school in early June so that they may travel with their families to the hunting and fishing grounds when the days last 24 hours. They return to school during mid-August. This is a picture of the new high school in Cambridge Bay during the summer.



Education/School

Winter

Most communities have schools from Kindergarten to Grade 12 right in the community so that the children do not have to leave their families. The Inuktitut language is being taught in all of the schools across the north. In the primary years, some schools only teach in their native language and the children do not work in English until they get to Grade 4. There are many Inuit teachers working in the north because they are able to get most of their education in their own communities. The children of Gjoa Haven are happy to be able to go to school and have an Inuit teacher.



Recreation/Entertainment

Summer

The people of the Arctic enjoy many of the same things we do. They rarely swim in the ocean, as it is too cold, but they do enjoy a swim in the pool if they are lucky enough to have one. The children of Cambridge Bay are enjoying a swim in their pool but it will have to be closed for the winter because it is not insulated.

They also like to play outside and they do enjoy TV and video games like their southern friends. Arctic summer games are hosted in many communities of the Arctic.



Recreation/Entertainment

Winter

The children love to play in the snow when winter comes, although they do stay inside when the temperatures are very cold. Some traditional inside games were used with string and these string games are still enjoyed today. The Arctic people entertain themselves by telling stories, singing, and dancing. The drum dance is a popular activity in both seasons. Arctic communities host Arctic winter games so that communities are able to get together and share their experiences.

