

Pocket 2

THE INUIT OF THE ARCTIC

CUT AND PASTE

**Pocket Label, Shelter Stamp,
Picture Dictionary Cards** page 13
See page 2 for information on how to prepare the pocket label and shelter stamp. See page 10 for information on how to prepare the picture dictionary cards.

FACT SHEET

The Inuit page 14
Read this background information to familiarize yourself with the Inuit. Share the information with your students as appropriate. Incorporate library and multimedia resources that are available.

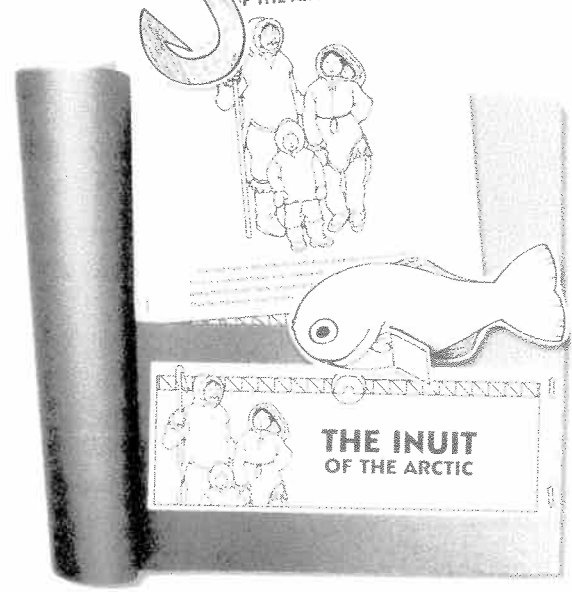
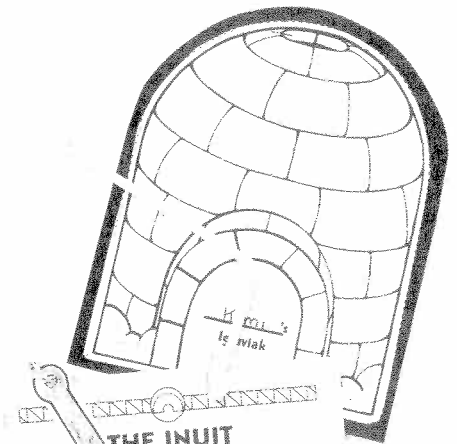
STUDENT BOOKLET

Make an Inuit Booklet pages 15–17
See page 2 for information on how to prepare the student booklet. Read and discuss the information as a class. Encourage students to read their booklets to partners or independently.

ACTIVITIES

Arctic Ice Fishing pages 18 & 19
There's nothing "fishy" happening when you set students free to go ice fishing like the Inuit.

Tell Me a Story pages 20–22
Ask students to imagine they are tucked away warmly inside their igluviaks and let them share stories Inuit-style.



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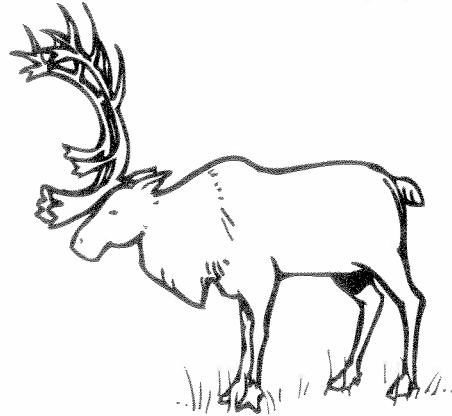
THE INUIT OF THE ARCTIC



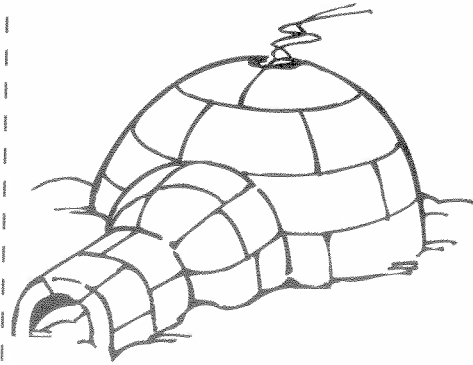
Pocket Label



kamiks



caribou



igluviak

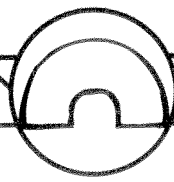
Picture Dictionary Cards



Inuit



Shelter Stamp



FACT SHEET

THE INUIT

INTRODUCTION

Many Native American groups lived in the Arctic. The Inuit (IHN yoo iht) people were one group who called this region their home. The Inuit inhabited the Northwest Territories, Greenland, and Alaska. The word *Inuit* is an Eskimo word that means "The People." Many neighboring groups called the Inuit "Eskimos," but this name is not correct. The term *Eskimo* means "Eaters of Raw Meat." Although the Inuit did eat raw meat, the name was meant as an insult.

CLOTHING

The Inuit wore special clothing to keep them dry and warm in the freezing temperatures. Their clothing was made of many layers, so that air trapped between the layers would keep their bodies warm.

Inuit men, women, and children wore the same types of clothing. The Inuit wore pants made from white bearskin. Each person also wore a heavy fur coat made from fox, seal, or caribou. Underneath their heavy coats, Inuit people wore shirts made from bird skin. They wore lightweight, waterproof parkas over their coats to keep themselves dry.

Every Inuit wore a pair of mittens made from sealskin or caribou. Each mitten often had two thumbs. Sometimes a person's thumb got wet and cold. When this happened, it was easy to turn the mitten around and use the other thumb covering without taking off the mitten.

Each family member wore a pair of boots called kamiks. The kamiks were made from sealskin. Even the huskies wore little skin shoes to protect their paws from the cold arctic weather.

When the sun's rays reflected off the snow, there was often a blinding glare. This made it difficult for the Inuit to see. The Inuit wore special goggles. They made the goggles from wood or bone. They cut a small hole in the center of each eyepiece so that the person wearing them would be able to see.

FOOD

The very cold temperature and climate of the tundra made growing crops impossible for the Inuit.

Inuit men spent most of their time hunting and ice fishing. Often the Inuit ate raw seal, caribou, walrus, whale, and fish.

Sometimes they preserved the meat so they could eat it later. To preserve the meat, they placed it in bags made from dried meat or whale blubber. The Inuit also ate fish and blood soup.

SHELTER

The Inuit called their homes igloos. An igloo was not just a snow- or ice-covered house, though. The Inuit built three different types of igloos: sod houses, snow houses, and tents.

Sod houses were the most permanent types of homes. The bottom of the house was made out of sod. Whalebone and driftwood were used to build the sides and roof. Sod was then packed onto the igloo to keep it insulated.

Inuit families often had to leave their sod houses to move farther out onto the ice. There they could hunt and fish more easily. While on the ice, the Inuit lived in snow-covered igloos called igluviaks. The Inuit built their igluviaks from blocks of hard, frozen snow. A block of ice in the ceiling served as a skylight.

When winter was over, the snow-covered igloos began to melt. Then the Inuit moved away from the ice fields and built tents from wooden poles and animal skins. The Inuit knew where caribou and other animals would arrive in the spring. These were the areas where the Inuit set up their tents.

FAMILY LIFE

Inuit children, parents, and other relatives lived in one shelter. Inuit families spent a great deal of time indoors because of the harsh weather. They told stories, played string games, made soapstone carvings, and sang songs.

Boys trained at an early age to become hunters like their fathers. Harpoons, kayaks, and dogsleds were important tools. Boys also learned how to build snow houses and make weapons.

Girls learned how to make new clothing, repair old clothing, set traps, and trim wicks. Both boys and girls were taught how to train dogs and drive a sled.



THE INUIT OF THE ARCTIC



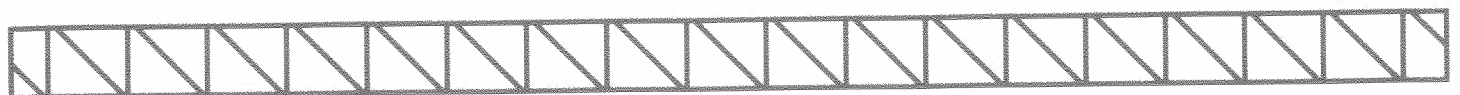
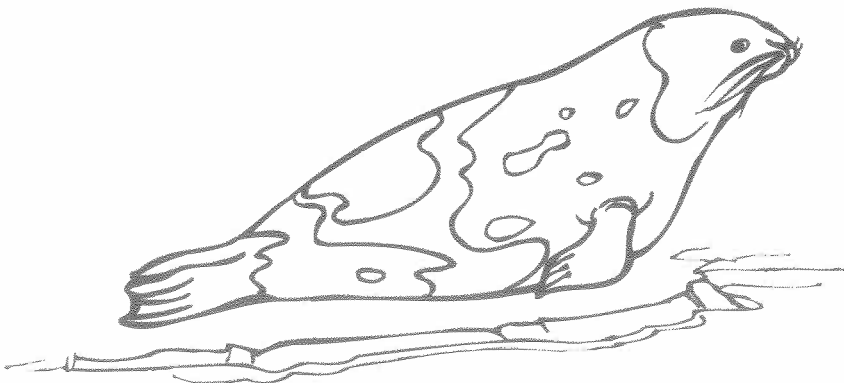
The Inuit have lived in the far north Arctic areas for a long time. The Arctic is a cold and frozen area. Greenland, Canada, and Alaska are places where the Inuit live. Some people call these Native Americans "Eskimos." They like the name "Inuit" better.

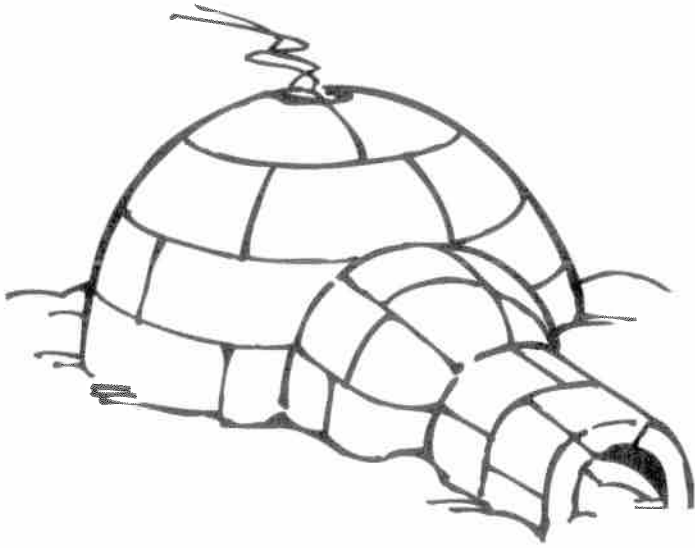
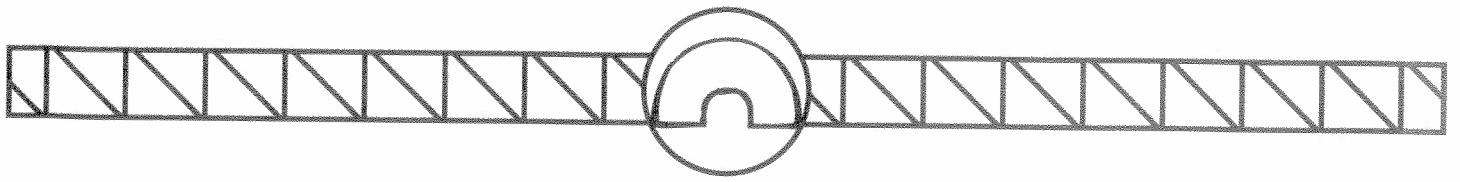


Inuit men, women, and children wore special clothing to keep them warm. Shirts were made from bird skins. Pants and coats were made from animal fur. They wore lightweight parkas over their clothing. The parkas were waterproof to keep their clothing dry. The Inuit also wore mittens and boots, called **kamiks**. Even the dogs wore skin shoes to keep their paws dry and warm.

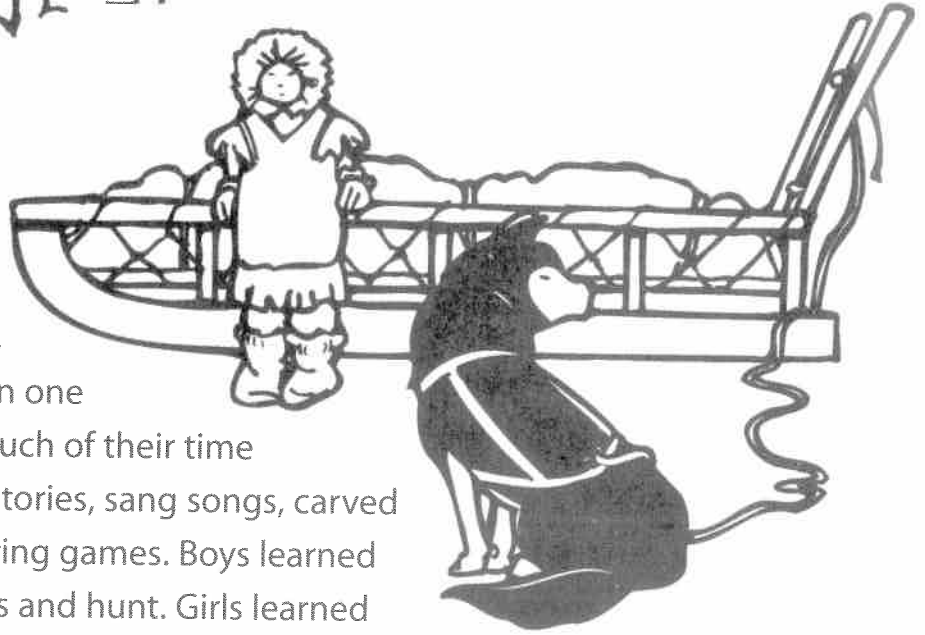


The Inuit were not able to grow crops. The weather was too cold. The Inuit hunted and fished for food. Inuit men used their harpoons and kayaks to hunt seal, walrus, whale, and fish. Sometimes they cut a hole in the ice and waited for a fish to bite. On land they hunted polar bear and **caribou**.



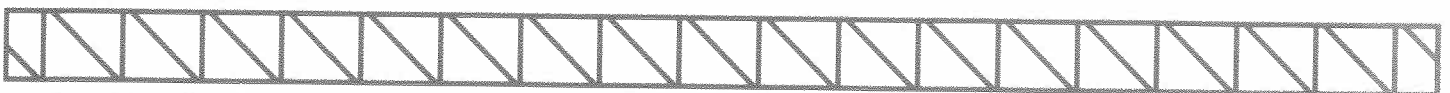
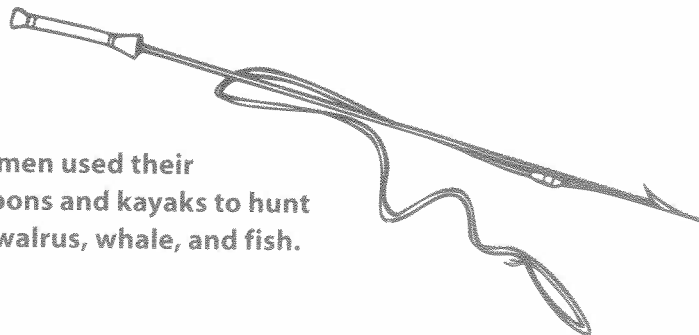


The Inuit lived in snow houses called **igluviaks**. They were built out of blocks of hard snow. In the spring, the igluviaks melted. Then the Inuit moved to where the caribou lived. They built tents from wooden poles and animal skins. When the long winter returned, the Inuit made snow houses again.



Inuit children, parents, and other relatives lived in one shelter. The Inuit spent much of their time indoors. They often told stories, sang songs, carved soapstone, and played string games. Boys learned how to build snow houses and hunt. Girls learned how to make clothing and set traps. Both boys and girls learned how to drive a sled and care for dogs.

► Inuit men used their harpoons and kayaks to hunt seal, walrus, whale, and fish.



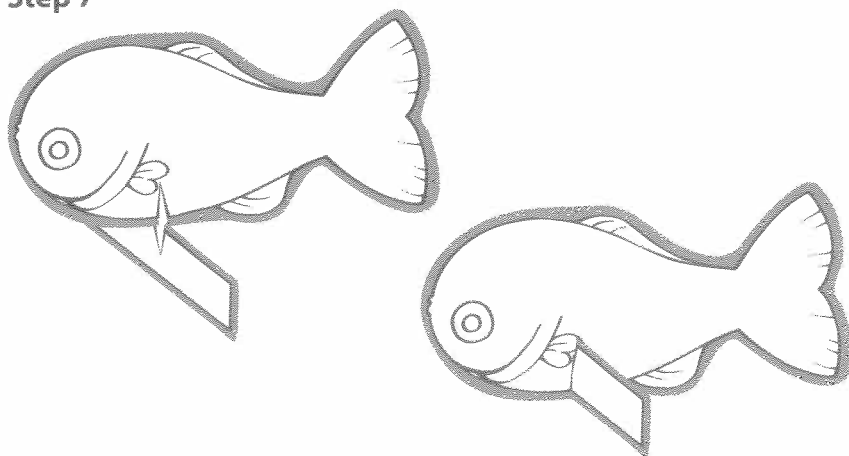
ARCTIC ICE FISHING

The Inuit often cut a hole in the ice, dropped their hook and line into the water, and waited. Invite students to go ice fishing Inuit-style by making a fish and pole. Then let the patience and fun begin!

STEPS TO FOLLOW

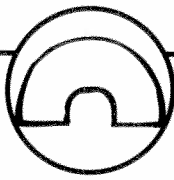
1. Color the hook and fish parts on page 19.
2. Glue the page to a piece of tagboard and cut out the parts. Carefully cut the slits in both the fish and the strip.
3. Using a hole punch, make a hole through the circle at the top of the fishhook.
4. Thread the string through the straw. Knot one end of the string and wrap masking tape around the knot. Make sure the masking tape "ball" is large enough to keep the string from pulling back through the straw.
5. Tie the other end of the string through the hole at the top of the hook.
6. Peel off the adhesive strip on the back of each magnet strip. Stick one magnet onto the fish where an eye should be. Stick the other magnet in the center of the hook.
7. To make the fish stand upright, fit the strip and the bottom of the fish together. Slide both parts together on the slits as shown.
8. Stand the fish upright on the floor. Pull on the string until the hook is at the top of the straw. Slowly lower the hook and try to make the two magnet pieces touch.
9. Tell students to get ready to reel in their fish. Have students think about what it would feel like to sit on the ice and wait for a fish to take the bait. You may choose to have students write a brief description of what they would see, hear, and feel.

Step 7

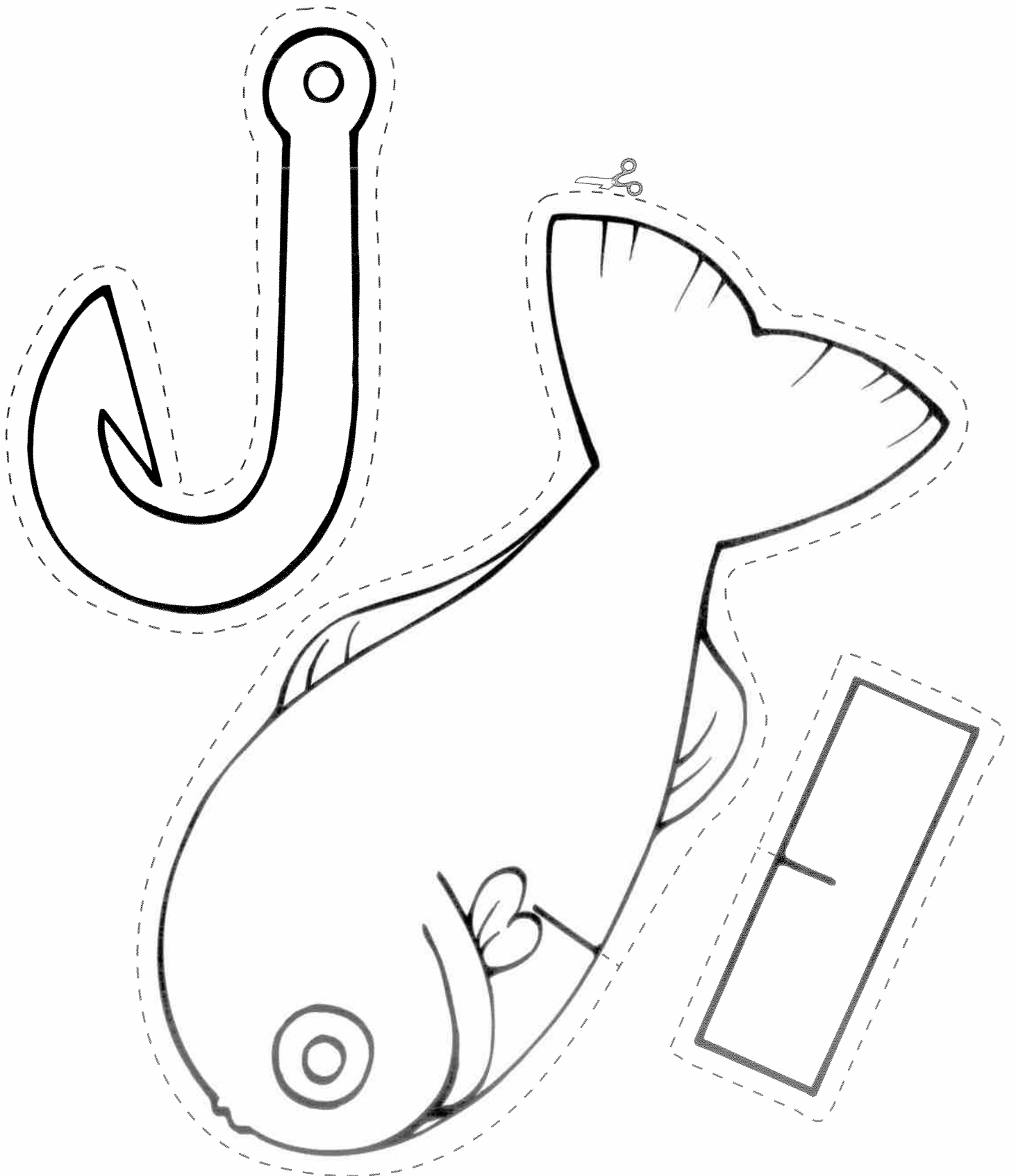


MATERIALS

- page 19, reproduced for each student
- plastic drinking straw
- 36" (91.5 cm) length of string
- two 1" (2.5 cm) magnet strips
- marking pens
- scissors
- hole punch
- 9" x 12" (23 x 30.5 cm) tagboard
- masking tape
- glue



ARCTIC ICE FISHING



TELL ME A STORY

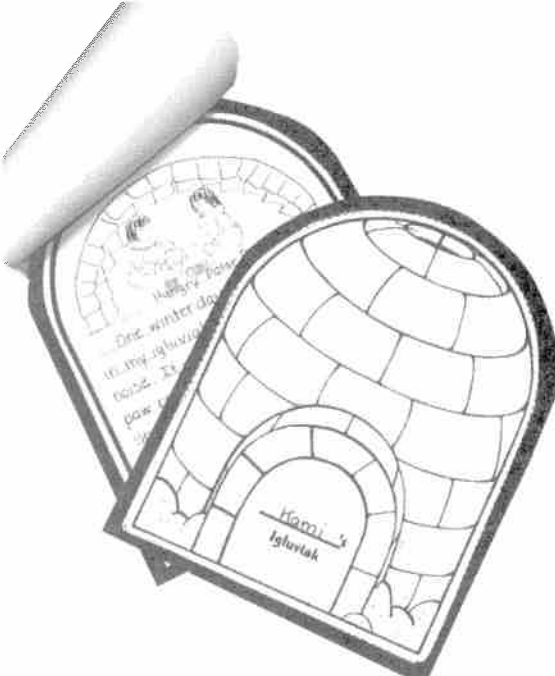
What did the Inuit do to entertain themselves during long winters? Why, tell stories, of course. The Inuit spent long periods telling stories and passing down oral traditions while they sat together inside their igluviaks. Invite students to pass the time by creating stories to share just like the Inuit.

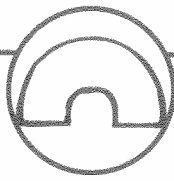
STEPS TO FOLLOW

1. Discuss what it would be like to be an Inuit living on the tundra. On page 22, each student writes a personal experience about something that may have happened on the tundra. (More mature writers may need several copies of page 22.)
2. Draw and color pictures of children tucked away inside the igluviak at the top of the writing form.
3. Cut out both igluviak patterns.
4. Staple the patterns together so that the story pattern is behind the cover pattern. Glue the story pattern to black construction paper, trimming around the edges.
5. Have students write their name on the cover pattern. Lift the top page and share the Inuit story.

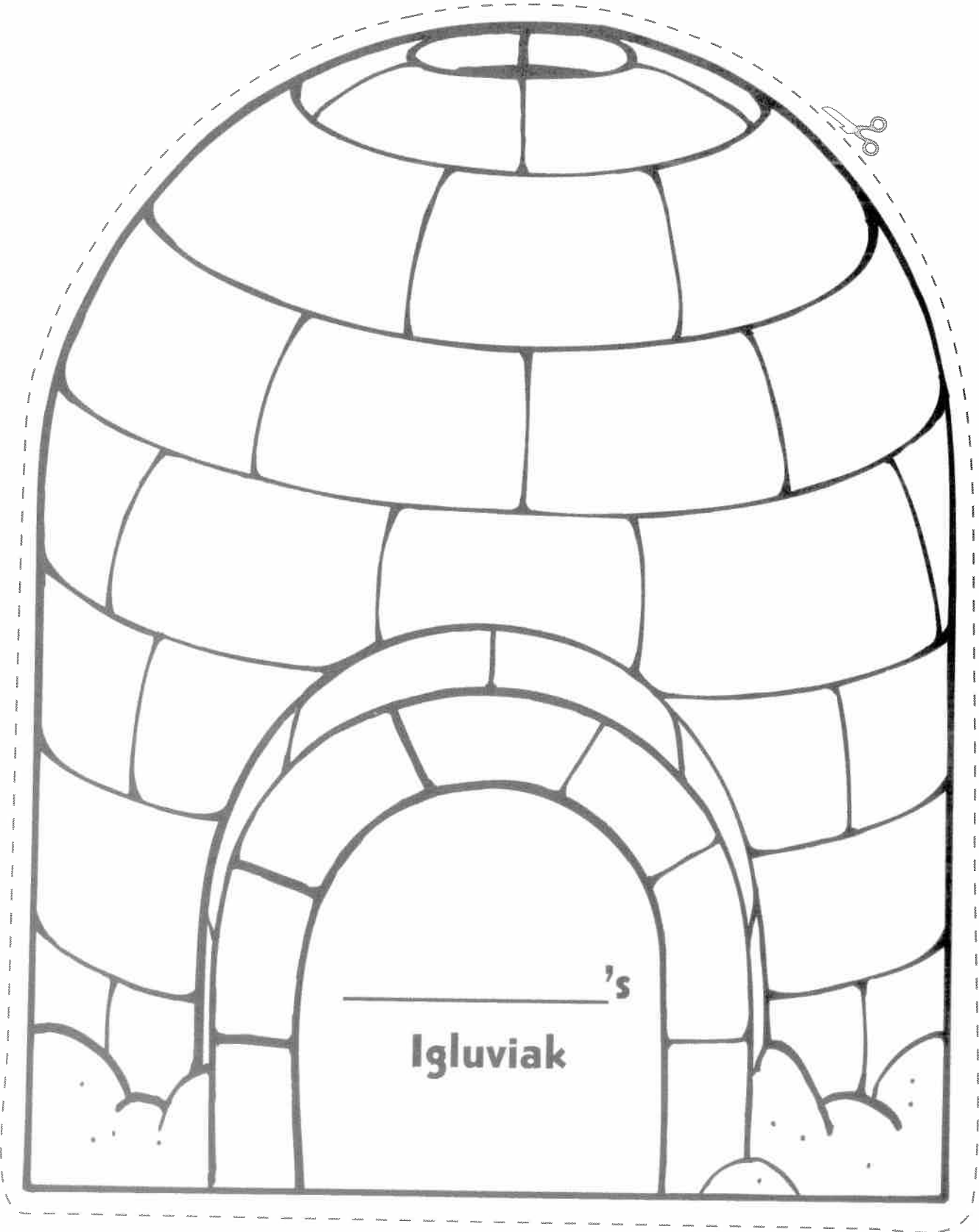
MATERIALS

- pages 21 and 22, reproduced for each student
- 9" x 12" (23 x 30.5 cm) black construction paper
- scissors
- stapler
- crayons
- pencil





TELL ME A STORY





TELL ME A STORY

A large arched writing area with a dashed outer border and a solid inner border. A pair of scissors icon is on the right side of the dashed border. Inside the arch are ten horizontal lines for writing.