

Inuit Culture of Alaska

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History

Food

- Whale and caribou are the main source of food.

There is also a heavy reliance on water based catch like Seal, mussels, and fish.

- Some of these are eaten raw or

Cooked, and majority is prepped and stored for the winter

And anything that is caught is shared with all involved

As well as the elders.

Shelter and Clothing

- All parts of a hunted animal are used either for food, clothing, or shelter.
- Animal hides were sewn together to create boots, parkas, leggings, as well as

The covers to various shelters depending on the time of year

- Bones and wood were used to make tools and weapons for hunting and building
Ex. sleds, kayaks, knives, goggles, toys, shelter frames

Day to Day

- Male and female duties were evenly distributed, with men being hunters and building shelter, women preparing food and sewing clothes, and typically overseeing children since men were gone. Marriage was arranged by parents usually after birth and was instigated when the girl turned 15 or 16, while the male would usually be near 20.



Introduction of Colonialism

- There was little contact between colonizers and the Inuit people Besides various violent occurrences, and seasonal trade. Even so, The introduction of european foods and people disrupted healthy Tribes and inflicted many diseases and STDs
- Some shamanistic rituals, animal hide clothes and tools, and hunting where the main influences of Inuit culture. This was Forcibly changed by the introduction of reform boarding school.
- Children were removed from homes and forced to attend a Reform boarding school that taught them to speak english, forced European centered clothes, ideals, and practices, and enforced Christianity
- When the children were sent back home they could not communicate with family because they did not speak Inuktitut, and where not knowledgeable in traditions. Hunting did pull through.



Where They Are Now

- Today the Inuit rely on a wage economy and usually have multiple jobs throughout a town depending on the time of year.
- Food in Alaska is very expensive so the tradition of hunting, dividing, and providing for elders still carries on.
- Snowmobiles, 4 wheelers, boats, and cars are mode of modern Transportation and typical modern hunting equipment it used to catch food.
- Schools teach standard US curriculum with Inuktitut as an elective, Meaning most don't fluently speak the language.
- The major religion is christianity, and the overall daily life is the American typical
- There is a resurgence of tradition and inuit people bringing back Aspects of their culture such as traditional tattoos which were banned by Missionaries. There has also been bracelets, earrings, and clothes made with Traditional symbols which were also banned at one point.

