

Snow Talking



Objective

Students will learn how different cultures view their world and name what they see.

Materials

- picture book of Inuits or other polar peoples
- pencils
- writing paper
- crayons, markers

Background

Most Inuits live in a world covered with ice and snow for at least nine months a year. The English language has only a few words like powder and slush for different kinds of snow. The Inuit language has 14 different words. Each word describes a form of snow or snow object. Distinguishing different kinds of snow is important for traveling, for hunting animals, and for building shelters.

snow that is spread out—aput

snow block for building—auverk

drifting snow—perksertok

first snow fall—apingaut

snow for melting into water—aniuk, anio

snow that is hard—sitidlorak

snow house—iglu

snow like salt—pokaktok

snow mixed with water—massak

newly drifted snow—akelrorak

snow on clothes and boots—ayak

snow is soft—mauyak

it snows—kannertok

snow knife—panar

Action

1. Talk with students about different words they use in their home. Some families call a sofa a couch. Introduce Inuits and where they live. Discuss how important snow must be to them.
2. Use the words above to write or tell a story of an Inuit's day. What kind of snow would an Inuit melt to get a drink of water? What kind would he use to build a shelter? What kind would she brush off her clothes?
3. Have students draw a picture of their story.