

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 (see Bibliography on page 24)
- 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. Or a bathroom a lavatory. 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.



Dog sleds often run best on *sitidlorak* or snow that is hard.

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Books for Young Readers

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- Yue, Charlotte and David. *The Igloo*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1988.

Videotapes

- Shamu TV presents. *Arctic Adventures*, 1997. *Cool Critters*, 1998.

*Books available through the SeaWorld Adventure Park nearest you. Videotapes available through SeaWorld San Diego. Call for prices.

Note: Contact the SeaWorld park nearest you for a free comprehensive marinelife bibliography.