



EARLY PEOPLES

Peoples of the Arctic and Subarctic

Peoples of the Arctic and Subarctic explores the origins of people who lived in the Arctic and Subarctic regions of North America. Find out how they adapted to one of the coldest environments in the world.

What did you learn?

QUESTIONS

1. A small number of closely related families in the Subarctic and Arctic was called a ...
 - a. Band
 - b. Team
 - c. Gang
 - d. Orchestra
2. The Inuit of northern Alaska had a ceremonial gathering called the messenger feast, usually held in late ...
 - a. August
 - b. January
 - c. October
 - d. December
3. The Canadian Inuit Dog is also known as the ...
 - a. Canadian Snowy Dog
 - b. Malamute
 - c. Husky
 - d. Qimmiq
4. The Athabaskans in central Alaska enjoyed a game similar to modern ...
 - a. Soccer
 - b. Lacrosse
 - c. Ice hockey
 - d. Basketball
5. What is *muckluck*?
6. The natural display of light in the sky called aurora borealis is also known as what?

TRUE OR FALSE?

- _____ 1. The Arctic is typically very wet.
- _____ 2. The Inuit word *isumataq* is used to describe a person in authority.
- _____ 3. Arctic and Subarctic peoples believed that a human soul died with the body.
- _____ 4. In the far north, much of the food was eaten raw.
- _____ 5. The Arctic's frigid winter temperatures and strong winds can freeze exposed skin.
- _____ 6. The Oral Traditions Project was started in order to discover ancient Inuit manuscripts.

ANSWERS

- 1. a. Band.** According to section "Arctic and Subarctic Society" on page 14, we know that "A band was usually made up of a small number of families who were closely related." So, the correct answer is A.
- 2. b. January.** According to section "Ceremonies and Celebrations" on page 31, we know that "The Inuit of northern Alaska had a ceremonial gathering called the messenger feast. It was usually held late in January, with one village hosting visitors from neighboring villages." So, the correct answer is B.
- 3. d. Qimmiq.** According to section "Dogs in the Arctic and Subarctic" on page 48, we know that "The qimmiq (*KIHM ihk*), also known as the Canadian Inuit Dog or the Canadian Eskimo Dog, is large with a broad muzzle, thick fur, and a curled tail that looks similar to the Siberian husky or Alaskan malamute." So, the correct answer is D.
- 4. c. Ice hockey.** According to section "Entertainment" on page 55, we know that "The Athabaskans in central Alaska enjoyed a game similar to modern ice hockey." So, the correct answer is C.
- 5.** According to page 60, muckluck is a "high, soft, waterproof, fur-lined boot often made of sealskin."
- 6.** According to page 35, aurora borealis is also known as the northern lights.

TRUE OR FALSE? ANSWERS

- 1. False.** According to section "Challenge of the Far North" on page 9, we know that "The Arctic is very dry. Only 2 to 10 inches (5 to 25 centimeters) of precipitation falls each year in most of the Arctic. Precipitation is usually in the form of snow. Parts of the Arctic are as dry as deserts are in other parts of the world." So, the correct answer is False.
- 2. True.** According to section "One Who Thinks" on page 18, we know that "The Inuit word *isumataq* (*ee soo mah tahk*) is used to describe a person in authority. It can be translated as *one who thinks*." So, the correct answer is True.
- 3. False.** According to section "The Spirit World" on page 25, we know that "Arctic and Subarctic peoples believed that a human soul lived on after the body had died." So, the correct answer is False.
- 4. True.** According to section "Food in the Arctic and Subarctic" on page 37, we know that "In the far north, much of the food was eaten raw. The main reason was lack of fuel to cook food. Wood was scarce, and using sea mammal oil for cooking used up the supply too quickly." So, the correct answer is True.
- 5. True.** According to section "Clothing in the Arctic" on page 44, we know that "The Arctic's frigid winter temperatures and strong winds can freeze exposed skin in minutes." So, the correct answer is True.
- 6. False.** According to section "Looking Ahead" on page 59, we know that "In 1996, Nunavut Arctic College began a program called the Oral Traditions Project. The goal of the project was to talk to Inuit elders and record their stories and knowledge of Inuit history, so that the information could be preserved and passed on to future generations." So, the correct answer is False.