




Culture Corner

The Igloo

- 1 a) Look at the pictures and the title. What information do you think the text includes?
- b) Answer the following questions in pairs.
 - What material(s) are igloos made of: concrete, bricks, mud, snow, wood, sod, or stone?
 - What are the houses in your country usually made of?

Listening

- 2  Listen and label sentences 1-3 as T (True) or F (False). Then, correct the false statements.
 - 1 Igloos are popular everywhere in North America.
 - 2 A skilled craftsman can build an igloo in two days.
 - 3 In the 1900s, the tradition of igloo-building died out.

Reading

- 3 Read the article and answer questions 1-4. Then explain the words in bold.
 - 1 How old is the craft of igloo-building?
 - 2 What material(s) did the Inuit use to build winter or summer homes?
 - 3 Why did igloo-building go into decline?
 - 4 Do the Inuit still build igloos today?

Speaking

- 4 Take notes about the history of igloo-building, the materials used, and why it declined. Then, use your notes to talk about this craft.

Writing (Project)

- 5 *Portfolio:* Collect or draw pictures of various types of houses in your country – traditional and modern – and prepare a poster for your class. Write a short description of each house. Include:
 - type of house • location • materials used

An Inuit Tradition

The Inuit **inhabit** the Arctic from the tip of Siberia, along the coast of Alaska to the northern coast of Canada. The dome-shaped igloos that we all recognize are common only in Canadian Arctic areas and are a tradition that **goes back** over a thousand years.

While different Inuit people lived in tents made with animal skin in the summer and homes made of stone, mud, and sod in the winter, it was only the Canadian Inuit who used the popular **dome-shaped** igloos as **permanent** winter homes. As other materials were not available, using snow was their only option. These **dwellings** were easier to build and could be set up anywhere, even on ice. In fact, a **skilled craftsman** would take only about two hours to complete an igloo.

Blocks of hard snow were cut out with a snow knife and then stacked in a circle. Each circle was smaller than the previous one in order to form a dome shape, with a hole at the top for **ventilation**. A window was often added using a clear piece of ice. To keep drafts out, a piece of animal skin hung over the entrance.

Despite contact with the industrialized cultures of Europe in the 1800s, many Inuit continued to follow their traditional way of life. However, by the 1900s, the tradition of igloo-building went into **decline** when wooden homes became more practical. Today, the Inuit live in modern houses, using igloos only as temporary **shelters** during hunting trips.

