

Arctic Writing Tasks

Fact File

'All you need to survive is a little snow for water, the air you breathe and a shelter like this. It feels good doesn't it, to stop and rest in something that you built?'

All animals need **food, water and shelter** to survive. Inuits have to survive in very difficult conditions. You found out just dangerous life in the Arctic can be when you joined the hunting expedition. How did you create a safe shelter? Search for food and water?

Create a **fact file** explaining how to survive in the Arctic.

You might include:

- different sections to explain how each need is met: e.g. food, shelter and water
- diagrams: e.g. of an igloo or a fishing hole in the ice

Remember:

- label diagrams clearly
- use headings for each section

How to build an Igloo

'An igloo is built out of nothing but snow. But it has to be the right kind. Dry, hard, packed down by the wind. So that when I cut out a square with my saw, like this, I can cut a perfect block like stone.'

Your father gave you very clear instructions on how to build an igloo out of snow. Remember the sense of achievement you felt once it was completed and you stepped inside?! But it must be done correctly.

Write a list of instructions explaining how to build an igloo to somebody who hasn't done it before.

You might include:

- labelled diagrams

Remember:

- number each instruction clearly and set them out in the correct order!
- use bossy language:

1. **Find** some dry, hard snow.
2. **Cut** out a square block like stone.

Diary Entry: The First Hunt

What an incredible day you've had. So many adventures, so many challenges from: wishing you could join the hunting expedition; finding yourself there after falling asleep under the reindeer skins; being the one relied upon to get help when your father and Gedion were trapped under the ice; and being renamed 'Atnarjuat' /'the Fast One'... how proud you felt.

Write a **diary entry** recording one of the key moments of your day. You experienced so many different challenges and feelings. Which one made the biggest impression?

You might include:

- description of different sights, sounds, smells or tastes: eg 'As I stamped my foot on the snow a booming crack roared in my ears. I knew this meant disaster. A jagged line was splitting the ground right in front of me. What had I done?!'

Remember:

- describe your feelings as well as what happened

Menu for a Feast

Papa promised that you would eat some of the best food you had ever tasted at the feast after a successful hunt. That certainly came true, even if not in the way that anyone had expected:

'Lots of people are gathered around many skins on the floor. In front of you are large trays of whale meat, seal meat and mountains of berry-filled Akudak. Lick your lips. You're starving! You've gone nearly a whole day without food.'

Design a menu for an Inuit Feast. Remember some of the delicacies that you tasted at the feast provided by Amka's village: mussels and that delicious Inuit ice cream, Akudak with the flavour of berries and fish!

You might include:

- different sections for savoury and sweet courses
- illustrations

Remember:

- use commas for descriptive words in a list: eg 'luscious, ripe berries bursting with juice'
- label your pictures

Husky Dogs and the Inuit way of Life

You know how important the husky dogs were to you and your family during the hunting expedition, particularly your favourite husky, Arluk. He kept you warm on the sled, helped pull the sled and even made his own way back to your village so your mum was able to come and find you.

Write a report to explain the role husky dogs play in the lives of the Inuits living in the Arctic. What makes them particularly good at this job? Watch this short video clip to find out some more facts.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QeDv3hVcc8A>

You might include:

- description of their strengths: eg fast, intelligent, good homing instinct
- how the Inuit hunters and fishermen care for them

Remember:

- include pictures and diagrams
- label your pictures