



## Inupiaq/Siberian Yupik Culture Try-It

**Level:** Brownie

**Requirements:** Complete 4 of the following activities.

- 1. Native Legends / Story Time!** Ask an elder or a tradition bearer to tell you some legends, or have someone read you children's books about life in this area of Alaska (some examples are the legend *Caribou Girl* by Claire Rudolf Murphy; *Go Home, River* by James Magdanz; *Kumak's House* by Michael Bania; and *Unipchaat 1, 2, or 3: Animal Stories of the Kobuk River Eskimos* edited by Akugluk Wilfried Zibell).
- 2. Scrimshaw** Look at examples of scrimshaw from this area of Alaska. Practice a few designs on a sheet of paper, looking at the lines and patterns of Eskimo art for ideas. With a sharp tool, scratch your design into a smooth, flat side of a bar of soap. Gently rub ink into the surface of the soap with a small brush or rag. Carefully pat off the excess ink. Do not rub. The ink should remain in the depression scratched into the soap.
- 3. Map it!** Find the Inupiaq region and St. Lawrence Island on a map of Alaska, and label at least ten villages. How is the climate in this area different from other parts of Alaska?
- 4. Arctic Animals** Traditionally, the Inupiaq and Siberian Yupik Eskimos depend on hunting for food. What kinds of animals are typically used to provide food for the people? Learn about the traditional whale hunt done by people in villages along the coast. How are the various parts of the whale used? With the help of other girls, make a large drawing or poster to show how the entire community gets involved.
- 5. Native Games** Learn about Native youth games in the state of Alaska and World Eskimo-Indian Olympics ([www.weio.org](http://www.weio.org)). How are these competitions an important part of skill development? Which competitions and games are most helpful in developing skills essential to survival **in this part of Alaska**? Watch a competition (live or on video), and practice one event until you improve your performance.
- 6. Language Lessons** Learn how to say four new Inupiaq or Siberian Yupik phrases. Teach one to your family.
- 7. Celebrate!** Learn about an important occasion for celebration in this part of Alaska. Why is this event important to celebrate, and what is done to make the celebration special? What roles do various people play? Hold a similar celebration (or act one out) with your troop or group.

“Paglagivsignin” (We welcome you) – Inupiaq

“Quyakamsitagilghilsi” (We welcome you) – Siberian Yupik

See Inupiaq/Siberian Yupik Culture Badge for additional resources.