

INUIT QAUJIMAJATUQANGIT



CANADIAN GEOGRAPHIC EDUCATION'S

ONLINE
Classroom

Subject:

Traditional Inuit Knowledge, Climate Change

Time:

45-60 minutes

Grades:

7-10 (can be adapted for older or younger grades)

What to know before getting started:

Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is a term that encompasses all knowledge in Inuit culture. In the following exercise, you will read an article published by *Canadian Geographic* and identify traditions that are unique to the Inuit, all the while learning about the negative impact climate change is having on the Grise Fiord. After building an understanding of Inuit traditional ways of living, you will consider how climate change is impacting Inuit traditions and how Inuit communities are having to adapt to new environmental conditions.

Materials you will need:

- Writing materials and a notebook
- Printer (optional)

Activity time!

Read the *Canadian Geographic* article [Grise Fiord: Cold warriors](#). As you read the article, write down the key geographical terms you come across under the correct heading in the table below:

Human Geography (Terms that describe communities, cultures, economies, lifestyles, traditions)	Environmental Geography (Terms that describe interactions between people and the environment)	Physical Geography (Terms that describe weather, climate, landscapes, natural processes)

INUIT QAUJIMAJATUQANGIT



CANADIAN GEOGRAPHIC EDUCATION'S

ONLINE
Classroom

Next, write a summary paragraph in the space below that describes the Grise Fiord region and local Inuit culture, and how the environment and cultural traditions are changing with ongoing climate change. Be sure to use multiple geographical perspectives, like the ones in the summary table above.

Brainstorm what you already know about traditional Inuit knowledge. What would you like to know more about? Write three examples in the space below. If time permits, research these items using articles, books or the internet.

What knowledge, traditions or skills have been passed on to you from your family members and ancestors (e.g. identifying good fishing spots, secret family recipes, traditional hunting methods, language and sayings)? Are there similarities and/or differences between your family's traditions and those described in the article? Provide examples below.

INUIT QAUJIMAJATUQANGIT



CANADIAN GEOGRAPHIC EDUCATION'S
**ONLINE
Classroom**

List some ways in which everyday life in the Grise Fiord differs from everyday life in the region where you live. Consider human, physical and environmental geographical perspectives.

Traditions are passed down in many Indigenous cultures; this includes ceremonies, hunting and gathering practices, and stories. How might climate change impact these traditions if sea ice keeps shrinking and certain natural resources become scarce?

This article was written in 2008. Although the message still remains relevant, research ways in which the Grise Fiord has changed in the last 12 years. Draw a Venn diagram to organize your thoughts into three categories: the past, the present, and similarities, based on what you've read and researched.

INUIT QAUJIMAJATUQANGIT



CANADIAN GEOGRAPHIC EDUCATION'S

ONLINE
Classroom

Share your learning adventure with us!

We want to see your amazing work! Tag @CanGeoEdu on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram and use the hashtags #OnlineClassroom!

Extend your geographical thinking:

- Learn about other communities in northern Canada and explore how they are being affected by climate change.
- Read the article *It's time to listen to the Inuit on climate change* which suggests that between the years 2030 and 2052, the world will reach an irreversible temperature peak, which will have significant impacts on Arctic regions and communities.