

INUKSHUK (ee-nook-sook) The Successful Student
7th Grade Advisement Activity
Estimated time: 20-30 Minutes



Georgia's Teachers-As-Advisors Framework
Goal: 7-2.2 Recognize and attain performance levels necessary to reach educational and career goals.

Goal: 7-1.4 Master 21st Century skills in order to obtain, create, maintain, and advance individual employment options.

Competencies:

7-2.2 a. Recognize the importance of achievement and performance to the attainment of educational and career goals.

7-1.4 b. Identify and recognize strategies for improving one's educational achievement and performance.

Objectives: Students will consider what makes a successful student by identifying 11 qualities.

Materials:

- Butcher paper or large sheets of paper; newsprint taped together to make a large poster will do with dark markers
- Markers
- 1 handout of the INUKSHUK

Activity:

1. *Say:* Welcome to advisement. I am glad to see you. I hope all is going well with you and your family. Today in advisement you will identify 11 qualities that can make a student successful. You will work as a group to brainstorm the ideas then build the inukshuk on the wall to help guide others.
2. Read the background information about an inukshuk.

For thousands of years, the Inuit peoples have hunted and fished the Canadian arctic. They did not build permanent settlements. Instead, they adapted their living conditions to the seasonal changes in the northern climate and to the behavior of the animals they hunted.

During the long darkness of the arctic winter, numbers of Inuit families gathered together in camps. They hunted seals for food, clothing, and the oil that fueled their lamps. Their homes at this time of the year were igloos, the snow houses that many people still identify with the Inuit [though most modern Inuit live in houses].

When the sun rose over the horizon, and the darkness gave way to entire days of sunshine, the camps broke up into smaller hunting groups, often no larger than a single family. Some Inuit hunted caribou, the arctic deer that migrated during the summer and fall. Some moved to the rivers and coastal regions to fish and to gather bird eggs, berries, and shellfish. Whale and polar bear hunting were also ways that the hunting groups found food. During the hunts, the families lived in tents - sometimes of sealskin, sometimes of caribou hide.

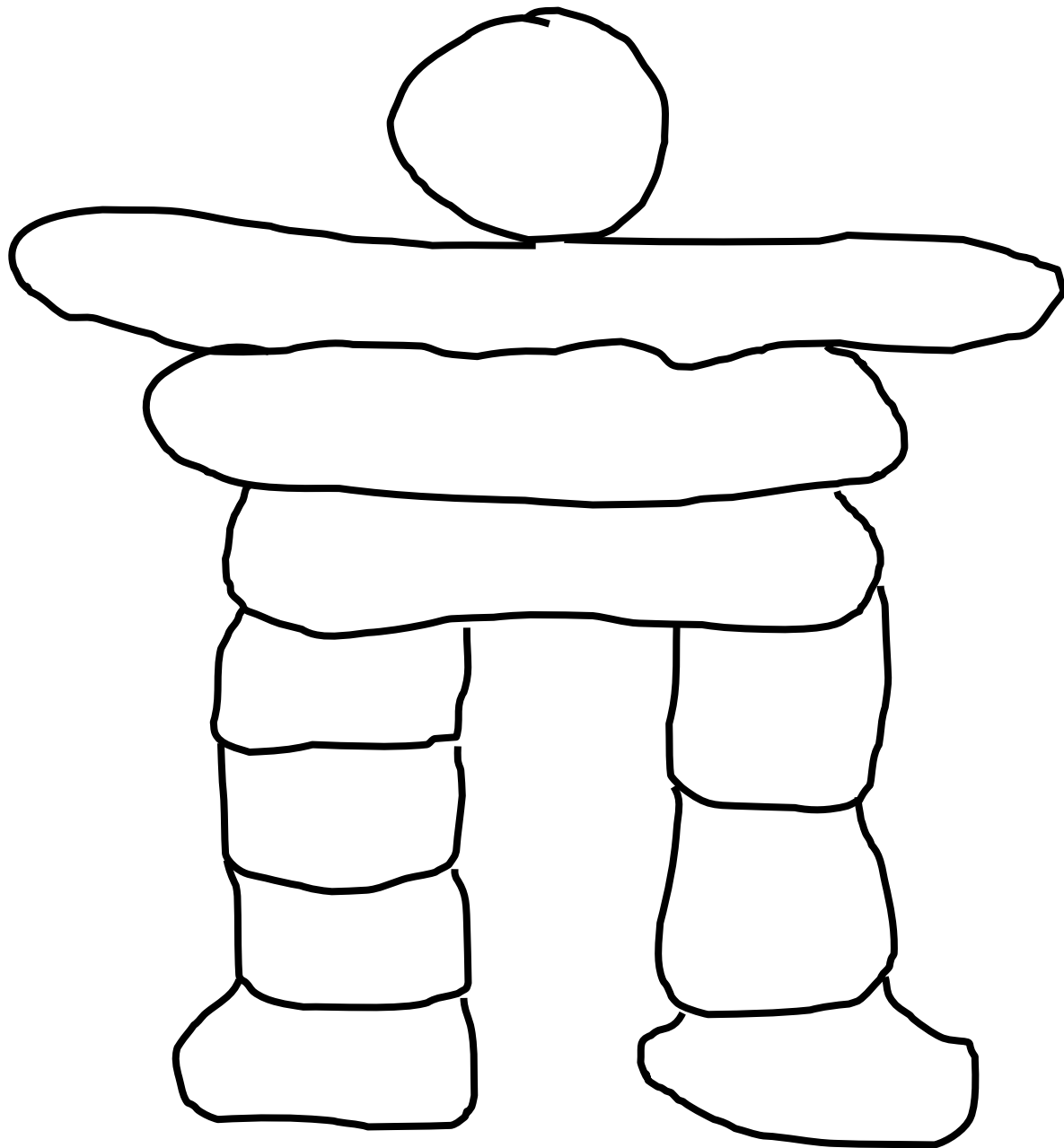
The Inuit culture revolved around the closeness of the family. Each member of the family was important to the group's survival, and all - including children and the elderly - were valued for the contributions they made. The older people taught their social values to the younger ones by example. By sharing their food and other goods freely with others, the elders showed the high value the Inuit place on generosity and cooperation, qualities that are very important in a climate

as harsh as the arctic's. The stories that respected adults told the children also were lessons in the Inuit way of sharing and working together.

During their summer hunts, Inuit families sometimes built stone piles, often in the shape of humans with outstretched arms. The Inuit call these sculptures "inukshuks." They marked good fishing sites, provided shelter from the wind, and sometimes offered a place for hunters to ambush caribou. On the wild arctic landscape they are often the only sign that humans have passed through, a symbol of the traditional Inuit way of life.

3. *Say:* Now that you have some background let's start our activity. *Ask:* Are there any questions about inukshuks? *Entertain questions. Answer as best you can. Say:* Select one person to record the groups brainstorming session on the qualities of a good student. You should reach a consensus on your 11 qualities. *Give the students about 5 minutes to brainstorm. Say:* Now you should tear or cut pieces of paper to match the pattern of the inukshuk on the handout. You should print one quality on each of the 11 segments of the inukshuk.
4. *After 10 minutes: Say:* Tape the segments on the wall to look like a inukshuk so others can see your work.
5. *Dismiss:* That looks great! I will spend some time in each class talking about the inukshuks. See you the next time we meet. Have a great day.

INUKSHUK



The Inukshuk is a stone monument guiding travelers in Northern Canada. It acts as a symbol of greeting and direction.