

## Inuit Sculptures Lesson Plan (4-12)

Lesson Plan (3 hours)

\*This lesson may be broken into stages with high school or middle school block times\*\*

### Materials

- Inuit sculpture tote
- Photocopy sheet for student stories
- Sculpy Clay for each student prepped
- Worksheet to write story or poem if time at end.

### Introduction:

#### 1. Introduce yourself

- Introduce yourself (name, title, and where you are from)
- Ask who are Aboriginal people? (Answer: First Nations, Métis and Inuit people)

### Introduction of the lesson We are going to create your own Inuit figurine

First thing we are going to do is increase our knowledge about the Inuit people...

1. *What do you know about the Inuit people?* **Write the answers on the board.**
2. *Where do they live?*
  - Arctic, Northern Canada, Alaska, Churchill, Manitoba, North Pole
3. *What does the landscape look like?*
  - rolling hill, pingos
  - very few trees
4. *What are their seasons like? Is there 4 seasons?*
  - winter, continuous darkness and summer no night, no real fall or spring
  - ocean freezes over in the winter
  - ice all year round
5. *What do Inuit people eat (traditionally)?*
  - bird eggs, seal, whale, caribou, walrus, polar bear, arctic hare, fish, birds, and berries.  
(Because they ate raw food, and every part of the animal, they did not lack vitamins, even though they had almost no vegetables to eat. With the introduction of modern Western-style food, including fast food, over the past two to three decades, the Inuit diet has changed, and not for the better)

### What kind of animals would you find in Northern Canada?

**(write the answers on the board, show the pictures)**

Musk ox, arctic fox, polar bears, ptarmigans, arctic snowy owl, caribou(reindeer), seal (harp seal, ring seal), mice, wolves, narwhal, walrus, beluga whale,

### Telling Inuit Stories:

Choose 2 or 3 stories to tell:

\*\*\*Show them the picture of the carving, ask them what story do they think is told by the sculpture (may have to tell the students what figures are in the sculpture)

Tell the students that you will read some more Inuit stories later, if there is time.

### Sculpting the clay into Arctic animal figurines:

Hand out the Sculpey clay to the students. Have them soften the clay in their hands.

Guide the students with directions:

1. make a snowball



2. make the snowball a cube / shape of a dice by squishing the 6 sides
3. make the cube into a cylinder by rolling it out between your palms
4. pinch one end to create a snout / beak
5. pinch two ears on top, shape the ears to create the character of your animal

At this point allow the students to continue creating an animal from what you have shown them OR... they can start over again at the ball stage to create their own animal

\*\*\*Quietly tell the teacher you are leaving to preheat the oven (275° F).

Tell the kids not to be afraid to start from a ball over and over again.  
Encourage them to look at photos, pictures of different Arctic animals.

**When the students are finishing:**

Hand the student who is finished a lined piece of paper. Ask them to write a short story about the animal that they just made.

How things came to be?

How animals helped humans?

Mythological creatures

How to be a good person / life lessons

(May or may not do this at middle or high school, ask the teacher if he or she wants this component)

When everyone is finished put the figurines on the cookie sheets

Tell the students that you are staying with the sculptures while they are cooking and I am handing you back to your teacher for 20 minutes.

Bake at 275°F for 20 minutes, you are not in the classroom at this time.

**Returning the Figurines to the class:**

Put the hot cookie sheets to the side, read the students 3 more stories while the figurines are cooling off.

**Closure:**

Hand out the figurines (maybe the students want to show their figurine to the class as they get it from you).

1. There may be time to get 3-5 students to show their figurine to the class.
2. Have the students put their figurine on the desk and have a "gallery walk".  
(All the kids walk around, looking at the sculptures, then they return to their desks). Ask 3-5 kids to compliment someone else's sculpture.
3. Have the students who wrote a story share their story with the class
4. (All the kids walk around, looking at the sculptures, then they return to their desks). Ask 3-5 kids to compliment someone else's sculpture

## Snowy Owl





Lemming

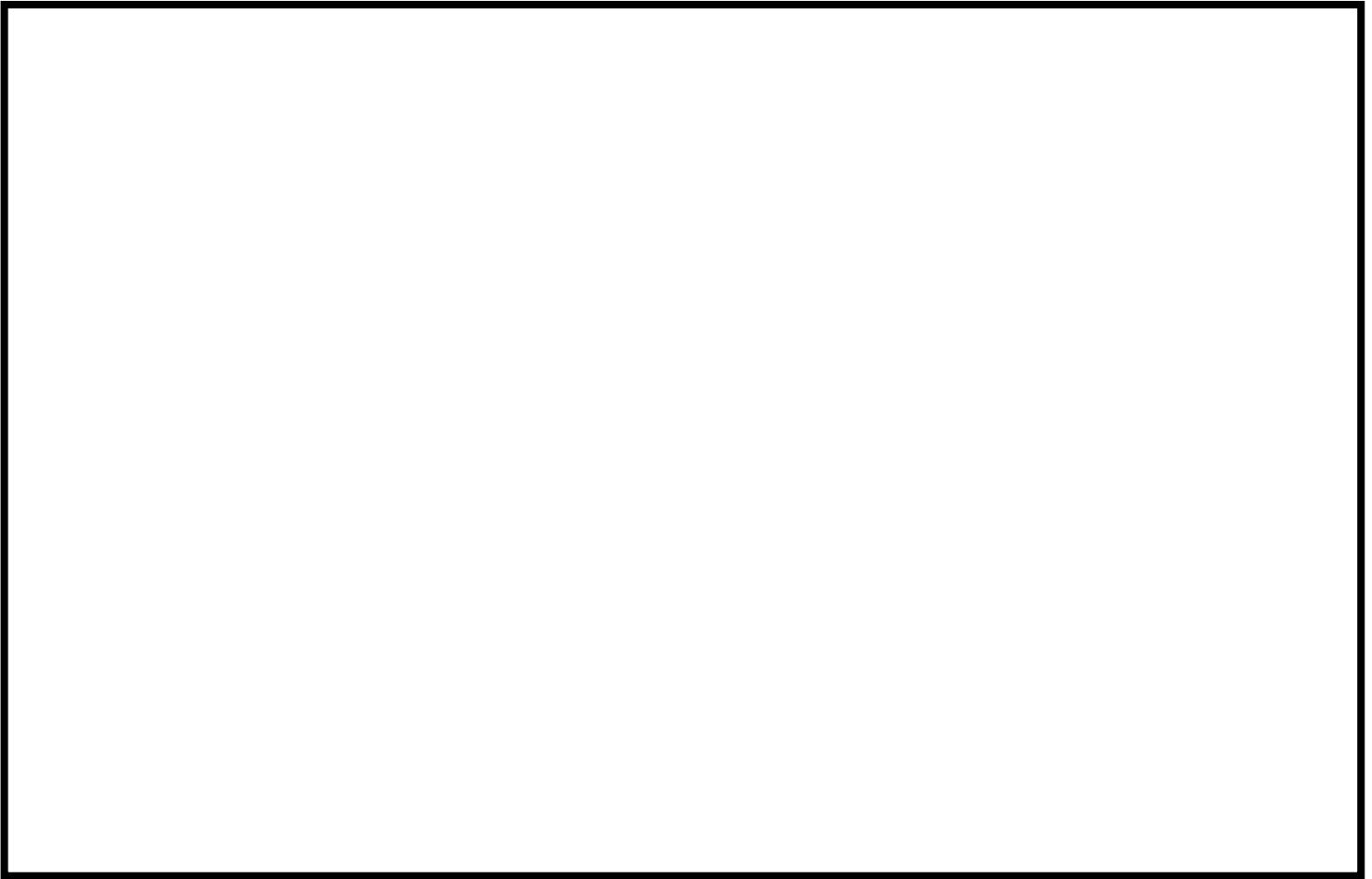




# Inuit Sculptures

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Four sets of horizontal writing lines, each consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.