

LEVEL

7

Upper
Intermediate

Compass
Readers

Living in the Cold

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Cities or Not?

Most people live in cities. Cities can be good places to live. It is easy to buy food from the market or store. There is usually public transportation. You can also buy a car or motorcycle. There are many houses and apartments. Many of these have heat in the winter to keep you warm. They also have air conditioning in the summer. A person can turn on a faucet any time, and there is water.

Cities have many things that make life easy.





Some people choose to live where it is very cold.

However, there are people in the world who choose not to live in cities. They live in places where the **necessities** of life are hard to find. Some people have homes in some of the coldest places on Earth. Northern Canada, northern Europe, and Mongolia all have very cold **climates**. Yet the Inuit, the Sami, and the Mongolians have all they need there to live.

The Land of the People

Northern Canada is one of the hardest places in the world to live. Part of the area is the Arctic Ocean. It is frozen all year long. The land is **tundra** and has no trees. In the summer, only a few small plants like grasses and **lichen** grow. Northern Canada has very cold winters. The temperatures are around minus thirty-four degrees Celsius. In the winter, the sun may shine for only two to three hours each day. Sometimes there is no sunlight at all. Yet there are people who live there. The Inuits, which in their language means “the people,” call this area home.

The weather is very cold, but people are still able to live in the Arctic!

 Did You Know?

In the past, Inuits used caribou skins to build tents.



The Inuit **survive** by hunting and fishing. They are people who follow the migrations of animals. In the summer, they hunt for caribou, a large deer. They also fish in small boats called kayaks.



In the winter, the Inuit hunt seals. Seals are animals that live mostly in water. But they must come up to breathe. An Inuit hunter will spend hours waiting at a seal's breathing hole. When the seal comes up for air, the hunter will kill it.

The Inuit also catch fish. Fishing in the winter is hard. They must cut holes in the ice in order to reach the fish.

The Inuit have no trees to burn, so they do not cook their food. Sometimes they dry the meat or freeze it to eat later. However, most of the time, they simply eat the food raw.



Did You Know?

Cutting a hole in ice and fishing is called "ice fishing." Some people do it as a hobby.

