Snow Talking

OBJECTIVE
Students will learn how different cultures view their world and name what they see.

MATERIALS
- picture book of Inuits or other polar peoples (see Bibliography on page 24)
- pencils
- writing paper
- crayons, markers

BACKGROUND
Most Inuits live in a world covered with ice and snow for at least nine months a year. The English language has only a few words like powder and slush for different kinds of snow. The Inuit language has 14 different words. Each word describes a form of snow or snow object. Distinguishing different kinds of snow is important for traveling, for hunting animals, and for building shelters.

snow that is spread out—aput
snow block for building—auverk
drifting snow—perksertok
first snow fall—apingaut
snow for melting into water—aniuk, anio
snow that is hard—sitidlorak
snow house—iglu

ACTION

1. Talk with students about different words they use in their home. Some families call a sofa a couch. Or a bathroom a lavatory. Introduce Inuits and where they live. Discuss how important snow must be to them.

2. Use the words above to write or tell a story of an Inuit’s day. What kind of snow would an Inuit melt to get a drink of water? What kind would he use to build a shelter? What kind would she brush off her clothes?

3. Have students draw a picture of their story.

Dog sleds often run best on sitidlorak or snow that is hard.
Bibliography


Books for Young Readers


Videotapes


*Books available through the SeaWorld Adventure Park nearest you. Videotapes available through SeaWorld San Diego. Call for prices.

Note: Contact the SeaWorld park nearest you for a free comprehensive marinellife bibliography.