

Grade 2 Social Studies: December 14 – December 18, 2020

Lesson Focus: Why are Inuksuit significant to Inuit? (Inuksuit is the plural of Inuksut)

Materials:

- Internet for videos
- Notebook and pencil (Optional: computer with word processing software)

Invitation to Learn:

In this lesson you will use evidence to explain the significance of inuksuit to Inuit as you learn about characteristics of communities and cultures in Canada.

Watch this video:

What is an Inukshuk?	https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=NKQ97rOwBH0
The Gift of the Inukshuk. By Mike Ulmer	https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v= zCi-V6uKsM
Intrigued by Inukshuk (Destination Detours and Dreams)	https://www.destinationsdetoursdreams.com/2014/10/intrigued-by-inukshuk/

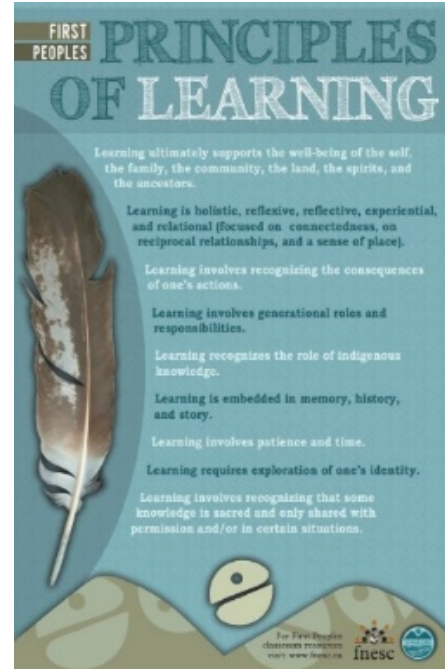
Have a Discussion:

What does the word "significance" mean?

- **Significance means importance.**

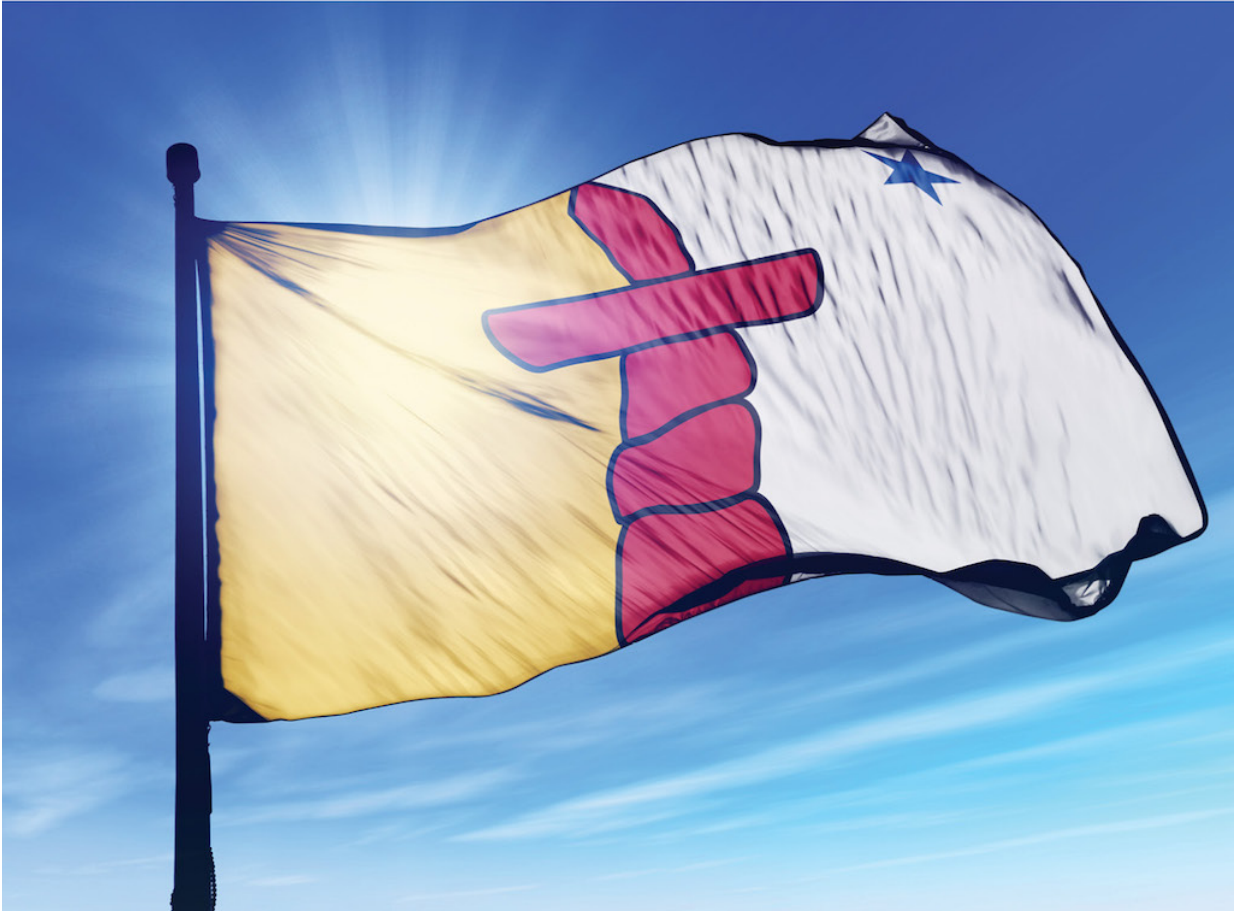
Learning from First Peoples

First Peoples have unique practices specific to their home or place of origin. Many of these practices reflect local or traditional knowledge that has been handed down over thousands of years.



Look at the images.





Ask:

- What do you see in the first image/photo?
- What can you infer about inuksuit from this image/photo?
- What do you see in the second image/photo?
- What clue in the second image/photo tells you that inuksuit are important to Inuit today?



Figure 1: Map of the Nunavut and Nunavik Regions

Look at the map above. Can you point to where you live?

Have a Discussion:

Inuksuit

- An inuksuk (singular for inuksuit) is a tool for survival that has helped Inuit in the Arctic for thousands of years. These carefully arranged stones or boulders communicate important information. Some inuksuit provide directions that help Inuit travelling the large/vast landscape find their way. Some mark good resting spots for Inuit as they move to gather resources and hunt for food.
- Inuksuit are used by hunters for different purposes. For example, they may be used to drive caribou toward a hunting spot. There are inuksuit with "windows" through which a person can see a place of good hunting and fishing.
- Inuksuit also serve other purposes. Some are used to warn of dangers nearby, mark a sacred or spiritual place, show where food is stored, or indicate that someone had been there before.
- Building an inuksuk takes many hands and shows the Inuit's belief in the importance of helping each other to survive in their environment.
- Today, the inuksuk is a significant symbol for Inuit culture and identity. An inuksuk appears on Nunavut's flag as the central image. It also appears on Nunavut's coat of arms.