

First Peoples and Canada Level 1

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Human-Environment Interactions



[Find the Robert J. Flaherty Collection.](#)

Inuit have thrived in the extreme environmental conditions of the Arctic for thousands of years due to their responses to the challenges and opportunities presented by their environment.

List two methods of transport used by the Inuit, and why they are well adapted to the Arctic environment.

Sled and Kayak

Use materials that are readily available in a harsh climate (ex. Drift wood), use knowledge of materials to ensure function (ex. Seal skin is water proof), etc.

Inuit have relied primarily on animal derived sources for all their basic needs. Inuit are extremely resourceful and used virtually every part of an animal to make a huge variety of important goods and tools.

Find and list three items that meet a basic need, and what they are made from (be very specific).

Variety of tools in gallery (multitude of answers)

Clothing is vital to survival in the Arctic, but also has important cultural and spiritual roles. Within Inuit culture, skin garments are a visual communication system between humans and animals. Beautiful fur clothing demonstrates respect towards the animal that gave its life to the hunter, and ensures successful hunting.

 The Copper Inuit are reported to leave the caribou ears on the hoods of men's parkas to aid them in hunting by symbolically transferring the caribou's acute hearing to the hunter.

 [See if you can spot them!](#)

Space and Place



[Find the Edmund Morris Collection.](#)

Edmund Morris (1871-1913) was an artist and collector who recorded the last generation of nomadic indigenous nations of Canadian Plains. During Morris' time in the Plains, settlement patterns of the indigenous populations went through significant changes.

Using this collection, describe some changes that occurred to one of these Plains nations. What factors led to this change?

Variety of Answers (example: Dakota Sioux of Minnesota left the USA frustrated with the loss of land and independence they were experienced. In Canada they were granted land in Saskatchewan and Manitoba as a reward for their support of Britain in the War of 1812!)

Find evidence of contact between the Plains nations and Europeans.

Variety of Answers (examples: change from buffalo hunters to farmers, treaty tickets, loom woven beads etc.)

Social Institutions



Social institutions create social order and cooperation, governing the behaviour of a set of individuals.

 Like today, the media of the 1930s plays an important role in reflecting and shaping social attitudes.

Examine these illustrations, what can you say about the idealized social identities of middle-class women?

Open Discussion

[Find the Rex Woods magazine illustrations .](#)

There are considered to be five main categories of social institutions: education, government, family, economy and religion.

How would this impact their participation in various social institutions?

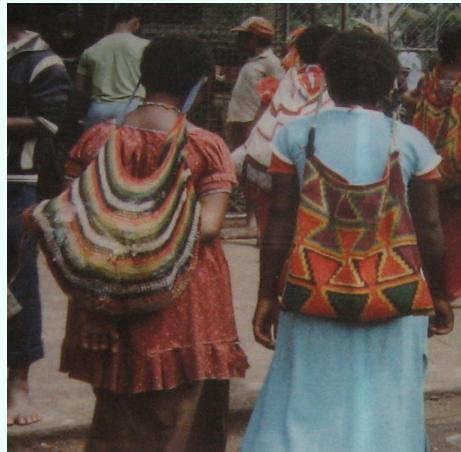
Open Discussion

Africa, Americas, Asia Pacific Level 3

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Self and Others



 **Find the bilums, bags made from knotted strings of natural fibers.**

Children learn the skills of *bilum* production through observing adults, then attempting to imitate their actions.

Discuss examples of Canadian children leaning skills in this way.

Open Discussion

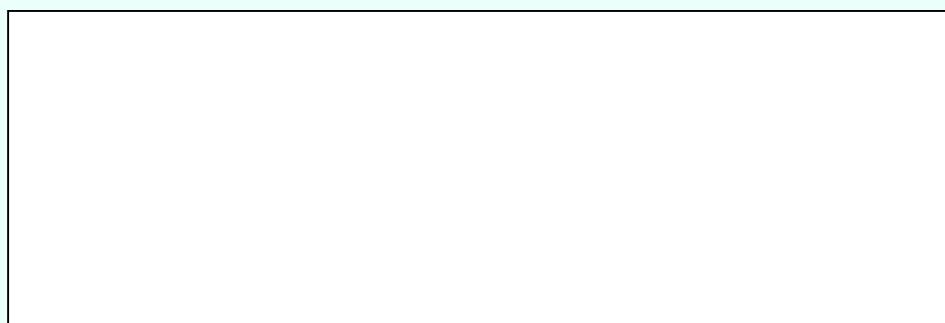


To children in Papua New Guinea *bilum* enhances the appearance of the wearer, promotes a feeling of self-worth, and impresses outsiders.

Discuss examples of how you enhance your visual appearance through adornment.

Open Discussion

Draw a pattern for *bilum* to represent you.



 **Bilum** are now manufactured for sale around the world. They are beautiful and environmentally friendly so their popularity will only increase!

The production and use of *bilums* (looped string bags) is widespread throughout Papua New Guinea. Usually made by women and girls, *bilums* are primarily utilitarian objects, but they also have economic and symbolic value. Men, women, and children may have more than one *bilum* for their personal use as styles and sizes differ according to purpose.

Socialization is a term used by anthropologists to describe the process by which culture is learned and transmitted from one generation to the next. Making creative *bilum* is an important part of being a socially respected woman, thus it is an important part of childhood education.

Diversity & Global Connections



 **Find the Nelson Mandela Wall Hanging.**

Why did the artist choose to use many bright colours?

Open Discussion

How do you think the artist feels about the end of Apartheid?

Open Discussion

 Nelson Mandela promoted the importance of human rights, democracy, and equality.

Why do you think the principals that Nelson Mandela stands for are important to Canada?

Open Discussion

 Mandela's values and contributions to politics in South Africa have resonated worldwide.

How do we hear about global events today? Discuss the impact improved global communications have on our outlook of the world.

Traditional media (newspapers and television) and non-traditional sources (like on internet, e-mail, blogs and twitter). The speed at which news can travel has improved communications but the number of sources makes it even more important to be critical consumers of information