

Winter Traditions and Celebrations: Past and Present

There are many traditions and celebrations that occur during our long winter months here in Alaska. This information provides a great opportunity to introduce Alaska Native cultures into your classroom in one way or another.

Barrow (Inupiaq)

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In Barrow families would go to the church on Thanksgiving Day and also Christmas Day and the whaling crews along with community members would bring food to share.

My family would grab a cardboard box (grub box) and place kitchen utensils in it. We would have paper towels, plates, cups, bowls, Ziploc bags, salt and pepper, ulus, etc. Everything your family needs to eat native food.

People would walk around the church and you would raise your hand if you would like what they are passing out. If caribou soup is going around you put your bowl up and they fill it up. If maktuk is going around you place your Ziploc bag up and they fill it. Young ladies are walking around with hot tea and younger kids with sugar. Yum this is making me so hungry.