

## PORTFOLIO COPY

### BACKGROUND READING FOR ART PRESENTER

Eskimo Sculpture  
Native Eskimo First Grade

Source: World Book

- a. Large seal-- 3 inches
- b. Bear on rock--5 1/2 inches
- c. Walrus--4 inches

Eskimos all work with their hands. The men hunt, make their own tools, and build their own houses. The women make all of the clothes worn by the Eskimos. They cut animal skins, stitch them together with animal tendons, and often chew the leather to soften it. As children grow up they have the opportunity to observe their fathers, mothers and aunts and uncles practicing these skills. It seems natural to Eskimos to make things. Perhaps this is why almost all Eskimos are skillful woodworkers and carve beautiful objects from bone and ivory.

These reproductions of Native Eskimo sculpture are the type of carving that is made by many Eskimos today. The originals were made of soapstone. It is not important to Eskimos to know the artist of a particular work, so we don't know the name of who made these that we will look at today.

#### The Eskimo People

There are 60,000 Eskimos in the world. They live in the cold Arctic regions of North America and northern Asia. The word Eskimo means eaters of raw meat. They got this name probably because Eskimos often do not cook their food. During part of their summer the sun shines for 24 hours, but in the winter the sun will not be seen for weeks.

#### Shelter

They have two homes, one for summer and one for winter. In summer they live in tents, but in winter they live in houses called igloos, which are made of snow (show picture).

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### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

#### ART PRESENTER PROGRAM

First Grade

#### Eskimo Sculptures

- a. Large seal
- b. Bear on rock
- c. Walrus

1. What kind of animals do you see? (hold each one up separately to ask this question)
2. Are these animals familiar to you?
3. Have you ever seen one in real life?
4. What are the animals in the sculptures doing?
5. Why do you think an Eskimo would make a carving of these kind of animals?
6. What would they use the animals for in their daily lives?
7. From what materials are they made? Why would an Eskimo choose rock from which to carve? Where would he get it? How would he carve it?
8. What does texture mean? What texture are these carvings? Are the real animals the same texture? How do you think the Eskimos made these carvings so smooth?
9. What are some of the features you can see on the animals? (eyes, nose, and flippers) How are they made? Are they very detailed? What could this tell you about the kind of tools used to make the carvings?
10. Think about the size difference of these animals in real life. Compare the sizes of the carvings. Do they show the same differences in real life? (compare sizes of bear and walrus carvings)
11. Describe the colors of the animals in the sculptures. Describe the colors of the animals in real life if you know them. Does the kind of material the artist uses have

any effect on the color of the finished work? Do you like them the way they are?

12. If you could make a carving of any animal, what would you choose to carve?

## **PORTFOLIO COPY**

EXTENDED ACTIVITIES TO ACCOMPANY

Eskimo Sculptures

Eskimo Sculptures  
First Grade

### 1. Salt-flour clay mixture

two cups flour  
1 cup salt  
2 1/2 teaspoons cream of tartar  
1 teaspoon vegetable oil  
2 cups water

Stir together. Cook until thick. Be careful not to get too hot or it will scorch. Pour out and knead until smooth. Divide into portions and add a few drops of food coloring to each and knead it in. Store in a plastic bag or tight container.

Approximately 2 batches for 18 students.