

About pages 10-11

KOU-OU-D-JOU-A-K

Kuujuaq has almost 3000 inhabitants. Formerly, this village was known as Fort Chimo. *Chimo* is a mispronunciation of the expression *saimuk* that the Inuit used to welcome fur traders. *Saimuk* means *let's shake hands*.

Behind the main airport building, you can see the Koksoak River, which borders the village. Moreover, Koksoak is an ancient form of the word Kuujuaq, which means *large river*. Near this waterway, there are also five tupiks. These white canvas tents are used during expeditions on the tundra.

On page 10 is a large aircraft from the Canadian North Company and, in the left corner, a de Havilland Beaver plane. On the right page, we see a Dash 8 airplane.

About pages 12-13

TA-SI-OU-YAK

Tasiujaq, meaning *which looks like a lake* in Inuktitut, is located on the banks of the Leaf River, which forms a lake leading to the Bay of Leaves. This place is known for having the highest tides in the world (over 16 m at their annual peak). There are just under 500 inhabitants.

Canada geese, also known as Canadian geese, are migratory birds that breed in Northern regions and who migrate south for the winter.

About pages 14-15

A-OU-PA-LOU-K

Aupaluk means *where it is red* due to the colour of the iron-rich earth. There are less than 250 inhabitants.

This village is located near the winter migration route of the Rivière aux Feuilles caribou herd. These cross the territory with thundering hooves before rushing into the waterways. During the milder months, one can observe thousands of seals and hundreds of belugas.

About pages 16-17

KA-GNI-R-SOU-K

Formerly called Payne Bay, Kangirsuk means *the bay*. Its population hovers around 560 inhabitants. You can admire a very varied fauna: Arctic char, lake trout, mussels, belugas, seals, and caribou. Eider ducks also abound, and women collect their feathers to insulate parkas.

For adults:

In the 1950s and 1960s, the Canadian and Quebec governments sent law enforcement agents to kill more than a thousand sled dogs in Nunavik. They hoped to accelerate the settlement of the Inuit. However, among the Inuit, the dog was a means of transportation and survival. The consequences were disastrous. In 2011, the government of Quebec admitted their wrongdoings and signed a reparations agreement with the Inuit.

Virtually extinct in the Northern Quebec, sled dogs are regaining their place in the North. Since 2001, the *Ivakkak* race has set off across the immense territory of Nunavik to promote the traditional practice of dog sledding. Every year in March, teams from across Nunavik face the cold and race over great distances.

About pages 18-19

AKPATOK ISLAND

Akpatok Island is the largest island in Ungava Bay. It bears its name thanks to the guillemots (akpat, in Inuktitut). These seabirds make astonishing dives. Their cries are reminiscent of nasal laughter. This almost inaccessible island is the place of several legends. It is also not uncommon to observe polar bears there.

About pages 20-21

HOU-A-RK-TA-RK

The village of Quaqtaq is located on a peninsula that juts out into Hudson Strait, where it joins the bay of Ungava. The population of this village is around 450 inhabitants. The name of the village means *tapeworm*.

Snow goggles, or *iggaak* in Inuktitut, are made from driftwood, bone, ivory or caribou antler. The Inuit make these goggles to prevent snow blindness; a painful keratitis caused when the eyes are overexposed to the sun's ultraviolet rays.

There are many musk oxen in this location, and for several years, the wool of these large ruminants has been used to make clothing.

About pages 22-23

THE BLIZZARDS

A blizzard is a powerful, long-lasting snowstorm that combines low temperatures, strong winds and lots of snow, which greatly reduces visibility. Blizzards like the one depicted in this magnificent illustration very often disrupt air travel, passenger transportation and the delivery of fresh foods to grocery stores in Nunavik.

The two inuksuit (plural of inuksuk) seen in the left foreground are exactly those found in Quaqtaq. It should be noted that, traditionally, these stacks of stones without arms or legs were used as landmarks and for caribou hunting. According to an Inuk elder, these two inuksuit indicate a safe place to camp.



Photo Scott Heyes, 2000

About pages 24-25

KA-GNI-R-SOU-YOU-A-K

Kangijsujaq, which means *the big bay*, has around 850 inhabitants. This village is sometimes called Wakeham Bay. Set in the cove of a valley surrounded by majestic mountains, it is the ideal place to practice mussel fishing under the ice floe during the spring equinox. This very dangerous activity consists of going under the ice during the full or new moon when the low tide lasts longer. The Inuit only have ninety minutes to look for the mussels and come back up before risking finding themselves trapped by the rising tide.

About pages 26-27

SAL-LOU-IT

Salluit, formerly called Sugluk, means *the skinny people*. There are around 1500 inhabitants.

Katajjaq is Inuit throat singing, a kind of vocal game, a fun competition where participants (mainly women) compete to see who will outlast the other. It often ends in bursts of laughter. A report from Radio-Canada shows two young girls performing throat signing during the Justin Trudeau government's swearing-in ceremony.

The traditional Inuit drum is called the *kilaut*. It has a diameter of 50 to 75 centimetres and is covered with a caribou skin membrane stretched over a circular wooden frame. The drum is played by striking it with a wooden mallet, the *kututarq*.

The Talent Show was inaugurated in 2013 with the help of Inuk singer Elisapie Isaac, whose hometown is Salluit.

About pages 28-29

I-VOU-YI-VIK

Ivujivik, the northernmost village in Quebec, has only 350 inhabitants. Its name means *place where one is taken by the drifting ice*. At this location, the currents of the Hudson Bay and Hudson Strait meet, creating immense tides and violent ice movements.

On page 29, we see two lemmings playing with a string. This activity is much more than simply creating shapes. It is another way of telling a story, creating figures with fingers and string. Contrary to popular belief, the Inuit did not invent this game called *ajaraq*. The Morse grandmother is sewing *kamiik*, which are traditional boots made from seal skin with a felt slipper inside. In the illustration, the decoration on the *kamiik* is vertical. This means they are intended for a boy. If the decoration were horizontal, these warm boots would be for a girl.

About pages 30-31

A-KOU-LI-VIK

The village of Akulivik is located on a peninsula that juts out into Hudson Bay. The coastline surrounding it is shaped like a *kakivak*, the traditional trident-shaped harpoon used for fishing. There are about 500 inhabitants.

The beluga has one of the most sophisticated sonars of all whales. This sonar is essential for orienting the whale to find its way in the submerged ice, which forms a complicated labyrinth.

The narwhal (or unicorn of the sea) has a single twisted tusk, its upper left canine, which can measure up to 3 meters. This sensory organ equipped with nerve endings allows the animal not only to perceive differences in pressure, salinity, or temperature, but also the presence of fish.

About pages 32-33

POU-VIR-NI-TOU-K

The village of Puvirnituk has a name derived from Inuit words, meaning *where there is a smell of putrefied meat*.

The Snow Festival offers various traditional activities, including a snow sculpture competition. It takes place every two years, and each event has a theme. In 2023, the theme was the igloo.

On page 33, we see a qulliq, a traditional oil lamp with a rounded shape made of soapstone (steatite). Seal or whale blubber oil is used as fuel, and Arctic cotton grass is used for the wick. Women are the main guardians of the *qulliq*. It has been used for thousands of years for the warmth it provides in the home, for drying wet clothes and for cooking food.

We can also see a sculpture of Sedna (see page 48). Sedna is the goddess of the sea, a mythical figure of the Inuit people who created sea creatures.

About pages 34-35

I-NOUK-JOU-A-K

Inukjuak has more than 1,800 inhabitants. Its name means *the giant*.

In the sky, we see the northern lights, or *aqsarniit*. This bright and colourful phenomenon occurs regularly in the night sky of the Northern Hemisphere.

The two hockey teams that board the plane actually exist. The Amaruiit (the men's team wearing a black jersey with a wolf's head) is the Kangiqsualujjuaq team. The Uluuit (the women's team wearing a white jersey with an ulu, a knife traditionally used by women) is the Inukjuaq team.

A fact that deserves to be highlighted: in 1988, Guy Lafleur was invited to Inukjuak to inaugurate the first arena built in Nunavik!

For adults:

Inukjuak is also known for a dark episode in Canadian history. In 1953, to their to great dismay, village residents were moved against their will some 2000 km north of Inukjuak to Resolute Bay and Grise Fjord. The Government of Canada wanted to ensure the occupation of the Arctic Circle and thwart the expansion of other northern nations in this region.

In 2011, a monument to their memory was erected at the village port, where the Arctic exiles came from 60 years earlier. An inscription on the monument reads: "Will I ever see them alive again?"



Photo Sarah Rogers, Nunatsiaq News

About pages 36-37

OU-MI-OU-YAK

Umiujaq means *which looks like a boat*. There are almost 400 inhabitants.

The spectacular 30-meter-high Nastapoka Falls are 30 km north of this village. Umiujaq is also the point of access to Tursujuq National Park.

About pages 38-39

KOU-OU-D-JOU-A-RA-A-PIK

Kuujuaraapik is nestled between the light-coloured sand dunes at the mouth of the Grande rivière de la Baleine. Kuujuaraapik means *little great river*. Its population is more than 1500. This southernmost village in Nunavik is unique because two distinct communities inhabit it: the Inuit and the Cree. The Cree community is called Whapmagoostui.

Surprisingly, it is the only village that has an underground aqueduct system.

In the illustration, we see the famous Candy Drop, a greatly anticipated event by the Nunavimuit. Johnny May, helped by Santa Claus, drops large quantities of candy from his little airplane. This event took place every year for more than fifty years in Kuujuuaq. For the story's purpose, we transposed the *Candy Drop* to Kuujuaraapik.

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