

## Chapter- 6

# Greenland - The Land of Ice and Snow

## STUDY NOTES

### Let's Learn

You must have heard that on Christmas, Santa Clause comes to give gifts riding on his sleigh. But do you know which animal helps him to ride his sleigh?

- Goat

- Reindeer

Where is this animal found?

Reindeer are found in the Arctic region, which lies in the northern Frigid Zone. The regions lying in the northern and southern Frigid Zones are also known as the **polar regions** or **tundra regions**. To understand the life in the tundra regions, we will study about Greenland.

### GREENLAND

Greenland lies in the Frigid Zone of the Northern Hemisphere. It is the world's largest island country.

Location



*Changing your Tomorrow*

Greenland is situated towards the northeast of Canada. The **Baffin Bay** and the **Davis Strait** separate it from the islands of Canada. Greenland is part of Denmark. Its capital is **Nuuk** ( Godthab ).



## Land

Almost eighty per cent of Greenland remains covered with snow and ice throughout the year. The southwestern coast of Greenland is warmer than the rest of it. Therefore, most of the population is found here. Sisimiut and Ilulissat are the important cities.

## Climate

### Did you Know?

A magnificent phenomenon known as aurora borealis, or Northern Lights can be seen in the night sky during winters in Greenland.

The climate of Greenland remains extremely cold throughout the year. The summers are short and cool, while winters are long and severely cold. The temperature varies from 5°C in summers to -23°C in winters. Very cold and strong winds blow in Greenland. Precipitation is usually in the form of snow.

Greenland witnesses the phenomenon of the midnight sun. In summers, there is continuous sunlight for weeks and the sun can be seen even during night, while in winters, the sun hardly rises over the horizon. It remains dark during the winter months.

## Vegetation

Due to extreme cold climate, vegetation is very sparse in Greenland. It is only during the brief summer months that we can see some short grasses, shrubs, wild plants, herbs, lichens, mosses, currants, blueberries, and cranberries growing here.

## Wildlife

Huskies pulling a sledge



Greenland is rich in wildlife. Animals, such as reindeer, polar bears, musk oxen, Arctic foxes, and huskies, are found here. Huskies are wolf - like dogs. They are used for pulling sledges. Many sea birds, such as gulls, puffins, and petrels, are also found here. The sea is rich in marine life. Whales, seals, walruses, and fishes like trout, salmon, and cod are found here.

### Economy

#### Skill Corner

How do animals like polar bears and Arctic foxes survive in the extreme cold climate?

Fishing is the major industry of Greenland. Agriculture and sheep rearing are also practised on the southwestern coast of Greenland. Greenland is also rich in minerals, such as lead and zinc. These minerals are also exported to other parts of the world.

### Life of the People

**Inuits** ( or Eskimos ) are the original inhabitants of Greenland. They are generally short and stout people with yellow coloured skin. They wear long leather shoes, mittens, double sets of trousers, and coat called **Parkas** made of animal fur.

Inuits do not have permanent houses. In winters, they live in houses made of snow called **igloos**. **Igloos** are dome-shaped houses with a single opening. In summers, they live in tents made of animal skin called **tou pigs**.

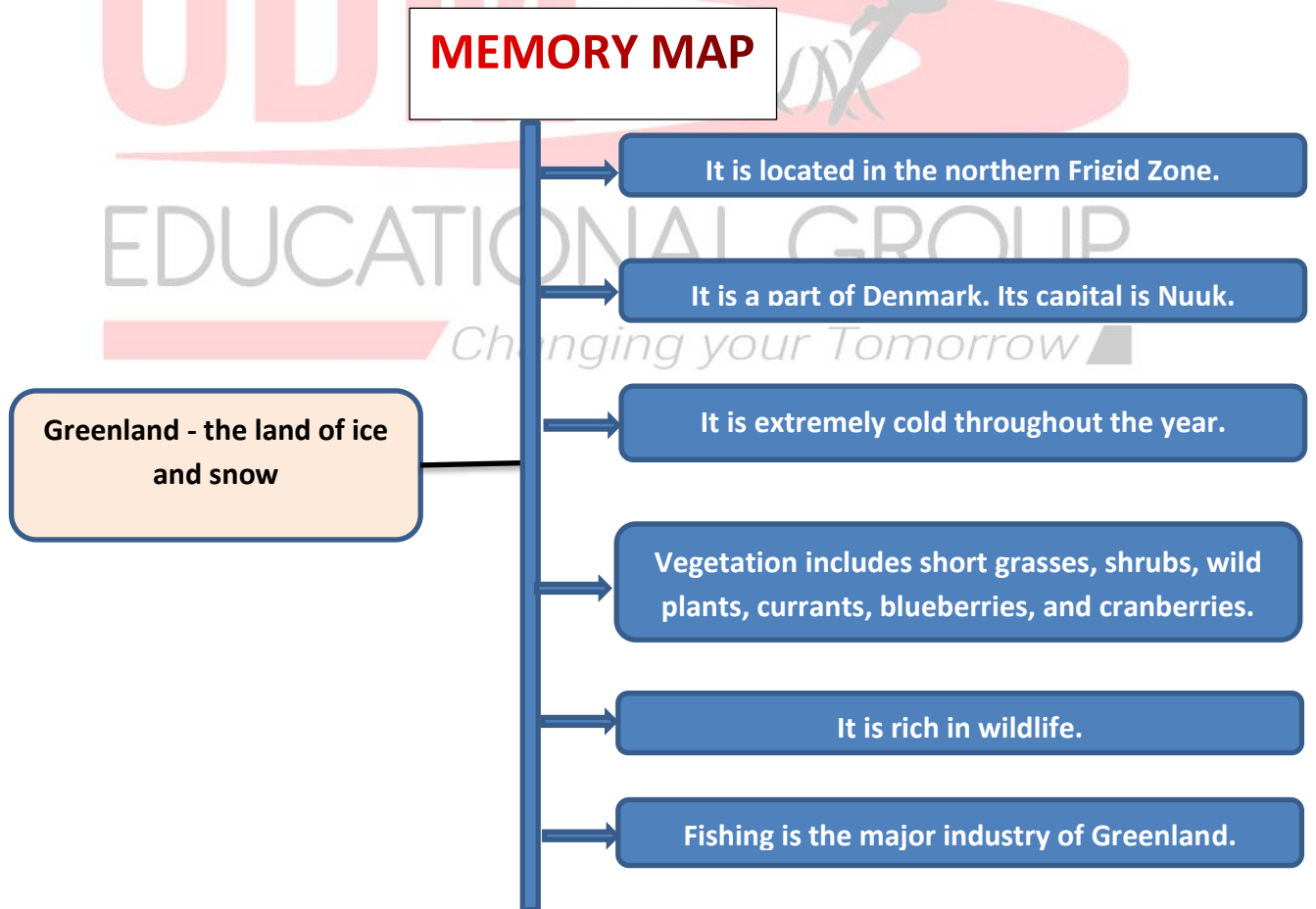
Most of the people are hunters. They use **harpoons** to hunt animals. They also catch fish to eat and sell. They use **kayaks** to catch fish.



**Changing Lifestyle**

The lifestyle of Inuits has changed over a period. Look at the table given below to know how.

Then	Now
They lived in igloos.	They live in wooden houses.
They ate raw meat.	They eat cooked or canned food.
They used harpoons for hunting.	They use guns for hunting.
They used huskies to pull the sledges.	They use motorized sledges.
They lived a nomadic life.	They work in towns.
They were not educated.	They send their children to schools.



**Let's know more****Write in one word**

- A narrow boat used for catching fishes -
- A house made of snow -
- Natives of Greenland -
- Capital of Greenland -
- A weapon used for hunting animals -

**Let's Do****A. Fill in the blanks.**

1. The capital of Greenland is \_\_\_\_\_, earlier called \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The Frigid Zone in which most of Greenland is situated is also called the \_\_\_\_\_ region.
3. Huge pieces of ice floating in the sea are known as \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The original inhabitants of Greenland are \_\_\_\_\_, also called \_\_\_\_\_.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ are temporary houses made of blocks of ice by the Inuit.

**B. Match column A with column B.** *Changing your Tomorrow* **Column A**

1. Eric, the Red
2. Holsteinsborg
3. Arctic Circle
4. South-western coast
5. Kayaks

**Column B**

- a. boats
- b. warmest part of Greenland
- c. gave the name 'Greenland'
- d. passes through Greenland
- e. Sisimiut

**Understand and Answer****C. Answer the following questions.**

1. What kind of climate does Greenland have?
2. What are icebergs? In what ways are they dangerous?
3. Describe the wildlife of Greenland.
4. What is the main occupation of the Inuit?
5. What kind of clothes do most people in Greenland wear?
6. How have modern facilities changed the lives of the Inuit?

**Teacher's Note**

Compare your lifestyle with the lifestyle of the people of Greenland.

**Improve your G.K**

- ◆ World's largest dome igloo - Iglu - Dorf
- ◆ Largest island in the world but not a continent - Greenland
- ◆ Home to the largest National Park in the world - Greenland
- ◆ Purest air and water in the world - Greenland

**ANSWER KEY**

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**Let's know more****Write in one word**

- Kayak
- Igloo
- Inuit
- Nuuk
- Harpoon

**Let's Do**

A. 1. Nuuk, Godthab

2. Tundra

3. icebergs

4. Inuit, Eskimos

5. Igloos

B.1. - c

2. - e

3. - d

4. - b

5. - a

**Understand and Answer**

C.1. Climate of Greenland:-

i. Greenland lies in the Northern Hemisphere.

ii. Northern Hemisphere has a very cold climate.

iii. This region is also known as the Tundra region.

iv. Eighty per cent of Greenland is always covered with ice.

v. Huge pieces of ice frequently break off and float in the sea. They are called icebergs. They pose great danger to ships in the sea.

vi. The south-western coast of Greenland is the warmest part of the country. Most of the people live here.

2. A very large piece of ice floating in the sea is called an iceberg. They are dangerous because icebergs are actually much larger than they seem. This is because when an iceberg floats on water, most of it remains under water. Therefore they pose great danger to ships in the sea.

### 3. Wildlife of Greenland:-

Only those animals that can withstand the extreme cold are found in Greenland. Among them are -

- i. Polar bear
- ii. Reindeer
- iii. Musk ox
- iv. Wolf
- v. Arctic fox
- vi. Seal

- vii. Fishes
- viii. Sea birds

### 4. The main occupation of the Inuit is hunting and fishing.

Hunting:-

- i. Earlier they used bows and harpoons to hunt.
- ii. But now they use guns.
- iii. The skin and fur of the animals are used to make clothes.
- iv. The fat is used as fuel.

Fishing:-

- i. They used boats called kayaks for fishing in the sea.
- ii. Fish processing is the major industry in Greenland.
- iii. They hunt seal with the help of harpoon (a kind of spear).

### 5. The people of Greenland wear clothes made of animal skin and fur.

Parkas:- Men, women and children wear jackets with hoods lined with fur, called parkas.

Long boots:- They wear long boots made of seal skin to keep their feet warm in the snow.



6. The lifestyle of Inuits has changed over a period due to the modern facilities such as electricity, permanent houses, schools and hospitals. Now the Inuits are looking towards the modern way of living like-

- Now they are living in wooden houses.
- They eat cooked or canned food.
- They use guns for hunting.
- They use motorized sledges.
- They work in towns.
- They send their children to schools.
- They are getting medical facilities.

