

Kathy

## INUPIAQ WAY OF LIFE

by

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## CYCLE OF CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
INUPIAQ LANGUAGE AND CULTURE PROGRAM

By Molly Pederson

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## CULTURAL CALENDER

- AUGUST**
- Caribou hunting (*with local means of transportation*)
  - Ugruk and aiviq hunting (*Bearded seal and walrus*)
  - Ugruk skins (*being prepared for boats/boot bottoms*)
  - Some people still in their summer fishing and hunting camps.
  - Duck hunting at Piġniq
  - Some fishing with nets at Piġniq
  - Skinboat frames built
  - Young black brant hunting in Wainwright
  - Tuktaq making time (*walrus skin and meat rolled into a ball and sewn together*)
  - Fishing on the rivers
  - Berry picking (*salmonberries, blueberries, blackberries, and cranberries*)
- SEPTEMBER**
- Some duck hunting
  - Fall bowhead whale hunt *begins for Kaktovik, Nuiqsat, and Barrow*
  - Moose hunting
  - Paqmagrak *capelin (Mallotus villosus) come up on shores in Barrow*
- OCTOBER**
- Fall whaling (*continues*)
  - Ice fishing on rivers and lakes
  - Caribou hunting (*first part of the month before bulls rut*)
  - Ice fishing *along coastline for iqalugaq=tomcod; codfish*
- NOVEMBER**
- Polar bear hunting on the coastline
  - Seal hunting
  - Some hunters still at fish camps
  - Traditional Thanksgiving Feasts
- DECEMBER**
- Trapping season *for fox, wolf, wolverine*
  - Seal hunting
  - Polar bear hunting
  - Traditional Christmas Feasts
  - Traditional games of skill and endurance
  - Time to clean ice cellars and houses for the new year
- JANUARY**
- Trapping (*continues*)
  - Seal hunting
  - Naluriut *Seal skins being prepared for bleaching*
  - Polar bear hunting
  - Build/repair skin boats

**FEBRUARY**

- Trapping (*continues*)
  - Puvitquqtaq *animalskin being wind dried and bleached outside*
  - Seal skins natchiq and ugruk bleaching
  - Seal hunting
  - Continue build/repair skin boats

**MARCH**

- Some polar bear hunting
- Seal hunting
- Trapping continues for fox, wolf and wolverine
- Women sew ugruk skins for skin boats
- New skins put on boat frames
- Hunting tools repaired
- Female polar bears bring out their young

**APRIL**

- End of trapping season
  - Whaling season begins
  - Caribou and ground squirrel hunting inland
  - Time to clean cellars if not done during winter
  - Birth of young seals

**MAY**

- Whaling continues
- Geese/ptarmigan hunting inland
- Duck hunting on ice
- Ice breakup on rivers
- Seals on ice at Qaaktuġvik
- Ugruk have their young

**JUNE**

- Caribou fawning period
- Nalukataq in the whaling communities (Kak, Nui, Brw, Ain, Pho)
- Going off to Summer camps
- Fishing on rivers and lakes begins
- Seal hunting
- Fishing in Qaaktuġvik

**JULY**

- Camping and hunting continues
- Fishing continues
- Caribou hunting
- Gathering eggs in Pt. Hope
- Ugruk and walrus hunting
- Drying meat and making seal oil
  - Preparing ugruk skins for boats