

Read the short story. Then answer each question.

More Than Rocks and Stone

How does a pile of rocks send a message? When does a stack of stones tell a story? The answer depends on who piles the rocks and where you find the stack of stones.



The Inuit build stacks of rock and stone they call an inuksuk (*ih-nook-sook*). The name means 'in the likeness of a person'. Inuksuk can often be seen in pictures of the Arctic. The Inuit build them on the flat arctic land.

It takes skill to build an inuksuk. It also takes skill to understand one. These skills pass down through the Inuit people.

An inuksuk may be any size. It might have big rocks or small stones. It might be one rock, or many stacked with care and purpose. Some inuksuk can be seen for miles, even in a snow storm.

An inuksuk may be any shape. Some have flat slabs, while others contain round boulders.

The inuksuk can give directions. They can act like a road sign or a map. Picture a rock in the shape of a triangle that points the way. Imagine stones set in a line, from large to small, marking a trail. Their silent sign says, "Go this way."

Sometimes an inuksuk gives a message. They tell of good places to fish and hunt. An inuksuk with an antler may help someone find food.

Other inuksuk send a warning. They might point to a place of deep snow or an unsafe place to cross a river.

Each inuksuk has its own meaning. To the skilled eye, each one tells a story.



Exercises:

1. Multiple Choice

The word inuksuk means:

- a. a pile of rocks
- b. in the likeness of a person
- c. a road map

An inuksuk can act as:

- a. a road sign or a map
- b. a shelter
- c. a picnic table

Inuit construct inuksuk using:

- a. cement
- b. snow
- c. rocks

An inuksuk might warn of:

- a. an unsafe place to cross a river
- b. a coming snow storm
- c. a dangerous animal

2. Fill in the blanks.

- a. Some inuksuk can be seen for miles, even in a _____.
- b. It takes skill to _____ and _____ an inuksuk.
- c. Stones set in a line _____ to _____ can mark a trail.
- d. An inuksuk with an _____ may help to find a store of food.

3. Draw your own inuksuk and describe its message in a sentence.



Answers:

1. Multiple Choice

The word inuksuk means:

b. in the likeness of a person

An inuksuk can act as:

a. a road sign or a map

Inuit construct inuksuk using:

c. rocks

An inuksuk might warn of:

a. an unsafe place to cross a river

2. Fill in the blanks.

a. Some inuksuk can be seen for miles, even in a snowstorm.

b. It takes skill to build and understand an inuksuk.

c. Stones set in a line large to small can mark a trail.

d. An inuksuk with an antler may help to find a store of food.

3. Answers will vary.