

Preface

This glossary has been prepared as a resource for Interpreter/Translators who may be required to translate materials dealing with the prehistory and history of Arctic North America, as well as a primer for northern students interested in the science of archaeology. An attempt has been made to define the main terms used in technical and academic papers dealing with archaeology and related subject matters. Descriptions have also been included for certain of the more common artifacts recovered from Arctic archaeology sites.

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Préface

Ce glossaire a été conçu en tant qu'outil auxiliaire pour les interprètes/traducteurs qui pourraient le requérir pour la traduction de documents sur la préhistoire et l'histoire de l'Arctique de l'Amérique du Nord, mais aussi en tant qu'ouvrage élémentaire pour les étudiants et étudiantes du nord intéressés par l'archéologie. J'ai essayé de définir les termes les plus importants que l'on trouve dans les ouvrages techniques et académiques ayant pour sujet l'archéologie et les disciplines connexes. J'ai décrit un certain nombre d'artefacts communément trouvés dans les sites archéologiques de l'Arctique.

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Aerial Photography: ᖃᖃᓕᓕᓗᓂ ᐱᓯᓕᓗᓂᖃ ᐃᓕᓕᓕᓂᖃ: Qangatalluni ajjiliuriniq immanisarnik: Photographie aérienne

A form of remote sensing used to reveal the location of surface and subsurface archaeological remains.

Amulet: ᐱᓯᓕᓗᓂᖃ: Aarnguaq: Amulette

An object worn on the body or on clothing as a charm, for example, to bring good luck in hunting. Amulets may take the form of delicately carved effigies of animals or humans, or parts of birds or animals. *See Pendant.*

Anno Domini: ᐱᓯᓕᓗᓂ ᐃᓯᓕᓂᖃᓂᖃ: Jiisusi inuusimaliqtillogu: après Jésus-Christ ou Ap. Jésus-Christ

Usually abbreviated as “AD.” Latin phrase meaning in the year of the Lord (i.e. the Christian era). Used as prefix for dates. *See Before Christ, Before Present.*

Anthropology: ᐃᓕᓕᓂᖃᓂᖃᓂᖃ: Iliqqusiliriniq: Anthropologie

The scientific study of the cultural and biological differences and similarities of humans from the earliest times up to the present. The subdisciplines of anthropology are archaeology, cultural (social) anthropology, linguistics, and physical anthropology.

Arbitrary Level: ᐱᓯᓕᓗᓂᖃᓂᖃᓂᖃ ᐃᓯᓕᓂᖃᓂᖃᓂᖃ ᐃᓯᓕᓂᖃᓂᖃᓂᖃ: Ajjigiinginnaunganut isumaqsuutaulluni nalunaikkuttiqsuqtaq: Niveau arbitraire

A vertical subdivision of an excavation unit assigned by archaeologists in sites lacking natural stratification, or where such stratification is difficult to observe. Levels of five or ten centimetres in thickness are commonly used. *See Natural Level, Excavation Unit.*

Archaeobotany: ᐱᓯᓕᓂᖃᓂᖃᓂᖃ ᖃᓂᓂᖃᓂᖃᓂᖃᓂᖃ: Piruqtuviniit qaujisaqtauningit: Archéobotanique

The specialized study of plant remains from archaeological sites. Archaeobotany provides important information about past diet and other uses of plants by human groups. *See Ecofact, Palynology.*

Archaeological Context: ᐃᓯᓕᓂᖃᓂᖃᓂᖃᓂᖃ: Nunaturliviniq: Contexte archéologique

The location, condition and association of artifacts and features within an archaeological site. The setting in which an archaeological site is found.

Barb: ᐅᑭᑦ: Aki: Dardillon

A backward-projecting point along the margin of a projectile point or harpoon head. Barbs are designed to hook into the wound and to keep the weapon in place. See *Attribute*.

Baulk: ᐱᑭᑦᐱᑦᐱᑦ: Pisugviksaq: Berme

An area of unexcavated deposit separating one excavation unit from another. Baulks serve as stratigraphic controls during the excavations, and in some cases are made wide enough to serve as walk-ways through an archaeological site.

BC: ᐱᑦᐱᑦ ᐱᑦᐱᑦᐱᑦᐱᑦᐱᑦ: Jiisusi inuulauqtinnagu: Av. J.-C.

See Before Christ.

Before Christ: ᐱᑦᐱᑦ ᐱᑦᐱᑦᐱᑦᐱᑦᐱᑦ: Jiisusi inuulauqtinnagu: Avant Jésus-Christ

Usually abbreviated as “BC.” Refers to the period prior to the birth of Christ. Also abbreviated as BCE, meaning before the Common (i.e. Christian) Era. Used as a suffix for dates. See *Anno Domini, Before Present*.

Before Present: 1950 ᐱᑦᐱᑦ: 1950 tungaa: Avant aujourd’hui (A.-A.)

Usually abbreviated as “B.P.” For archaeological dating purposes, B.P. refers by international agreement to the year AD 1950, the year in which the discovery of the radiocarbon dating technique was announced. Thus a date of 900 B.P. ± 100 radiocarbon years, refers to an estimated date of AD 1050 ± 100 (i.e. 1950/900). See *Radiocarbon Year, Calibrated Date*.

Bering Land Bridge: ᐱᑦᐱᑦᐱᑦᐱᑦᐱᑦ ᐱᑦᐱᑦᐱᑦᐱᑦᐱᑦ: Alaaskamut ikaarviviniq: Détroit de Béring

Term used to refer to the area of land between Alaska and Siberia that was exposed during the last Ice Age as a result of a major drop in sea level. This area, now submerged under the Bering Sea, is believed to be the major route through which humans migrated into the Americas.

Bifacial Retouch: ᐱᑦᐱᑦᐱᑦᐱᑦᐱᑦ ᐱᑦᐱᑦᐱᑦᐱᑦᐱᑦ: Igluktut kiinaliuriniq: Retouche bifaciale

The removal of flakes from both surfaces or “faces” of a stone tool. See *Unifacial Retouch*.

Bioarchaeology: ᐱᑦᐱᑦᐱᑦᐱᑦᐱᑦ ᐱᑦᐱᑦᐱᑦᐱᑦᐱᑦ ᐱᑦᐱᑦᐱᑦᐱᑦᐱᑦ: Inuviniit sauninginnik qaujisarniq: Bio-archéologie

The analysis and interpretation of human skeletal remains to obtain information concerning prehistoric societies.

Bladder Inflator: >Δ^εΔ^ε: Puvirvik: Gonfleur de vessies

A short, cylindrical bone or ivory mouthpiece used to inflate a seal bladder float used when harpooning sea mammals. The inflator is lashed into the neck of the float, and has a hole drilled through the centre through which air is blown into the float. A bone or wooden peg is used to plug the hole. *See Float, Float Inflator.*

Blade: ʏΔ^εε^ε: Savilik: Lame

A long, thin, parallel-sided stone flake. Cores were often specially prepared in order to produce blades.

Blade Slot: ʏΔ^εε^εΔ^ε: Savillirvik: Porte-lame

A slot cut in the end or side of a tool or weapon into which a stone or metal blade is inserted. Harpoon heads often have blade slots.

Bola: ᑎᓄᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ: Tingmiarasuutit: Bolas

A weapon used mainly to hunt waterfowl or other birds. It consists of three or four bone or ivory weights suspended on sinew or baleen cords. The weights are swung in the air and thrown at the prey, which become entangled in the strings.

Borden Number: Δ^εΔ^εσ^εʏ^εε^εΔ^εΔ^εᑦᑦᑦ ᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ: Ittarnisalirivviujuup nalunaikkutaa: Numéro Borden

The Canadian system of archaeological site classification. Borden site designations consist of four letters and a number. The letters refer to a block of land area defined by the site's latitude and longitude. The number refers to the number of a particular site within the block. Thus, the Borden designation of MaDv-11 refers to the 11th site recorded within the block MaDv. Borden numbers are assigned to all archaeological sites within Canada, with the exception of sites located in areas under the jurisdiction of Parks Canada, which employs a different site classification method.

Bow Drill: ΔᑦΔ^εε^ε: Ikutaaq: Foret à archet

A device used to drill holes in which the drill spindle is rotated by means of a small bow. *See Drill Bow, Drill Mouthpiece, Drill Spindle.*

B.P.: A.-A.

See Before Present.

Bulb of Percussion: ᐅᑕᐱᐣᑦᑕᐅᑦᑕᑦ ᐱᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ: Ulammaaqtaujuup aninngangninga: Bulbe de percussion

A feature commonly found on the interior surface of a stone flake. The bulb appears as a small, raised area just below the point of percussion. Its location and other characteristics provide information on the tool and the technique that was used to strike the flake from the core.

Burial: ᐱᑕᐱᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ: Iluviqsiniq: Inhumation

An archaeological feature constructed for the purpose of interring human remains. Treatment of the dead varies considerably between societies, and burials often contain grave goods. In the Arctic, the dead were often covered with stones or placed in stone cairns. *See Grave Site.*

Burial Ground: ᐱᑕᐱᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ: Iluviqarvik: Cimetière

See Grave Site.

Burin: ᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ: Qinngusaaq: Burin

A pointed stone tool with a distinctive chisel-like edge used to shape and engrave materials such as bone, antler and ivory. Sometimes referred to as a “spalled burin.” Burins are a type of artifact characteristic of the Pre-Dorset culture.

Burin-like Tool: ᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ: Qinngusaangujaq: Instrument du type burin

Often abbreviated as “BLT.” Similar in basic function to a burin, but is distinguished from the latter due to the fact that it is ground and polished on all working facets. Burin-like tools are a type of artifact characteristic of the Dorset culture.

Burin Spall: ᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ: Kiinnagiarniq: Éclat de burin

A small, thin rectangular flake removed from the edge or tip of a burin in order to sharpen the tool.

Butchering Marks: ᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ: Saunirniviginikuit: Marques de dépeçage

Cut marks left on animal bones as a result of butchering and meat removal. Detailed analysis of cut marks can reveal the types of tools used (e.g. stone or metal) and provide clues concerning butchery methods utilized by prehistoric peoples.

C

Cache: ᐱᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ/ᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ, ᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ/ᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ, ᐅᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ: Pirujaq/tuktut, qirniq/Puijit, uqsuutikkuvik: Cache

A type of archaeological feature typically used for the storage of artifacts or, more commonly, food. Meat caches are a common type of feature in Arctic regions.

Culture: ᐃᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ/ᐱᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ: Iliqqusiq/piqqusiq: Culture

The set of learned values, behaviours and beliefs that are characteristic of a particular society.

D

Data: ᐱᐱᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑦᑲᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ: Titiraqsimajut qaujisaqtaunikuit: Données, information

Information based on observations made on an object or phenomenon that serves as the basis for analysis. Artifacts and ecofacts are not data; observations made concerning their recovery context, distribution, shape, raw material, etc., are.

Dating Methods: ᑦᑲᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ: Qaujisarutiit: Méthodes de datation

In archaeology, methods used to determine the age(s) of a site or objects found within a site.

Datum Point: ᐃᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ: Uukturarvik: Point de référence

A fixed location in a site on which all measurements are based. Separate datum points are usually used to obtain horizontal and vertical provenience. *See Provenience.*

Debitage: ᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ: Sananggurlukut: Débitage

The waste byproducts of stone tool manufacture. Sometimes also called detritus. Debitage typically includes stone fragments and flakes in a variety of sizes and shapes, some of which can be made into tools.

Demography: ᐃᑲᑲᑦ ᑦᑲᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑦᑲᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ: Inuit qanuippallianinginnik qaujisarniq: Démographie

The study of the number, distribution and vital statistics (births, deaths, disease) of populations. *See Bioarchaeology, Palaeodemography.*

Dendrochronology: ᑦᑲᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑦᑲᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ: Qaliriikpallianingittigut qaujisarniq: Dendochronologie

A technique of dating archaeological remains based on the counting of tree-rings. Dendrochronology also forms the basis for the calibration of radiocarbon dates. *See Cultural Chronology, Calibrated Date, Uncalibrated Date.*

Dendroclimatology: ᑦᑲᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑦᑲᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ: Qaliriingningittigut silaup qanuinnirilauqtanganik qaujiniq: Dendroclimatologie

A technique of reconstructing past climatic conditions based on the analysis and interpretation of tree-ring data.

Depth Below Datum: ᐃᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦ ᐃᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦ: Uukturarvik attingninga: Distance verticale à partir du point de référence

Usually abbreviated as “D.B.D.” The vertical distance of an artifact or feature below the datum plane established for the purposes of excavation.

Depth Below Surface: ᐃᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦ ᐃᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦ: Nunaup qaangani attingninga: Distance verticale à partir de la surface

Usually abbreviated as “D.B.S.” The vertical distance of an artifact or feature below the surface of the ground.

Detritus: ᐃᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦ: Sanangurlukut: Détritius

See Debitage.

Diffusion: ᐃᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦ ᐃᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦ: Piusirnik ajuringniq: Diffusion

The borrowing by one society of a cultural trait (e.g. customs, ideas, artifacts) belonging to another society as the result of contact. The geographic spread of many cultural traits has been due to diffusion.

Dorsal: ᐃᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦ: Tunu: Dorsal

A biological term that refers to the back or exterior surface of an object. In archaeology, the exterior surface of a stone flake is called the dorsal face. *See Ventral.*

Dorset Culture: ᐃᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦ: tuniit: Culture Dorset

The name used by archaeologists for the prehistoric culture occupying the eastern North American Arctic prior to the arrival of the ancestral Inuit (Thule). The Dorset culture flourished for nearly two millennia, between approximately 800 BC and AD 1000, and was displaced by the Thule culture which expanded eastward out of Alaska after circa AD 900. Among the most distinctive elements of the Dorset culture are remarkable ivory, bone and wood animal carvings thought to be associated with magic or religious ceremonies.

Drawing Frame: ᐃᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦ ᐃᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦ: Titiraujarniarluni suqqaqtarvik: Cadre à dessin

A square wood or metal frame to which is attached a string or wire grid at measured intervals (e.g. 10 cm). The frame is used as an aid in making detailed plan drawings and can also be used as a measuring grid for plotting artifact provenience.

**Experimental Archaeology: ᐱᓃᑲᐃᓂᑦᓂᑲ ᐱᑦᓗᓕᓃᓗᓗᓂᑦᓂᑲ: Pituqavinirnik
ajjiliurinasungniq: Archéologie expérimentale**

The replication and use, through carefully controlled experiments, of objects manufactured during prehistoric times as a means of providing data to aid in the interpretation of the archaeological record. Techniques of tool manufacture and use have been the subject of numerous archaeological experiments.

F

Fauna: ᐃᓗᓂᑦ: Uumajut: Faune

Latin term referring to animals. *Compare to Flora.*

**Faunal Analysis: ᓂᑦᓂᓂᓗᓂᑦᓂᑲ ᑲᓃᓂᓗᓂᑦᓂᑲ ᑦᓂᓃᓗᓂᑦᓂᑲ: Niqigijauvaktuvirnik
sauningittigut qaujisarniq: Analyse faunistique**

The study of animal, bird, fish and shellfish remains recovered from archaeological sites. Faunal analyses provide valuable information about past human diet and subsistence behaviour, as well as environmental conditions. *See Zooarchaeology.*

**Faunal Assemblage: ᐃᓗᓂᑦᓂᑲ ᑲᓃᓂᓗᓂᑦᓂᑲ ᐃᓂᓂᓗᓂᑦᓂᑲ: Uumajuviniit
sauniviningit navvaaqtaujulimaat: Ensemble faunistique**

All of the faunal remains recovered from an archaeological site or unit within a site.

Faunal Remains: ᐃᓗᓂᑦᓂᑲ ᑲᓃᓂᓗᓂᑦᓂᑲ: Uumajuviniit sauningit: Vestiges faunistiques

The skeletal and associated remains of animals, birds, fish (and shellfish) that are recovered from archaeological sites.

Feature: ᓃᓕᑲᑲᓂᓗᓂᑦᓂᑲ: Nuutaksaunngittut: Constituant

Term used to refer to archaeological remains that are nonportable and thus left on site. Features may be found on or below the ground surface and take the form of architectural remains (e.g. caches, fox traps, house remains, burials), clusters of artifacts or faunal remains, or a soil deposit stained as a result of the complete deterioration of an artifact or ecofact.

Field Research: ᑦᓂᓃᓗᓂᑦᓂᑲ ᐱᓂᓂᓗᓂᑦᓂᑲ: Qaujisariaqsimaniq: Recherche sur le terrain

Term used to refer to archaeological site surveys and excavations, as opposed to research in the laboratory. Also called “fieldwork.”

Figurine: ᐃᓂᓂᓗᓂᑦᓂᑲ: Inuujaq: Figurine

A small carving of a human figure, ivory, bone or wood. Figurines probably functioned primarily as children’s toys, but are found in a variety of contexts, including graves.

Inuit Owned Lands: ᐃᓄᐃᑦ ᓄᓇᑦᓄᓂᓂᓂᑦ: Inuit nunaqutingit: Terres possédées par les Inuits

Lands in the Nunavut Settlement Area to which Inuit hold surface and/or subsurface title under the terms of the Nunavut Final Agreement. In the Nunavut Settlement Area, Inuit hold title to 355,968 square kilometres of land.

Inukshuk: ᐃᓄᓂᓂᓂ/ᐃᓄᓂᓂᓂᓂᑦ: Inuksuk/inuksugaq: Inukshuk

A type of archaeological feature consisting of rocks piled in the shape of, or to indicate, a human form. Inuksuit are a common feature on the land, assume many forms and sizes, and serve a variety of different purposes. *See Cairn.*

In Situ: ᓇᓂᓂᓂᓂᑦ: Naniinninga: Sur place

A Latin term (“in place”) that refers to the location (or position) of archaeological materials when first discovered or uncovered. Once an artifact has been moved it is no longer in situ, resulting in the loss of much information if proper records have not been kept.

K

Kill Site: ᐃᓄᓂᓂᓂᑦ: Anguvvik: Lieu d’abattage

Kill sites are places where one or more animals are killed, and where the carcass is often partially butchered for transport. Kill sites typically contain bones and broken or discarded butchering tools.

Knapper: ᐃᓄᓂᓂᓂᑦ ᓇᓄᓂᓂᓂᓂᑦ: Ujaqqanik sanarrutiliuqti: Casseur de pierres

A term used to refer to a person who manufactures stone tools, for example, “flintknapper.”

L

Lance: ᐃᓄᓂᓂᓂᑦ, ᐃᓄᓂᓂᓂᑦ, ᓇᓄᓂᓂᓂᑦ, ᓇᓄᓂᓂᓂᑦ: Anguvigaq, iputujuq, naukkut, nalingniut: Lance

A thrusting weapon used to kill larger sea mammals after they had been harpooned, and caribou at river crossings. The lance, or spear, consists of a shaft, (similar to a harpoon shaft) with an attached lance head. The lance head has a stone or metal blade inserted in the tip.

Lamp Platform/Support: ᐃᓄᓂᓂᓂᑦ (ᐃᓄᓂᓂᓂᑦ, ᓇᓄᓂᓂᓂᑦ): Pituaq (tunullisaq, sallisaq): Support à lampe

Two or three flat, upright rocks positioned to support a soapstone lamp (qulliq). A common feature of food preparation and cooking areas of Thule winter houses.

Lichenometry: ᑦᑯᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑦᑲᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ: Quajautitigut arraagunik qaujiniq: Lichénométrie

A technique borrowed from the geological sciences and used to estimate the age of surface archaeological features (e.g. caches, tent rings), usually those constructed of rock. The technique is based on the relationship between the size of the lichen body (thallus) and its age as determined through independent analysis (i.e. radiocarbon dating).

Line Hole: ᐃᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ: Ijjirvik: Canal de ligne

A hole drilled or gouged through a harpoon head. The harpoon line, used to retrieve the harpooned animal, passes through the line hole.

Line Level: ᐱᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ: Naliraittuq: Niveau à ligne

A small device used to record the depth below datum of an archaeological specimen. The level is suspended from a string attached to a datum stake, and the string is moved up or down until it is level. The depth below datum is then measured using a stadia rod or measuring tape. *See Transit.*

Lintel Stone: ᐃᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ: Ukkaq: Linteau de pierre

A rectangular stone placed horizontally over the entrance (door) of a sod house. A common feature of Thule culture winter houses. *See Threshold Stone.*

Lithic: ᐃᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ: Ujarak: Lithique

Term used to refer to objects manufactured from or related to stone (e.g. lithic assemblage, Palaeolithic age).

Looting: ᑲᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ: Tigunangniq: Pillage

Unauthorized removal of artifacts or other archaeological materials from a site. *See Pothunting.*

M

Material Culture: ᑲᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ: Sanaukkat: Culture matérielle

Generic term used to refer to the wide variety of objects produced by human societies through the transmission between generations of knowledge and skills.

Matrix: ᐃᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑦᑲᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ: Nunaup aggagviujuup ajjigiinnginninga: Gangue

The material or substance containing or covering archaeological sites or specimens. Typical matrices encountered include soil, sand, peat, clay and gravel. *See Overburden.*

**Moveable Foreshaft: ᖃᑎᑦᑕᑦ (ᑔᑦᑦᑕᑦ ᑦᑎᑦᑕᑦ): Qaatilik (kuningnilik nimmialik):
Pré-hampe détachable**

A foreshaft having a tapered and rounded end that fits into the foreshaft socket, which acts like a ball and socket joint. On impact, the foreshaft moves and facilitates the release of the harpoon head.

N

Natural Level: ᓄᓇᑦᑕᑦ ᑦᑎᓄᓄᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ: Nunaup katinngaurninga: Couche naturelle

A vertical subdivision of a stratified (layered) excavation unit. Each stratum or “level” has attributes (e.g. colour, composition,) that visually distinguish it from adjacent layers, and allow archaeologists to excavate and analyze the contents of each layer individually. *See Arbitrary Level.*

Needlecase: ᑦᑎᓄᓄᑦᑕᑦ: Kakpik: Étui à aiguilles

A bone or ivory tube for sewing needles. Needlecases are often beautifully carved, have flared edges and incised decoration.

Neo-Eskimo tradition: ᑦᑎᓄᓄᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ: Sivulliviniqput: Tradition néo-esquimaude

The way of life of the ancestral Eskimo and Inuit cultures of Arctic North America and Greenland. The Neo-Eskimo tradition was introduced to the Eastern Arctic by people of the Thule culture who migrated eastward from Alaska circa AD 1000. The tradition dates in most areas from approximately AD 1000/AD 1600, or up to the time of contact with Euro-Americans. The Neo-Eskimo tradition was characterized by its broad inventory of tools and weapons, the use of ground (rather than chipped) stone tools, and an economy based on the harvesting of marine mammals, particularly the large bowhead whales.

Northwest Territories Act (1978): ᓄᓇᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ ᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ ᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ: Nunattiarmi maligarjuangitta maligangat: Loi sur les Territoires-du-Nord-Ouest

Federal legislation describing the powers and functions of the Government of the Northwest Territories concerning the management and protection of archaeological sites in the Northwest Territories.

Number of Identified Specimens: ᑦᑎᓄᓄᑦᑕᑦ ᑦᑎᓄᓄᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ ᓄᓄᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ: Nirjutiit sauninginnik naasainiq: Nombre de spécimens identifiés (NSI)

Usually abbreviated as “NISP.” A method employed in faunal analysis to quantify the relative abundance of individual species represented in a faunal assemblage. The NISP is a basic way of comparing species abundance, and is simply the number of identified bones (specimens) per species in a faunal assemblage. To determine the NISP, bones in a faunal assemblage are sorted by species and counted. *See Faunal Analysis, Minimum Number of Individuals.*

