

INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE EDUCATION IN SHISHMAREF

Darlene Tocktoo Turner & SEARCH

Shishmaref's IK education programming is for K-12 students and includes bilingual instruction. Teachers meet with their students throughout the year culminating in *Inupiaq Days*, a 1-week event in April. Topics include arts & crafts and food sovereignty.



IK education is a community effort:

Hunters bring in materials and meat while Elders share stories which contain our living history.

Stories are key:

Stories teach students and continue the shared live knowledge. These stories are riddles with lessons of survival, life, and wellness.



Example lessons:

Beadwork	=	Math
Seal Skinning	=	Science / Biology
Making Tools	=	Innovation & Engineering



"The importance [of this programming] is that children begin learning their language, the knowledge and skills necessary to live in and contribute to their community, and to become confident in their identity as an Inupiaq from Shishmaref. It is the beginning of their realizing that their heritage can and will be a source of strength and positive foundation in whatever they choose to do in the future. The goal is for each young person to have confidence and pride in their identity as an Inupiaq from Shishmaref." - Vera Kingeekuk Metcalf & Bob Metcalf