

An Old Way of Life

The Eskimos are a people who live near the Arctic. It is very cold there. For thousands of years, the Eskimos found ways to live in the cold. Most of them lived near the sea. The sea gave them food. They hunted seals and whales. They caught fish. On land, they hunted a kind of deer called the caribou.

The Eskimos made clothing from the skins of animals they hunted. In summer most Eskimos made tents of animal skins. They sailed in boats made of animal skins. In winter, most Eskimos lived in houses made of snow or sod. In the coldest places, some Eskimos lived in houses made of snow all year long.

Eskimo life began to change in the 1800s. People from Europe started hunting for whales where the Eskimos lived. Fur traders arrived. The Eskimos worked with the whalers and fur traders. Soon many of the animals that the Eskimos needed were almost gone.

Today most Eskimos live in towns. They live in modern houses. They buy food at stores. But they always remember the old ways.

1. How did Eskimos use animal skins?
2. Why did life change for the Eskimos in the 1800s?