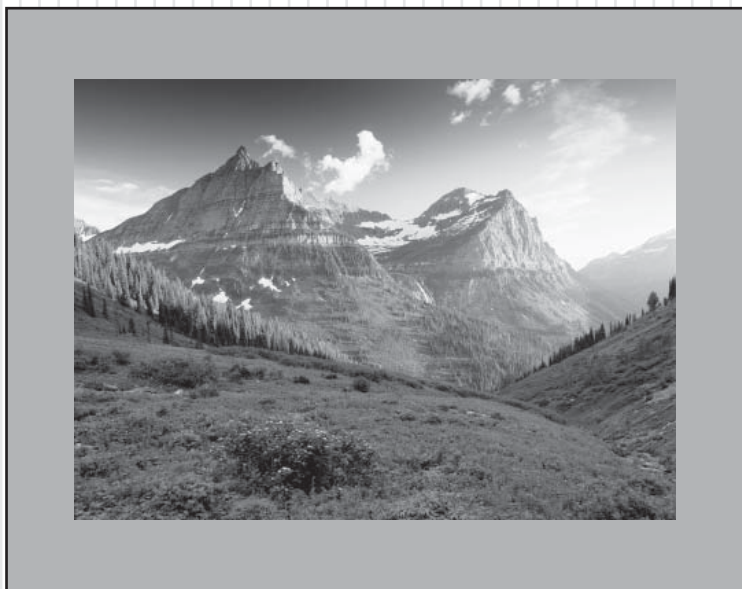


Montana
Comprehensive Assessment
System (MontCAS, Phase 2)
Criterion-Referenced Test (CRT)

COMMON CONSTRUCTED-RESPONSE ITEM RELEASE
READING, GRADE 7

2009



OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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For information, contact Measured Progress, P.O. Box 1217, Dover, NH 03821-1217.

Printed in the United States of America.

Reading Session 3

Read this passage about the Inuit people of the Arctic and the structures they make from stones called “inuksuit.” Then answer the questions that follow.

Inuksuit

Norman Hallendy

I have two names. The name my mother and father gave me is Norman and the name the people in Cape Dorset gave me is Apirsuqti (pronounced a-peer-sook-ti), which means “the inquisitive one.” They gave me that name because I was always asking questions so that I could learn things from them about nature, animals, and people, and how they lived in the Arctic.

The ancestors of my northern friends have lived in the Arctic for over 4,000 years. Their descendants today call themselves Inuit, which means “human beings.” In the past, they lived completely with nature. Everything they had came from the sea or the land. They made all they needed to stay alive from stone, and the bone, skin, and ivory they got from the animals they hunted. Nothing was wasted; everything was valuable in some way.

To survive, the Inuit had to hunt all the time: in summer and in winter, in good and bad weather. They had to hunt in many places at different times of the year because the animals they needed arrived there at various times. It was necessary to travel long distances in order to get enough food, especially in early times before the Inuit had rifles.

One of the most important things the Inuit made were called *inuksuit*. The singular is *inuksuk*. This word means “thing that can act in the place of a human being.” We are familiar with things that work in similar ways. For example, a scarecrow acts like a human being when it frightens away birds. A traffic light tells you when to stop or go in place of a police officer. A statue tells you that a person is being remembered. An arrow nailed to a tree tells you which direction to go. Inuksuit are like these, but far more important, because they have helped save lives in the harsh Arctic environment. They could be used to help in many

different ways, but the five most important were: to show the way when travellers were a long way from home; to warn of very dangerous places; to show where food was stored (especially when covered with snow); to show where a significant thing happened and therefore where people should act respectful; and, most important, to act as helpers for hunting caribou.

The caribou was the most important land animal for the Inuit. In the old days when Inuit hunted with only bow and arrows, they built inuksuit of stones and placed them upon the land in such a way as to frighten the caribou and guide them straight toward the waiting hunters. In this way, the inuksuit became part of the hunting party. They did the work of humans even though they were made of stone.

Stones come in many different shapes. Inuksuit use three basic shapes. There are round stones called boulders. About all you can do with these is pile them up. There are thin, flat stones, which you can stack like books into a few different shapes. And then there are chunks of broken rock. You can stack the broken rock or balance other pieces on top. You can make them into many more shapes than you can with boulders or flat rocks. Most of the inuksuit in the Arctic are made from broken rock because there is something special about using it—it is the easiest to balance.

The stones to make an inuksuk were carefully chosen so that they could stand or lie upon one another without falling, no matter how fierce a storm. There are inuksuit that have been standing in the Arctic for hundreds of years, probably even longer. You can tell if an inuksuk is very old if you see it covered in lichens. Lichens grow in most places in the world, and in most places in the Arctic. Because they take such a long time

to grow, it means that the thing they are growing upon is also very old. I have seen many inuksuit so covered in lichens that they look as if they are wearing coats.

These ancient inuksuit tell us that the Inuit were in Arctic North America long before the arrival of people from other lands, except the native peoples who lived much farther to the south. Such old inuksuit are treated with great respect because they remind the Inuit of their ancestors. Even now, they can show the way to good hunting places, they can guide you when you are in a strange place, they can warn you of danger just

ahead, and they can fill your heart with joy when you stand beside them at a very beautiful place. In this way, an inuksuk is a gift from the past that keeps giving to anyone who comes its way.

When you look at an old inuksuk you are seeing more than just a stack of stones. You are seeing the thoughts of another person left upon the land, as you see the thoughts of another person in the words you read in a book. Because the Inuit had no written language until quite recently, storytelling and such things as inuksuit were the ways that information was passed on from one generation to another.



81. What do the inuksuit reveal about the Inuit people? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

Scoring Guide

Score	Description
4	Response provides a thorough explanation of what the inuksuit reveal about the Inuit people. Explanation includes specific, relevant information from the passage.
3	Response provides an explanation of what the inuksuit reveal about the Inuit people. Explanation includes supporting information but lacks specificity, relevance, and/or development.
2	Response provides a partial explanation of what the inuksuit reveal about the Inuit people. Explanation includes limited information from the passage and/or is partially correct.
1	Response makes a vague or minimal statement of what the inuksuit reveal about the Inuit people.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response.

Scoring Notes

Some of the things the inuksuit reveal about the Inuit people:

- The inuksuit help to show how the Inuit people lived and survived in the Arctic. Inuksuit helped show travelers the way, warned of danger, helped with the hunting of caribou, and showed where food was stored.
- The inuksuit reveal that the Inuit people were skilled at building structures that have lasted for thousands of years.
- The inuksuit illustrate how important communication and “storytelling” was to the Inuit people; the inuksuit were a connection to the past, and were often used to commemorate the spot where a significant event occurred.

The inuksuit reveal a lot about the Inuit people. First, the Inuit were intelligent. This is shown because the Inuit found a way to replace people with a statue, so the inuksuit became part of the hunting party. The inuksuit also showed directions, warned people, located food, showed where a significant thing happened, and hunted caribou. The stones in them were carefully chosen so they wouldn't fall. Secondly, the inuksuit show the location of the Inuit long ago. They prove that the Inuit, along with the native people of the south, were in North America before people of other lands. Lastly, the inuksuit mean a lot to the Inuit because they remind them of their ancestors. They also show good hunting places, guide you, warn you, and make you happy. Another thing they do is pass information down to the next generation. In conclusion, the inuksuit reveal a lot about the Inuit people.

The inuksuit reveal many things about the Inuit people. For example, they tell us that the Inuits have lived in Arctic North America for a very long time. They tell us that the Inuits were very strategic hunters because they used the inuksuit to drive the caribou towards them. They tell us that the Inuit usually made inuksuits out of broken rocks because they balance better. And they tell us that the Inuits were storytellers. That is what the inuksuit tell us about the Inuit.

I think the Inuk suit reveals the brains of the inuits by making the inuksuits. The inuits also revealed their knowledge of the caribou that the inuits hunt for food. The last thing it revealed was the knowledge of the land that they hunted on because the inuits knew where to put the inuksuits to guide the caribou to the other hunters.

Score Point 1

They reveal about the people that they were smart and needed help in hunting that a person may not be able to provide.

Score Point 0

The inuksuit reveal them by the nick name means "human" beings.

Acknowledgments

Measured Progress and Montana’s Office of Public Instruction wish to acknowledge and credit the following authors and publishers for use of their work in the Montana Comprehensive Assessment System—2009.

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