

Along with 500 million TV viewers, many of you witnessed Sam Sullivan, Vancouver's mayor, accept the Olympic flag and invite the world to "come and play" in Canada in 2010. To coincide with this, the K-12 STUDY CANADA resource flyer focuses on the upcoming 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver and Whistler—which will also host the *STUDY CANADA Summer Institute* in June (see registration information on back).

In addition, two professional development workshops will be offered at UW this spring. *The 6th Annual Documentary Film Workshop: Teaching Cross-Cultural Understanding and Diversity through Film* (held in conjunction with the Native Voices Film Festival) will be held on April 8th and *Québec in Seattle: Le Film Québécois*, a half-day workshop conducted in French by Drs. Anne George and Bob Balas, will be held

on May 6th. For further information, or to register, see the calendar on our website or contact us directly.

K-12 STUDY CANADA had an active fall training educators across the nation. We were particularly pleased to share outreach with the Northeastern National Resource Center for Canada at the annual National Council for Social Studies conference, and with the Association for Canadian Studies in the U.S., and the Canadian Consulate, Denver, to make a *Canada in the Curriculum* presentation to 20 teachers. We returned in January to provide 100 6th grade teachers from Jefferson County with a similar workshop. Access to the PowerPoint presentation given there is available on K-12 STUDY CANADA's homepage at <http://k12studycanada.wvu.edu>.

We look forward to meeting more of you through our outreach-related activities!

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## The Inuit Inukshuk (ᐃᓄᓂᓂ) and the 2010 Olympic Logo

by Nadine Fabbi

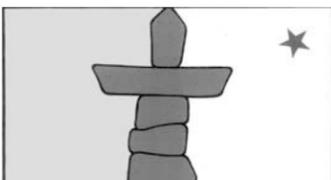
The Arctic landscape, writes Barry Lopez, author of *Arctic Dreams*, is like a desert—open, barren, subtle in its definition and without trees or mountains to distinguish here from there. In order to pass on information that is critical to survival, the Inuit developed a unique form of communication based on rock formations. The *inukshuk* (*inuk*=man, *shuk*=substitute) has been used for over 4,000 years in northern Canada. While rock cairns are popular around the world, the most famous being Stonehenge, Canada's Inuit are the only people who have used these stone pilings as a central part of navigation. Consequently, the *inuksuit* (plural) have become a vital part of Canada's northern culture. The image is used for the flags of two of Canada's Inuit political regions—Nunavut, the new territory created in 1999, and the government of Nunatsiavut, part of Labrador, and formed in 2005 (see images).

There are many forms of *inuksuit* each conveying a distinct message. Some are constructed strictly to direct the traveler like those built in the shape of windows to guide viewers to a particular point in the distance. Some are set to indicate a rich spawning area or danger. A series of *inuksuit* placed in a row can be used to corral caribou along a path and into the "hands" of waiting hunters. Although *inuksuit* do not usually have spiritual connotations, they are sometimes used to remember lost lives. Knud Rasmussen, a Greenlandic explorer in the early 1920s, recorded that, in the community of Kamigluk, when the men once went on an extended hunting expedition, all but one of their wives got caught on an ice flow and were taken out to sea. Upon their return, the men constructed an *inukshuk* for each of the women to keep their souls on the land—apparently the cairns still stand today as a poignant reminder. This use of *inuksuit* to remember lives has also become part of non-Inuit culture.

In 2002, Canadian soldiers in Kandahar built an *inukshuk* to remember the four soldiers who died when a U.S. pilot mistakenly bombed them during a military exercise. The scientists at the Houghton-Mars Project on Devon Island (just to the north of Baffin Island) also constructed an *inukshuk* for each of the seven astronauts killed in the Columbia Space Shuttle explosion in 2003.



The *inukshuk* on the Nunatsiavut flag, the Inuit government created in 2005 in Labrador.



The *inukshuk* on the flag of Nunavut, the Inuit territory created in 1999.



*Ilanaaq*, the *inukshuk* for the 2010 Olympic Logo.

The *inukshuk* has also become a popular commercial logo and used to sell pop, telephone services and beer. Most recently an *inukshuk* was used as the main design for the 2010 Olympic logo (see image). The logo, by Rivera Design, was the unanimous choice of the committee who selected it from 1,600 entries. According to the judges, it was chosen because it is simple, happy, welcoming, has a sense of energy and, while universal, speaks to the particular location of Vancouver.

The *inukshuk* that stands on the shores of English Bay in Stanley Park inspired the design team. It was created by Nunavut artist, Alvin Kanak for the Northwest Territories Pavilion as part of the 1986 World's Fair in Vancouver. Kanak said the figure is a "reminder of the ingenuity of my people in addressing transportation and communications challenges prior to the introduction of modern technology."

Rivera Design liked the welcoming spirit of Kanak's *inukshuk*. After researching all of the topics that they wanted to communicate—Canada's cultural diversity, national personality, and landscapes—the rock formation seemed to represent them all. The Olympic logo was named *Ilanaaq* or Inuktitut for "friend."

Of course, there are fans and there are critics of the design. In this case, some of the critiques are useful in teaching students about the complexity of cross-cultural issues. For example, local First Nations have criticized the Vancouver Olympic Committee for

selecting a symbol that does not reflect regional culture.

"With no disrespect to the Inuit, certainly the Northwest coast has produced some world class art forms and artists who are First Nations. You would have thought there would have been some effort to reflect this and there isn't," said Edward John, Grand Chief of the First Nations Summit in B.C.

Though the Premier of Nunavut and President of the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami both support the use of the *inukshuk* and were at the unveiling ceremony for the Olympic logo, other Inuit have taken issue.

For example, a Nunavut minister, Joe Allen Evyagotailak, was quoted in *Nunatsiaq News* as saying, "I find it very sad that the 2010 Olympic logo will be an *inuksuk* when hamlets in Nunavut are struggling to keep recreation facilities open." In this case, the criticism has to do with the inequality between the two communities—north and south. Controversy also includes the lack of recognition given to Kanak the creator of the English Bay *inukshuk*, who was not invited to the unveiling ceremony nor has he been given credit for his work.

Finally, there are criticisms about the Pac-Man-like appearance of *Ilanaaq*. Some feel it "cheapens" the symbolism of the *inukshuk*. Others want to know why the *inunguaq*—or human form—was used since it is the least common style of Inuit rock formations. Peter Irniq, a former Nunavut commissioner, says that each *inukshuk* that is built has a reason. "It is never built with legs, arms and a head—why weren't the Inuit consulted?"

Critic or fan, the Olympic logo will give the *inukshuk* worldwide attention. This intriguing Inuit cultural symbol honors a vital part of what constitutes Canadian identity—the North

and the impact of Inuit culture on Canada's national identity. Certainly *Ilanaaq* provokes thoughtfulness and will hopefully be used by educators to teach about the North, the Inuit, cultural forms, and the concerns raised when those forms are used by others.



Alvin Kanak's *inukshuk* in English Bay, Vancouver - the inspiration behind the 2010 Olympic Logo.



## Presentations and Displays on Canada this Spring

### Washington State National History Day

*Taking a Stand in History: People, Ideas, Events*

Saturday, May 6, 2006 - Green River Community College, Auburn, WA

Website: [www.washingtonhistory.org/wshm/education/history-day/index.htm](http://www.washingtonhistory.org/wshm/education/history-day/index.htm)

Awards given to winners, including the "Canadian History Awards" sponsored by K-12 STUDY CANADA, the Canada-America Society and the Canadian Consulate General, Seattle, for projects in the junior and senior categories that include Canada. Winners in each category receive \$100 for individual submissions or \$50 per student for group submissions. The theme for 2007 will be Triumph and Tragedy in History.

### Annual STUDY CANADA Summer Institute for K-12 Educators

*The 2006 British Columbia Experience: From the Five Themes of Geography to the 2010 Olympics*

Sunday, June 25 - Friday, June 30, 2006 in Vancouver and Whistler, B.C., Canada

Cost: \$500 in-state/\$530 out-of-state for 3 credit hrs/40 clock hrs

Travel support is still available - \$100-\$300 is distributed with registration on a rolling-basis

Registration Deadline: April 1, 2006 (Note: Transportation to/from Vancouver is not included)

This six-day intensive survey course, directed by Dr. Don Alper, Director of the Center for Canadian-American Studies at Western Washington University, provides a strong foundation for teaching Canada and enhancing its inclusion in the social studies curriculum. Expert instruction is given by distinguished speakers from Canada and the United States and participants experience Canada's culture first-hand while staying two nights at the Delta Suites Hotel in Vancouver and 3 nights at the Crystal Lodge in Whistler, BC.

Teachers receive a program binder of session-related materials as well as the popular textbook, CANADA: Northern Neighbor (2nd Edition), CD-ROMs, atlases, and other classroom resources. The draft agenda will soon be available online and limited scholarships are available. To download a registration form, visit [www.wvu.edu/depts/castudies/k12studycanada/scsi.shtml](http://www.wvu.edu/depts/castudies/k12studycanada/scsi.shtml) or contact [tina.storer@wvu.edu](mailto:tina.storer@wvu.edu).

NB: Cost includes tuition fees, 5 nights hotel w/ daily breakfasts, and transportation between Vancouver-Whistler; hotel rooms are shared unless a supplemental fee of \$400 for private room or \$500 for non-registered companion is paid.

## Canada in the Classroom: K-12 Resources

The 2006 Winter Games began on February 10 in Torino, Italy. The 2008 Summer Olympic Games will be held in Beijing, China and the 2010 Winter Olympic Games will be held in Vancouver, Canada. The Olympics-themed websites and books recommended here will help bring the Olympics to your school if you can't take your classroom there!

### THE OLYMPICS ONLINE

**Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympic Games @** [www.vancouver2010.com](http://www.vancouver2010.com) / [www.winter2010.com](http://www.winter2010.com)

**Olympic Games Websites, Activities, Books @** [www.theteacherscorner.net/thematicunits/current.htm](http://www.theteacherscorner.net/thematicunits/current.htm)

**Video on Olympic Logo at BC Stories @** [www.bcstories.gov.bc.ca/history\\_culture.html](http://www.bcstories.gov.bc.ca/history_culture.html)

**Aboriginal Tourism British Columbia - Circles of Opportunity @** [www.atbc.bc.ca/olympicbid](http://www.atbc.bc.ca/olympicbid)

**Canadian Olympic School Program @** <http://www.olympicschool.ca>

**Olympic History Timeline @** [www.musarium.com/kodak/olympics/olympichistory](http://www.musarium.com/kodak/olympics/olympichistory)

**Teaching Guide to the Olympic Games @** [www.olympics.org.uk/olympic\\_pack.pdf.pdf](http://www.olympics.org.uk/olympic_pack.pdf.pdf)

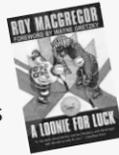
**Elementary Printouts & Activities @** [www.enchantedlearning.com/olympics](http://www.enchantedlearning.com/olympics)

**Olympic Games Primer (and Curriculum Guides) @** [www.aafla.org/6oic/primer\\_frmst.htm](http://www.aafla.org/6oic/primer_frmst.htm)

**Beijing 2008 Summer Olympic Games @** <http://en.beijing2008.com>

### BOOKS ON THE OLYMPICS

*A Loonie for Luck* by Roy Macgregor and (McClelland & Stewart, 2002) Grades 5-9; 96 Pages. ISBN: 0-7710-5481-5 "Roy MacGregor's charming true fable for all ages about Canada's 2002 Olympic hockey gold medal triumphs...It's the story of how one lucky loonie went from a Tim Horton's cash register in Edmonton to centre ice at the Salt Lake City Winter Olympics to the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto." - Vancouver Courier



*Freeze Frame: A Photographic History of the Winter Olympics* by Sue Macy. (National Geographic, 2005) 96 Pages; Grades 4-9. Includes charts, map, photos, appendix, etc. ISBN 0-7922-7887-9 or ISBN 0-7922-7888-7 This wonderful book from Sue Macy and National Geo-



graphic chronicles the history of the Winter Games in words and pictures—from the difficulties of getting the Winter Olympics off the ground to inspiring photos of great Olympic moments.

*Olympics* by Chris Oxlade and David Ballheimer (DK Publishing Eyewitness Books Series, 2005). Grades 4-6 ISBN: 0756610834 Although a lot of infoAlthough much information is inevitably left out, this book captivates readers with its visual survey of the history and traditions of the Olympics, highlighting memorable events from ancient Greece to the present day.



*Magic Tree House Research Guide: Ancient Greece and the Olympics* by Mary Pope Osborne and Natalie Pope Boyce (Random House Books for Young Readers, 2004). Grades 2-5. ISBN: 0-375-82378-6 For classroom activities related to this guide in the popular children's series, visit [www.randomhouse.com/teachers/catalog/display.pperl?isbn=9780375823787&view=tg](http://www.randomhouse.com/teachers/catalog/display.pperl?isbn=9780375823787&view=tg).



*The Complete Book of the Winter Olympics, 2006 Edition* by David Wallechinsky and Jaime Loucky (SportClassic Books, 2005) 384 Pages. ISBN: 1894963458. "A marvelous resource" according to Newsweek, this book offers comprehensive results, statistics, and records with photographs and the stories behind the events that will fascinate students.



*Olympic Dream Curriculum Guide - Grades 3-4; 80 Pages.* Bring the Olympic spirit to life with information and activities that relate to both the Summer and Winter Games. Learn about Olympic history, traditions, sites, and events. Study the spirit of competition and the stories of famous athletes. A complete board game, plans for a mini-Olympic competition, research center ideas, art patterns, a bibliography and more are included. Visit <http://www.griffinpublishing.com/cat-pages/olympics.htm> to order—sales help support the U.S. Olympic Team.



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Denver educators enjoy "Canada in the Curriculum"—a national training co-sponsored by K-12 STUDY CANADA.