

At the Top of the World

培生
英语阅读

世界之巅

At the Top of the World

◆ 辛迪·特朗博尔 著

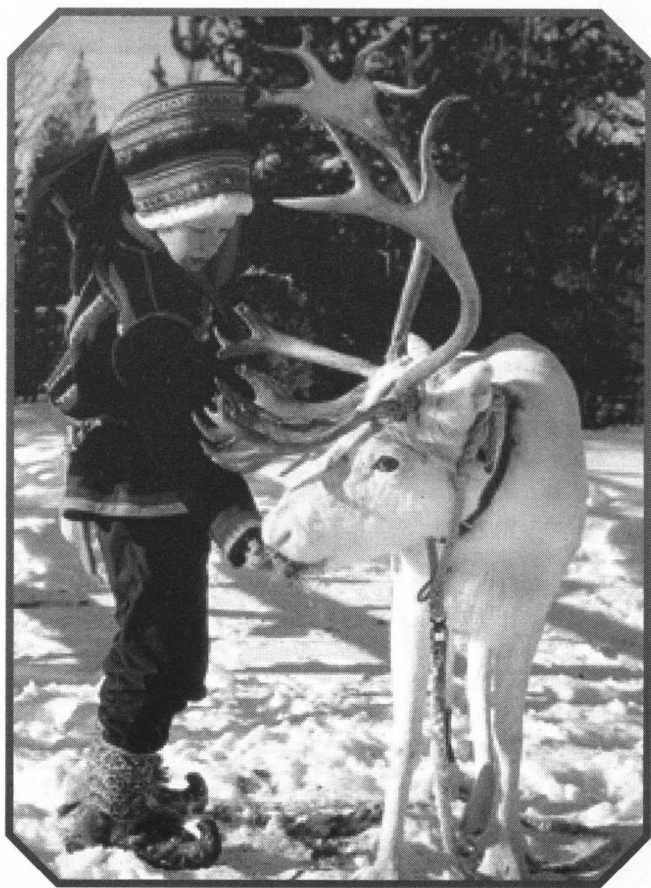
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By Cindy Trumbore

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作 者	辛迪·特朗博尔
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A decorative border of various snowflake patterns is scattered across the top of the page, framing the title.

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**For Dad, who always gave me
a ride when it was cold out**

Chapter 1

The Arctic

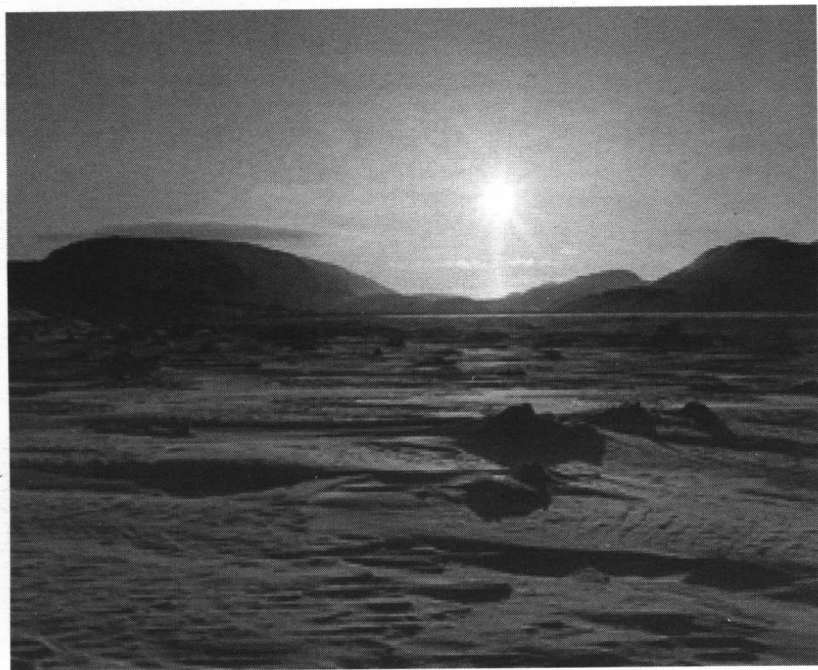
Think about a land where it is cold and dark for most of the year. In the summer the sun never sets. This place is called the **Arctic**. It is **at the top of** the world.



The Arctic is a land of snow, ice, and polar bears.

During the Arctic summer the sun shines all the time, even at night. For this reason the Arctic is sometimes called the Land of the **Midnight Sun**.

Summer lasts only two months from the end of June to the end of August. Then winter comes. The sun is always low in the sky. It is dark most of the time. Everything **freezes** and stays frozen for ten months.



A winter day in the Arctic



Can you find the eider duck sitting on the tundra?

In the Arctic the land is too cold and dry for tall trees to grow. Some **plants** do live there. They are small like grasses and bushes.

Many kinds of **animals** live there. Some large animals are polar bears, seals, and walruses. Small animals like birds and foxes live there, too.



An Arctic village

People live in the Arctic. What do you think it would be like to live at the top of the world? The best way to **find out** is to see what life is like for some of the Arctic people.

Meet Vivi Mala. She lives in the Arctic. Vivi and her family know the best ways to live in **such** a cold and frozen world.

Vivi Mala



Cold*Fact

A group of people who live in the Arctic are the Inuit (IHN oo iht). Their name means “the people.”

Chapter 2

Old and New Ways

Vivi and her family **live a life** that is both new and old. The new ways make life easier. The old ways help Vivi's family remember how their people learned to live in the Arctic.



Woman fishing



Inuits hunt in a boat called an umiak.

If Vivi had lived in the Arctic long ago, her family would have **hunted** and fished for food. They would have searched for seals and walruses. They would have also hunted whales and wild deer called caribou.



The Saami people still herd reindeer today.

Some Arctic people who lived long ago were **reindeer herders**. The reindeer moved from place to place to **look for** food. The herders followed the reindeer.

In the **past** the people got everything they needed from animals. They ate meat and fish. They **made** oil **from** animal fat to light their lamps. They used animal bones for tools.

The people sewed animal skins together to make clothing. Most clothes were jackets with hoods and suits lined with fur. Shoes were also made from animal skins.



A Nenet mother wraps her baby in fur.

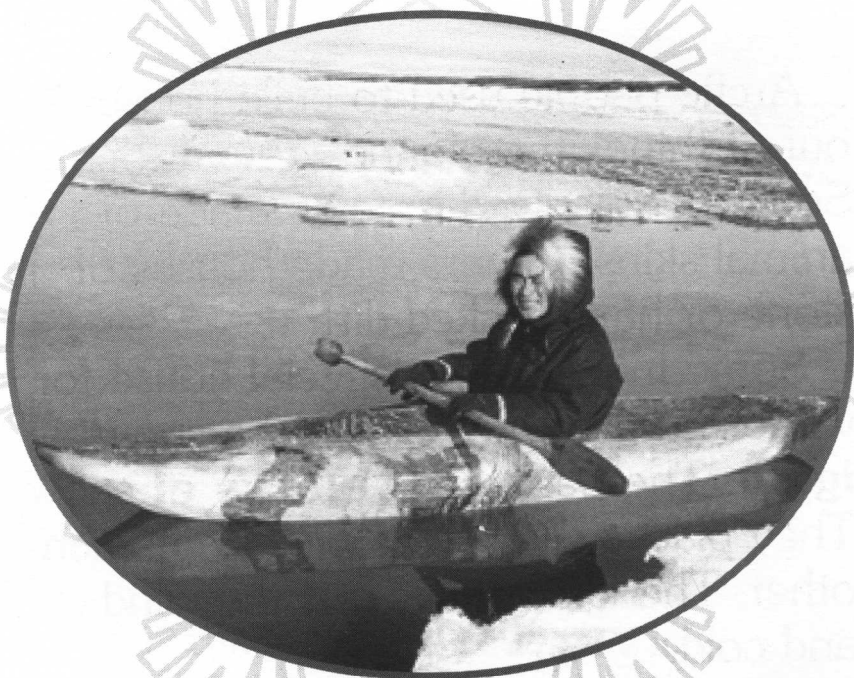


People travel on sleds pulled by reindeer.

Some Arctic people used dogsleds to travel and hunt. **Teams of** dogs pulled the sleds over the snow. People who herded reindeer used those animals to pull their sleds.

Most Arctic villages **long ago** were on the shores of the ocean and along rivers. In spring and summer the water was not frozen. Then families could fish with nets and sharp tools.

The people could also travel **in boats**. The Inuits used boats called kayaks for seal hunts. These small boats held just one or two people.



A kayak is a small boat.



An Inuit finishes a snow igloo.

Arctic people used to build houses out of things they found around them. Some people lived in tents made of animal skins. Others made houses of stone or hard-packed dirt.

Some Inuits used a special house for winter hunting. It was called a snow **igloo**. The people cut **blocks of** snow. They placed the blocks on top of each other. The igloo **kept out** the wind and cold.