

# **First Nations and Inuit Economies**

## **Needs and Wants**

- In the past, they depended on land and natural resources to survive.
- Whatever was in your region was what you used (see map)
- Inuit built winter homes of blocks of snow or whale bone, stone, sod, because no trees.
- summer homes- bones, antlers, hides- These items were an important part of their economy.

## **Production**

- In the past, items built by hand, used bone and stone tools
- Used all things available- did not waste
- Used all parts of animal- food, bones for tools, hides for shelter and clothes
- People travelled to hunt as resources came available
- In spring, went to water areas to fish
- Sometimes whole nations would travel together or just families
- Everyone worked together
- Men would hunt, women prepared hides.
- Saw the land as important- land and resources are a source of life- must be used wisely so not wasted- want enough for future generations
- Prayers, ceremonies important for production- show respect and thanks.

## **Distribution**

- Everyone shared in what was produced.
- In Maritimes, resources available all year round.
- In other areas, struggled during harsh winters.
- Helped one another during difficult times
- Also had trade networks with other tribes ex. Innu traded with Algonquin for corn.
- NO ONE OWNED THE LAND- no tradition of private ownership- The land belonged to nature.