



Inuvialuit Clothing

www.inuvialuitlivinghistory.ca

Lesson Plan 4

Background



The MacFarlane Collection contains many items of skin clothing that demonstrate the skills, creativity and patience of Inuvialuit seamstresses. The styles and decoration told much about the person who wore the garments, including their group and even which family they belonged to. Through time the clothing patterns and the materials used have changed, but the importance of having clothing made by a mother, grandmother, aunt or older sibling remains the same today. The MacFarlane Collection provides Inuvialuit today with a look at the clothing styles of their ancestors, and inspiration for continuing those styles in their own creative ways.

*Parts of this lesson plan are hyperlinked to: www.inuvialuitlivinghistory.ca



Lesson

4A

Grade 4



E-5135
Dance Mitts

Curriculum Links:

(NWT Social Studies)

- Demonstrate an understanding that their identities are shaped by living in a Northern environment (i.e. clothing)





Procedure:

With students, read the background to **Inuvialuit Sewing** on the website. Go to the following link and have students explore the different types of Inuvialuit clothing:

[\[http://www.inuvialuitlivinghistory.ca/items?q=tag+clothing\]](http://www.inuvialuitlivinghistory.ca/items?q=tag+clothing)

- Make a list of the types of clothing in the MacFarlane Collection, and write the Inuvialuktun name beside each type.
- Have a class discussion about the different animal skins and materials used and details sewn into the clothes.

Download and print a copy of **Inuvialuit Paper Dolls** for each student. Students will need scissors, glue and coloured pencils.

- Go over instructions that students will follow to create their own dolls, based on the clothing in the MacFarlane Collection. Students will need scissors, glue and coloured pencils. Ensure that students write the Inuvialuktun term on each item.
- Have each student model their dolls to the rest of the class down a class runway.
- Post the dolls on the wall in one area to illustrate the different clothing styles with the Inuvialuktun names of the different types of clothing parts highlighted.



discussion questions



1. How important is patience for sewing? When would seamstresses have the time to sew for their entire family?
2. What are all the items of clothing you can think of that a woman would need to sew for her family?

post-activity

Have students sew an Inuvialuk puppet using pieces of fabric and fur. Invite a seamstress to the class to show students how to sew the puppet. Ensure the pattern is very simple (ask the seamstress to make the pattern ahead of time) and use fabric from the store and scraps of fur like rabbit, muskrat or beaver for the trim.



Lesson

4B

Grade 9



Curriculum Links:

E-1730
Mitts

(NWT Social Studies)

- The major economic resources of each physical region

Procedure:

Print enough copies of the pattern for making mitts from the following pages so each student has one copy. Ensure there are enough needles for each student, with extras on hand if any needles break. Prior to teaching the lesson, ensure to have all the materials located in one area for students to use and provide a zip-lock bag with each student's name to keep their supplies and material together.

- Materials required: Seal, muskrat, or beaver fur, glovers needles, sinew (imitation), leather or thin and soft pieces of caribou or moose hide, beads, mitts pattern, sewing scissors for each student, pencils for tracing the pattern, utility knife for cutting fur (up to 3). Use fabric substitutes if fur is unavailable.





Mittens

E1730 *Aitqatik*

{Caribou Skin Mittens}

A pair of mittens made of caribou hide. The pieces that form the palms and inner parts of the thumbs have had the hair removed. Strips of caribou hide are sewn around the cuffs and along horizontal seams where several pieces of hide are sewn together.



Mittens

E1730 *Aitqatik*
{Caribou Skin Mittens}



Instructions

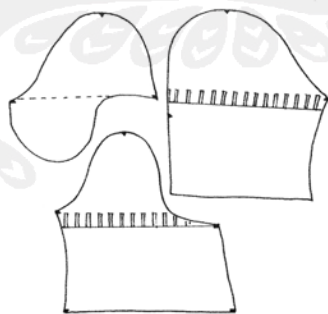
Suggested fabrics: caribou hide, fur, leather, heavy fleece, wool duffel
Hand stitching is recommended. Use strong thread and overlap edges.

Using the pattern provided for a mitten for a left hand, cut two of each of the following pieces, one for the left hand and one for the right hand. The right hand pieces will be flipped when sewing that mitten:

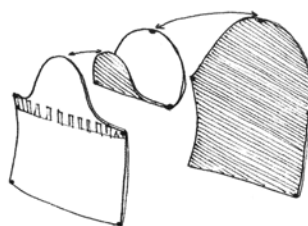
- A mittens back
- B mittens palm
- C mittens wrist
- D mittens loop

Construction

1. Using the points as guides, temporarily attach the upper parts of A-Back to B-Palm using a basting stitch along the edge between the *markings. This thread will be gathered, so leave the ends of the thread hanging.
2. Sew palm to wrist. If using fur or caribou hide with the hair left on, the hair should be on the inside of palm and on the outside of wrist. Sew close to the edges of fabric, easing the thumb of wrist to match the thumb of palm.
3. Pin loop in place at marking.
4. Sew the palm to the back. Match notches and ease the back to match the palm, spreading the basting evenly between markings. Stitch around the edge of mitten, close to the edges of fabric.
5. Decorate with fringes, tufts of contrasting fur, beads or embroidery.



[1]



[2]

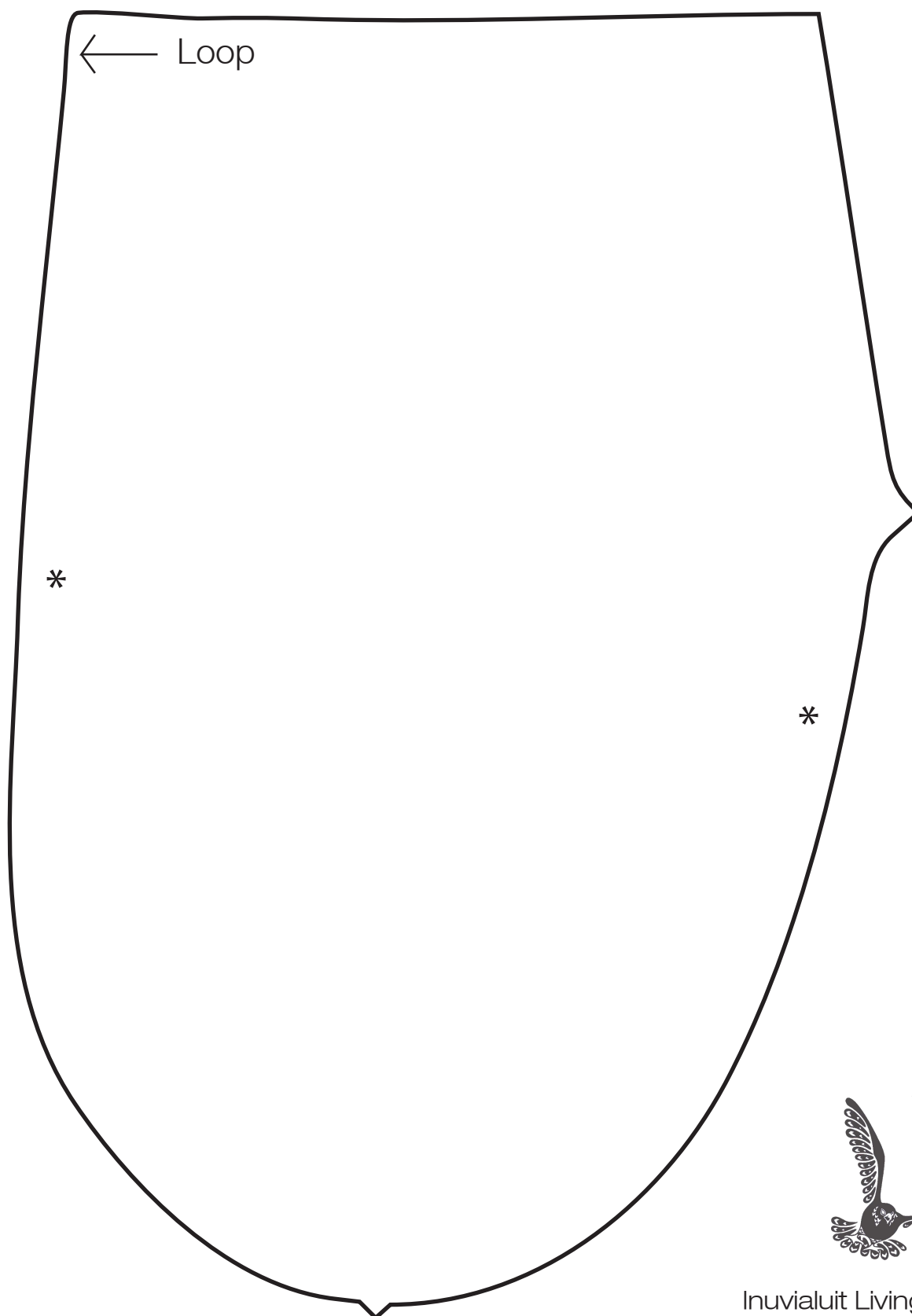


[3]

Mittens

E1730 *Aitqatik*
{Caribou Skin Mittens}

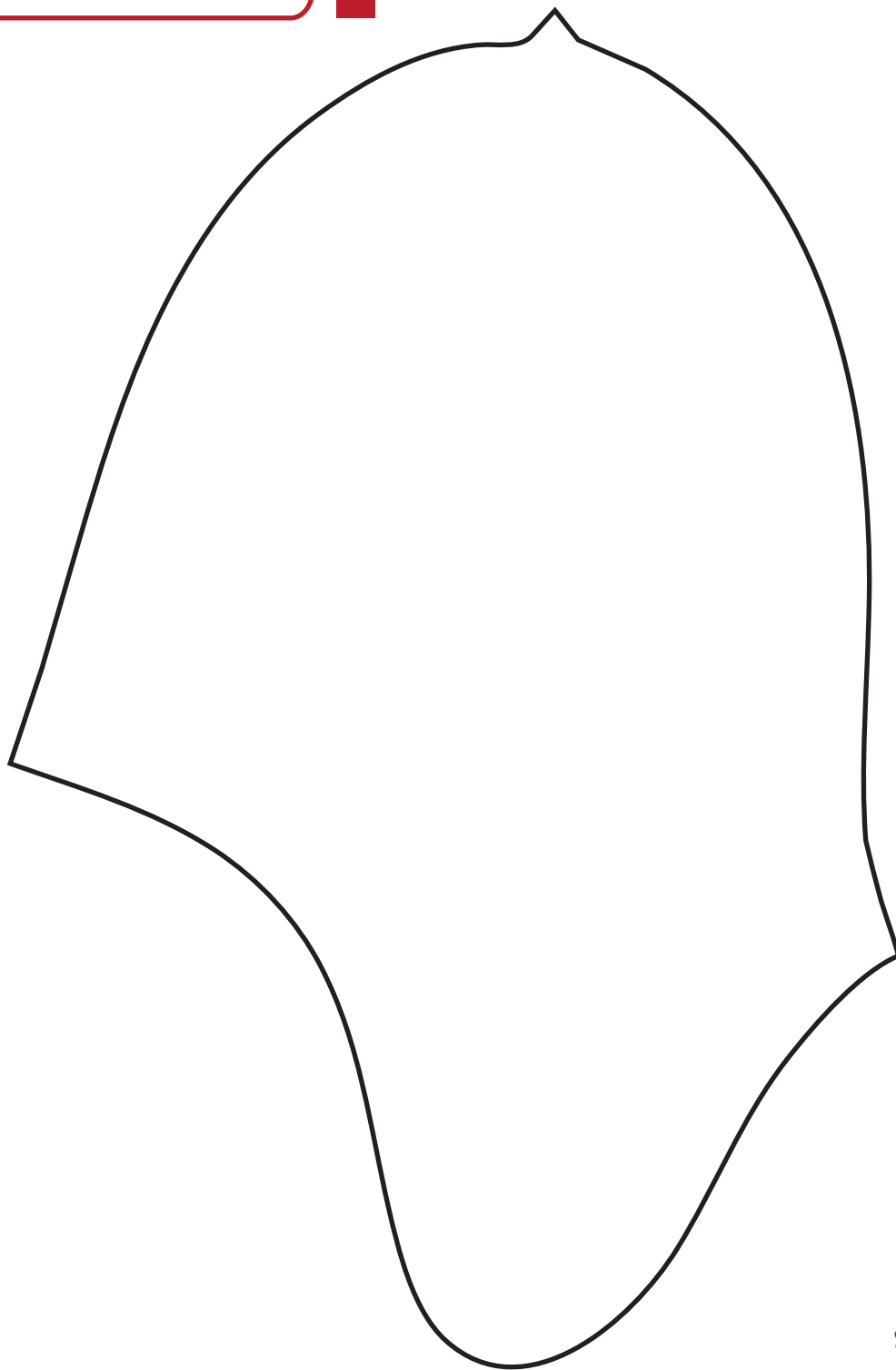
A - BACK



Mittens

E1730 *Aitqatik*
{Caribou Skin Mittens}

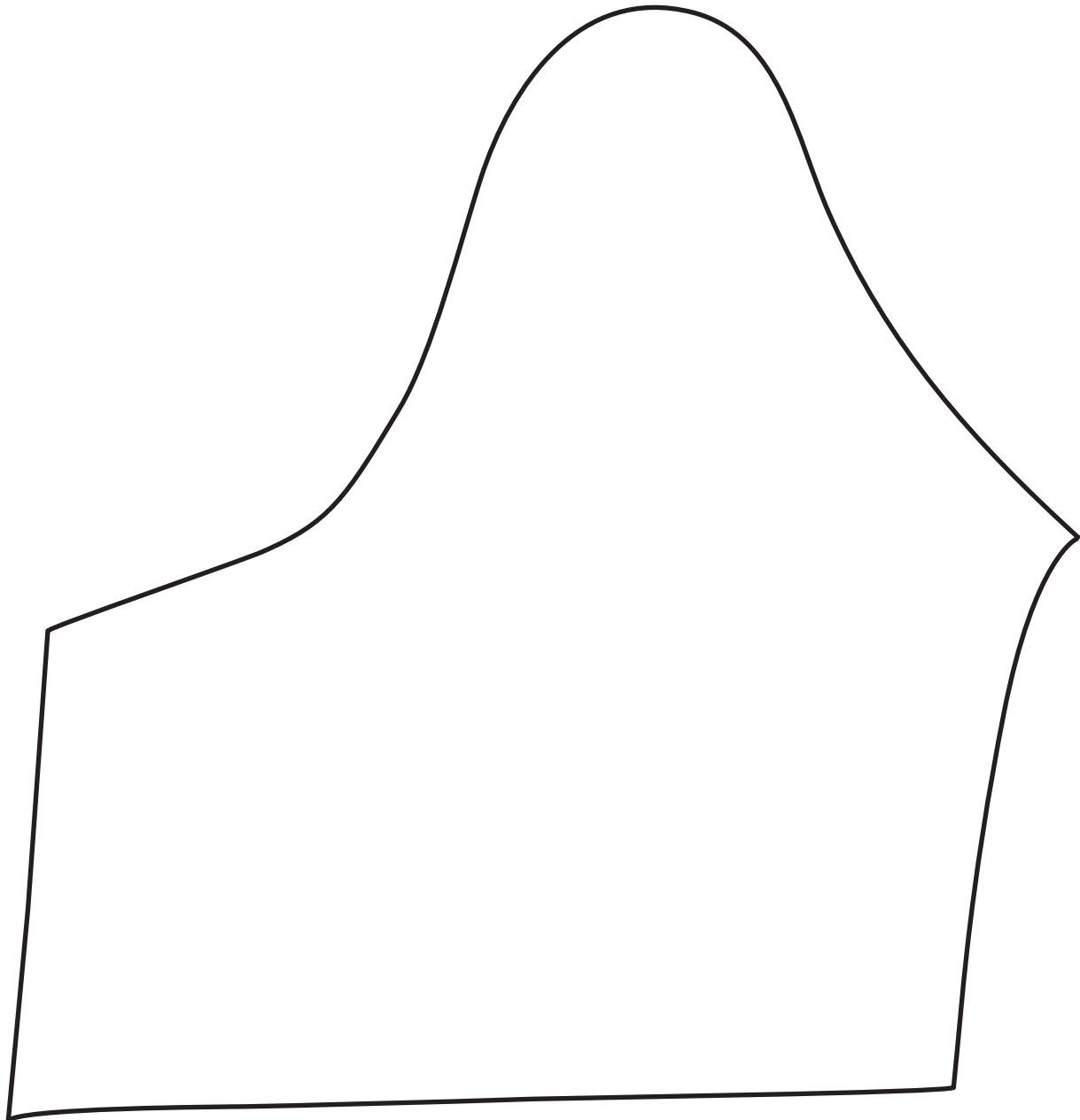
B - PALM



Mittens

E1730 *Aitqatik*
{Caribou Skin Mittens}

C - WRIST



Mittens

E1730 *Aitqatik*
{Caribou Skin Mittens}

D - LOOP



worksheet



E-2088
Needle Case

1. Read the background to [Inuvialuit Sewing](#) on the website.
2. Go to the following link and view the photos of the Inuvialuit clothing that Roderick MacFarlane collected from Inuvialuit ancestral groups. Have a class discussion about the different animal skins and materials used and details sewn into the clothes.
3. Make a list of all the different types of materials used to make the clothes and the types of clothing collected (mitts, gloves, boots, etc.). As well, write the Inuvialuktun name beside each type of clothing.
4. Provide students with a pattern instructions to create their own pair of mitts. The instructions are included with the pattern.
5. Prior to students starting their own patterns, go through each step with students until you get to the sewing. This is important so students understand how patterns are cut, which way to place the pattern, how many pieces are needed, and most importantly how to ensure they end up with pieces for both hands.



discussion questions



E-5133
Mitts

1. Where did seamstresses come up with the designs and patterns for clothing?
2. Who do you think should 'own' or have the rights over the clothing patterns made based off of the collection?

post-activity

Arrange for students to visit a local craft store to observe and look at all the different types of clothing made by Inuvialuit seamstresses today. If there is no craft store located in the community, invite one or two seamstresses to the school to display their work and discuss with students their clothing patterns and their sewing background.

