

Greenland, southwestern Alaska, and the Aleutians, there was little hunting on the ice, but hunting by kayak and umiak was much more developed.

Though the great majority of the Eskimos lived by the sea, hunting sea mammals, there were three areas where they developed an inland culture. These were in the flat deltas of the Yukon and Kuskokwim, on the Colville and Noatak rivers in north Alaska, and in the barren lands east of Hudson Bay. The people in the first two of these areas were always dependent on the sea to some extent, obtaining blubber for their lamps and other things from the Eskimos who dwelt on the coast, but the Caribou Eskimos of the barrens lived almost completely on the caribou herds and fish of the interior, making fires from shrubs instead of blubber, and visited the sea rarely if at all.

[ARCHAEOLOGY]

The question most frequently asked about the Eskimos is "where did they come from?" This is easily answered because their physical type shows that they come from Asia and in fact there is really nowhere else that they could have come from. The question which follows from this is "where did they learn to become Eskimos?" — in other words, where did they learn to hunt sea mammals and to build up this remarkable culture that enabled them to spread right across North America to Greenland? There have been two main schools of thought. One was that they were a people who moved from inland North America down the rivers to the Arctic coast or Hudson Bay and there learnt to become Eskimos — in other words, that the Eskimo was a Canadian invention. Others believed that it was around Bering Strait, and probably on the Asian side, that the Eskimo culture evolved. There has been a

Mermaid, stone, Cape Dorset.



Mother and Child, whalebone and hair, Cape Dorset.

long controversy, but the evidence seems to be very much in favour of a Bering Strait origin.

In the greater part of the Canadian Arctic, four main Eskimo cultures have been distinguished. The latest is the modern people, the Eskimos who are living there today. Eight or nine hundred years ago a people, called by archaeologists the Thule people since they were first identified from excavations at Thule in Greenland, spread from Alaska over the Canadian north and into Greenland. They lived almost exclusively on sea mammals and dwelt in stone houses and they usually have been believed to have been a different people from the modern Eskimo, but it now seems probable that the modern Canadian Eskimos are the direct descendants of the Thule people.

The Thule people seem to have replaced an earlier people, called the Dorset people because they were first identified from specimens collected at Cape Dorset. Traces of the Dorset people have been found all over the Eastern Canadian Arctic and as far west as King William Island and well into Greenland. They were certainly completely different from the Thule people but