

Inukshuks

Inukshuks are pillars of piled stones, roughly resembling men (the Inuit word means "like a person") that have been the monuments of the North for thousands of years. They have served to identify places and to give bearings to travellers and as accessories in the hunting of caribou.

Inuit lore says they were in place when their ancestors came from Asia and that they were

made by the Tunrit, the forgotten people, who also left fish weirs and ruins of stone houses. The Inukshuks are often in rows and the Inuit (and probably the Tunrit) used them to herd the caribou into ambush. Men and boys ran in and out between them so that the short-sighted caribou thought the Inukshuks were hunters too, and stampeded into water where they were speared, or past stone blinds hiding archers. The Inukshuks, the ruined houses and the tent rings are older than the Acropolis and the Pyramids.

