

# Recording scripts

## Unit 12

### Listening Part 2\*

#### Recording script CD2 Track 16

**Presenter:** The Inuit, or Eskimo people, live in the Arctic and sub-Arctic regions of Siberia, Greenland and Canada. Altogether there are more than 100,000 Inuit, most of whom live near the sea, hunting aquatic mammals such as seals, walrus and whales.

European whalers, who arrived in the latter part of the nineteenth century, had a strong impact on the Inuit. They brought their religion but they also brought their infectious diseases, diseases to which the Inuit had no immunity and which, as a direct consequence of this, reduced the population in some areas.

In the past, the Inuit had several different forms of traditional housing. In Greenland, they often lived in permanent stone houses. Along the shores of Siberia, they lived in villages made up of wooden houses. Summer housing for many Inuit was a skin tent, while in the winter igloos, houses made of snow, were common.

Wherever they live today, the Inuit are involved in the modern world. They have wholeheartedly adopted much of its technology, as well as its clothing, and the design of their living spaces. Their economic, religious and governmental institutions have also been heavily influenced by the cultures of their near neighbours in Europe and America.

#### Recording script CD2 Track 17

**Presenter:** In today's edition of *World View*, professor of Environmental Science Toby Moore outlines some of the problems facing the Inuit communities of the Arctic. Professor Moore.

**Professor Moore:** Thank you very much. I suppose it would be true to say that, in today's world, most of us, most educated adults at any rate, are aware of global warming and climate

change. But how many of us living in modern cities, cities with a seemingly inexhaustible supply of electricity into our homes and places of work, cities that are full of shops that are simply brimful with consumer goods ... how many of us are actually affected by these phenomena in our daily lives? The Inuit, however, are being affected in a very real way, on a daily basis by a frightening array of physical changes they see and feel around them. They see icebergs melting, tides changing, and notice the thinning of the polar bear population. They see how the daily weather markers on which they have relied for thousands of years are becoming less predictable as their fragile climate changes. In the past, if there was a ring around the moon, it meant a change of weather in the next few days – it was one of nature's messages to the Inuit hunters. Now such signs mean nothing. But these are just the most immediately visible signs of the changes taking place. Talk to the Inuit elders and hunters who depend on the land and you will hear disturbing accounts of deformed fish, diseased caribou, and baby seals left by their mothers to starve. In the last year or so, robins have appeared where robins have never been seen before. Interestingly, there is no word for 'robin' in the Inuit language. These feelings are not simply based on Inuit superstition; there is increasingly strong scientific evidence that the Arctic, this desert of snow, ice and killing cold wind, is thawing. Glaciers are receding; coastlines are eroding; lakes are disappearing. Autumn freezes are coming later and the winters are not as cold.

For years, what the Inuit elders and hunters understood about the Arctic climate, known as 'traditional knowledge', was largely disregarded by the Western world. It was

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often dismissed as anecdotal and unreliable by scientists who visited the area with their recording devices, and their theories. Some even viewed the Inuit as ignorant about a land which they have inhabited for thousands of years. But more recently, scientists have begun paying attention to what the Inuit are reporting. According to geophysicist George Hobson, traditional Inuit knowledge was just waiting to be passed down. He says this deep knowledge and understanding of the land and its wildlife have enabled the Inuit people to survive in the harsh Arctic environment. For thousands of years, the Inuit have lived by rules that require them to respect animals and the land. They have adapted to the cold climate as they hunted seals, walruses and whales. Siloah Atagoojuk, an elderly Inuit woman who lives in the city of Iqaluit, does not want to pretend she knows more than anyone else – nor does she try to blame anyone for the change in her environment. She is simply worried. Her world is not as it used to be and her people may not be able to adapt to it. She says that the Inuit have known all along that there would be a time when the Earth would be destroyed or would destroy itself. She believes that this process has begun.

I believe that it is now up to our governments to show Siloah and her people that we can slow or even reverse this process.

**Woman:** Well, that used to just be in Africa but I think these days we're more worried about it in Europe – I mean, do you remember that thing a few years ago when all those people died in the heatwave?

**Man:** That's very true, yeah. What about air pollution as well, which is obviously on the minds of many politicians at the moment, but that's going to affect us perhaps more in the long term than now.

**Woman:** Well it already does, doesn't it? Think about how many more people there are now with allergies and skin problems.

**Man:** Very true – and fossil fuel consumption, erm ...

**Woman:** The price of oil these days ...

**Man:** And the global tension that that's causing as well.

**Woman:** True – that's very worrying. So, which one do you think is going to be the biggest threat?

**Man:** I think it's going to be drought conditions in the short term and air pollution perhaps in the longer term.

**Woman:** Do you think so? You could be right. Maybe either drought or floods – one of the two related to climate change. And I think we really do need to find an alternative to oil – that's going to be a real problem.

## Speaking Part 3

### Recording script CD2 Track 18

**Woman:** Well, this one's quite relevant because it's been in the news recently – it's forest fires over in the States, and I think it shows the threat of global warming – which is going to be a big problem. What do you think?

**Man:** You've also got flood damage which is something that we're seeing now, in different parts of the world.

**Woman:** That's true.

**Man:** And the opposite, of course – drought conditions as well.