

Glossary

A

Amagoalik, John: An Inuit political figure who was instrumental in the creation of the Canadian territory and Inuit homeland, Nunavut

Annexation: The act of incorporating a territory into the domain of a city, country or state.

Arctic: near or relating to the North Pole

Arctic Council: A forum through which Canada, among other member states, advances Arctic foreign policy and promotes Canadian Arctic interests internationally

C

Canadian Arctic Expedition (CAE) (1913 – 1918): An expedition that asserted Canada's control over thousands of square kilometers in the Arctic

Champsosaur (Choristoderes): A crocodile-like reptile that lived in freshwater ponds 55 to 65 million years ago. Fossils of this reptile have been found in the high Arctic.

Cold War: A state of high political tension between the Soviet Union and its allies and the United States and its allies which ended with the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 but continues to have ramifications today.

Colonialism: The control or governing influence of one country over a dependent country, territory or people.

Crimean War (1853-1856): A conflict between Russia and England, France and Ottoman Turkey over Russian demands to protect the Orthodox subjects of the Ottoman sultan.

Cryolite: A lustrous mineral of sodium-aluminum used in the production of aluminum. The greatest deposits are found in Greenland.

E

European Union: An economic and political partnership among 28 European countries

F

First-year ice (annual ice): refers to sea ice of no more than one winter's growth

Freshwater Asian Turtle: A marine reptile belonging to the order Testudines, having a shell enclosing a body and into

which the head, limbs and tail usually can be withdrawn. In 2006, scientists found a fossil of a Freshwater Asian Turtle in the Arctic region supporting the theory that a freshwater sea once floated atop the Arctic ocean.

G

Global commons: resource domains that lie outside political reach of any one nation state. There are four examples: the High Seas, the Atmosphere, Antarctica and Outer Space

Great Ice Age: the Pleistocene epoch beginning two million years ago and ending 10,000 years ago. The epoch was characterized by advancing and retreating of glacial ice, as well as a colder and drier climate.

Greenhouse gas (GHG): gases such as carbon dioxide that amplify the Earth's naturally occurring greenhouse effect causing a rapid and dramatic warming of the atmosphere

H

Hegemony: influence or control over another country or group of people

Hopson, Eben: An Alaskan Eskimo and founder of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, now known as the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC)

Hudson's Bay Company: A British colonial trading company chartered in 1670 that was granted all lands draining into Hudson Bay for commercial use.

I

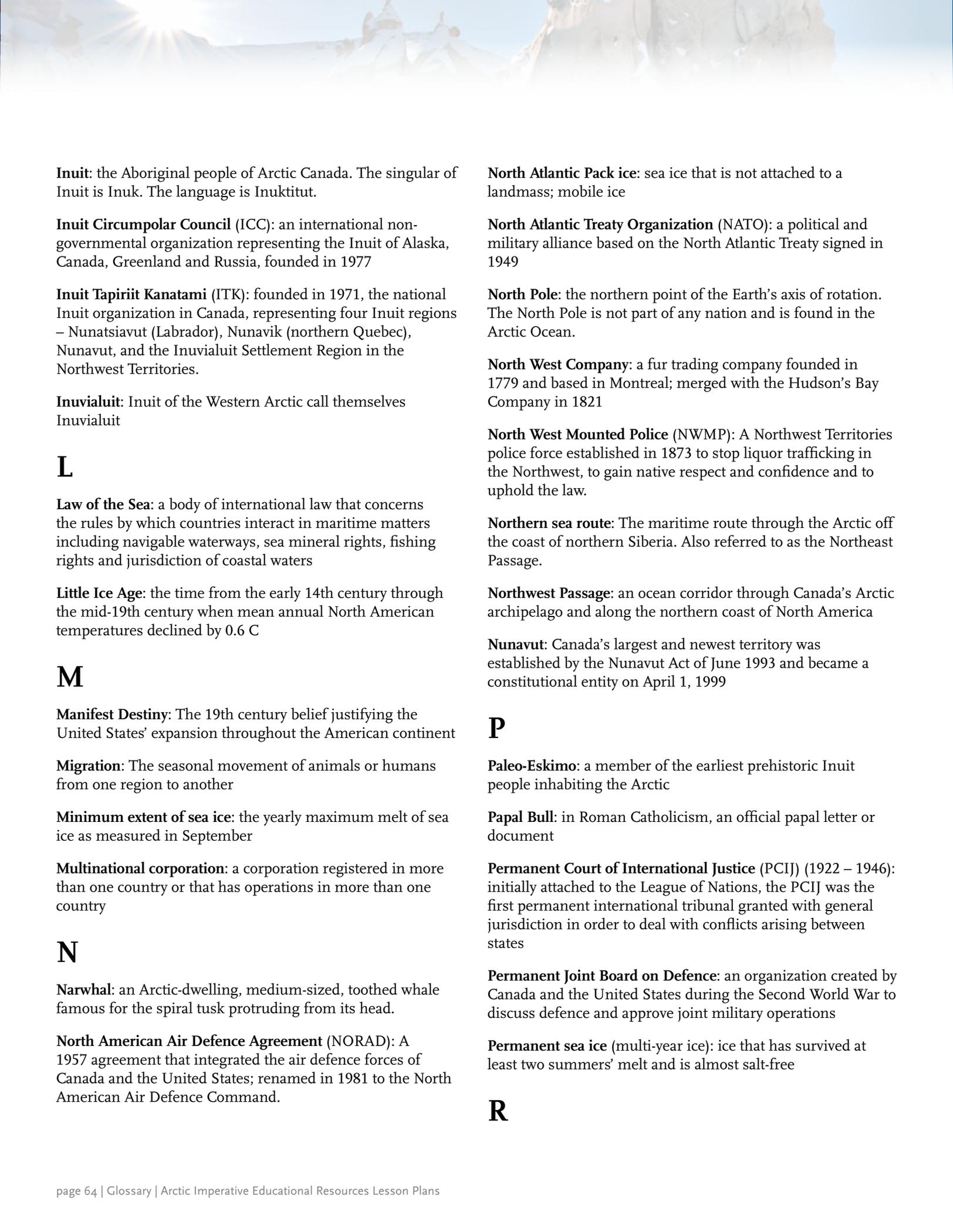
Indian Act: a Canadian federal statute, last updated in 1951, which outlines the rights of First Nations in Canada

Internal waters: all waters landward of a coastal state's jurisdictional coastline whereby the coastal state has full sovereignty over them

International Polar Year (IPY) (1882 -83): a year dedicated to the international program of scientific research focused on the Arctic and Antarctic regions. The third and most recent IPY was 2007-08.

International strait: connects two oceans or large bodies of water and is commonly used for commercial shipping

Inughuit: The name describing Greenland's northernmost peoples, also referred to as Polar Eskimos or Arctic Highlanders.



Inuit: the Aboriginal people of Arctic Canada. The singular of Inuit is Inuk. The language is Inuktitut.

Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC): an international non-governmental organization representing the Inuit of Alaska, Canada, Greenland and Russia, founded in 1977

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK): founded in 1971, the national Inuit organization in Canada, representing four Inuit regions – Nunatsiavut (Labrador), Nunavik (northern Quebec), Nunavut, and the Inuvialuit Settlement Region in the Northwest Territories.

Inuvialuit: Inuit of the Western Arctic call themselves Inuvialuit

L

Law of the Sea: a body of international law that concerns the rules by which countries interact in maritime matters including navigable waterways, sea mineral rights, fishing rights and jurisdiction of coastal waters

Little Ice Age: the time from the early 14th century through the mid-19th century when mean annual North American temperatures declined by 0.6 C

M

Manifest Destiny: The 19th century belief justifying the United States' expansion throughout the American continent

Migration: The seasonal movement of animals or humans from one region to another

Minimum extent of sea ice: the yearly maximum melt of sea ice as measured in September

Multinational corporation: a corporation registered in more than one country or that has operations in more than one country

N

Narwhal: an Arctic-dwelling, medium-sized, toothed whale famous for the spiral tusk protruding from its head.

North American Air Defence Agreement (NORAD): A 1957 agreement that integrated the air defence forces of Canada and the United States; renamed in 1981 to the North American Air Defence Command.

North Atlantic Pack ice: sea ice that is not attached to a landmass; mobile ice

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO): a political and military alliance based on the North Atlantic Treaty signed in 1949

North Pole: the northern point of the Earth's axis of rotation. The North Pole is not part of any nation and is found in the Arctic Ocean.

North West Company: a fur trading company founded in 1779 and based in Montreal; merged with the Hudson's Bay Company in 1821

North West Mounted Police (NWMP): A Northwest Territories police force established in 1873 to stop liquor trafficking in the Northwest, to gain native respect and confidence and to uphold the law.

Northern sea route: The maritime route through the Arctic off the coast of northern Siberia. Also referred to as the Northeast Passage.

Northwest Passage: an ocean corridor through Canada's Arctic archipelago and along the northern coast of North America

Nunavut: Canada's largest and newest territory was established by the Nunavut Act of June 1993 and became a constitutional entity on April 1, 1999

P

Paleo-Eskimo: a member of the earliest prehistoric Inuit people inhabiting the Arctic

Papal Bull: in Roman Catholicism, an official papal letter or document

Permanent Court of International Justice (PCIJ) (1922 – 1946): initially attached to the League of Nations, the PCIJ was the first permanent international tribunal granted with general jurisdiction in order to deal with conflicts arising between states

Permanent Joint Board on Defence: an organization created by Canada and the United States during the Second World War to discuss defence and approve joint military operations

Permanent sea ice (multi-year ice): ice that has survived at least two summers' melt and is almost salt-free

R

Relocation: in the Canadian Arctic context, the forced movement of families and individuals from one community to another

S

Seabed: the floor of a sea or ocean

Seabed mining: an experimental industrial field involving the extraction of submerged minerals and resources from the ocean floor

Second World War (1939-45): A conflict between the Axis powers (Germany, Italy and Japan) and the Allied powers (France, Great Britain, the Soviet Union, Canada, China and the United States)

Sector Principal: introduced by Canada in 1907, and sometimes referred to as the Sector Theory, by which Canada declared its western marine boundary as the extension of its mainland boundary, running along the longitudinal meridian to the North Pole

Self-government: the government of a country or province by its own people

Simon, Mary: Past President of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, Canada's First Ambassador for Circumpolar Affairs and the first Inuk to hold an ambassadorial position. She is the recipient of the Order of Canada and the National Order of Quebec and a Fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society.

Sivullirmuit: direct translation 'the first people.' Refers to a group of ancient peoples who populated the northern coast of Alaska, across northern Canada and as far (east) as southern Greenland

Sovereignty: a country's right to govern itself

Subarctic: the region immediately south of the Arctic Circle

Subjugation: to bring under control and to rule as a subject; to make willing to submit to others

T

Terra nullius: uninhabited land; no-man's land

Thule Inuit: the ancestors of the Inuit and Alaskan Eskimos now living in Greenland, Arctic Canada and Alaska

Titaalik roseae: an organism resembling a fish and amphibian estimated to be 35 million years old. Its discovery shed light

on the history of evolution; when the first fish ventured to land. The first fossil of *Titaalik roseae* was found on Ellesmere Island in 2004.

U

Umiak: a large Inuit boat made from animal skins stretched across a wooden frame, usually propelled by paddles

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS): a body of laws created by the United Nations that regulates all aspects of maritime traffic, resources and boundaries

Usufructuary title: the right of possessing, using and enjoying the property of another, subject to the obligation of restoring the property

W

World War II: *see* Second World War