



## The Peoples of the Arctic



## Saami



The Saami (or Lapps) live in far northern Europe, including Arctic Norway, Sweden, and Finland. They were the earliest to reindeer herders living off the meat and milk of their herds and followed traditional religious beliefs based on shamanism.

# Yakut



The Yakut are the largest Native ethnic group in Siberia. They are a Turkic-speaking people. As well as reindeer, more southern groups keep both cattle and horses. They are also noted for their advanced iron-working techniques.



# West Greenlanders



The Inuit of West Greenland were colonized by the Danes in the 18th century. The ancestors of the Greenlanders were Thule-culture Inuit. Several centuries of Danish rule have protected the Greenlanders from the exploitations suffered by many other Arctic peoples.





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# Chukchi



The Chukchi are divided into two groups. They are sea hunters and reindeer breeders. Both groups traded with each other and exchanged blubber, seal and walrus skins for reindeer skins.

