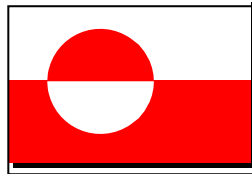


Olaf and his family, like all Christians, soon discovered that if they are to follow Jesus, they cannot continue to live the way they used to, only wanting to please themselves. Now, they must want to please Jesus! As we said, life during the winter in Greenland is especially hard and depressing. Many people turn to drinking alcohol, using drugs and smoking - Greenlanders have the highest incidence of lung cancer in the world! But as Christians we must not be like everyone else, and the Bible says we should be like lights shining in the darkness - even the darkness of the Greenlandic winter!



But life is getting better now in Greenland, with more modern technology. There are still no highways or even roads between the towns, but with telephones, satellite TV and the Internet, Greenlanders do not have to feel so lonely. One third of the population uses the Internet and many now have cellphones. Food, gas and all manufactured goods are now imported and so many can live a more comfortable life.

Although the west coast of Greenland is only about 20 miles from Canada, Greenland trades mostly with Scandinavian countries, Japan and China, and is still part of Denmark in Europe. It has governed itself since 1979 and has its own flag, which is red and white.



Greenlandic Quiz

We have used several unusual words this month - see if you can remember what these words mean:

1. auk
2. kayak
3. Nuuk
4. shaman
5. Inuit
6. blubber
7. Aurora Borealis

Hope you've enjoyed this month's Kids' Page,
'Til next time, with love from Shirley

(Answers: 1.seabird; 2.canoe; 3.capital of Greenland; 4.medicine man; 5. Eskimo; 6. whale fat; 7. Northern Lights)

Facts and testimonies used with kind permission from Voice of the Martyrs Inc.
PO Box 443, Bartlesville, OK 74005-0443 Website www.linkingup.com

Also facts from www.wikipedia.com and www.lonelyplanet.org

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World Kids

Fun facts for kids!

True stories!



PAL Page

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Do you know which is the BIGGEST island in the world?

It is a fascinating country about which most people know very little - it is called GREENLAND! It may sound as though there's lots of trees, grass and plants there, but in fact it is almost completely covered with ice and snow all year round! You can find it on a map of the world - it is a big, triangular shaped island at the "top" of the North Atlantic Ocean, and is mostly within the Arctic Circle, close to the North Pole! Most of the country is covered by a huge mountainous ice cap that is almost 5,000ft thick, and scientists say that if ever all that ice melted, it would raise the sea level around the world by about 20ft!!



Greenland covers an area of about 840,000 square miles - that's about 3 times the size of Texas!



The only parts of the country that are free from the ice cap are narrow, mountainous areas along the rocky coast, and that is where the "Greenlanders" live. Most live in the southwestern part of the coastline, as it is warmer there, but

there are towns in the north and east also. It is interesting that the most northerly part of Greenland does NOT have the ice cap! Although it is VERY cold all year, and the soil is ALWAYS



frozen, there is no snow or ice, because the air is TOO DRY to produce snow!! In the north the temperature often reaches -20°F (-30°C) in the winter, but only -5°F (-15°C) in the south!! In the summer in the south, it occasionally gets as high as 68°F (20°C) but you always need a warm jacket as there is also usually a strong, cold wind blowing!!

If you were to go to live in Greenland, you would be surprised by how life is different in so many ways. The main national holiday is on June 21st, which is the longest day of the year everywhere in the Northern hemisphere, but in Greenland there's a big difference: the sun never sets during the summer!! It is daytime all the time! That may make it hard to sleep, but not to worry, because in the winter you could "catch up"! In the winter time the sun never RISES, so it is dark all the time for weeks!! It is too cold to go outside much in the winter, so people stay indoors doing schoolwork, telling old stories, or watching TV and playing games. Often you can see beautifully colored lights that move all across the sky. You might start to think of UFO's and aliens, but no need to fear, it is just a beautiful effect of nature, called the Aurora Borealis - maybe God created it especially to encourage the people there in the cold, dark winter!



Although not much can be done outdoors during the dark winter months, once the warmer, longer days of spring and summer arrive, there is a lot to do! There is no land that can be used for growing crops, and vegetables can only be grown in greenhouses for a few short months, but animals like sheep and reindeer are kept. Many people go hunting and fishing, and from an early age children are taught to train their own dog and handle a "kayak" (canoe).



There are only about 56,375 people living in Greenland, and 85% of them were born there, and are descended from the "Inuits" or Eskimos. Many still go ice fishing, seal hunting,



trapping small seabirds (called "auk") for food, and hunting whales, which provide large amounts of food, bones and "blubber" (which is fat that has many uses including as cooking oil).

Ancient remains discovered recently show that the first Inuit tribes probably lived briefly in Greenland thousands of years ago. Erik the Red arrived there from Iceland 1,000 years ago, along with his family and farm animals. He named the icy, harsh land "Greenland" in hopes of attracting more settlers, and many did follow him and make their home there, so that in 1386 a Christian bishop was sent to pastor them. More settlers arrived and built brightly colored wooden houses along the coast, living mostly as fishermen. Now, there are churches in every community and most Greenlanders consider themselves Christians.

True story! Olaf is a small boy who lives with his family in Nuuk, Greenland's capital. They call themselves Christians, but one day after Olaf fell and broke his arm, his mother stitched a charm inside his coat to keep him safe, and asked the spirits of her ancestors to protect him. She is like many of the Inuit who still believe that their ancient, dead family members have special powers. Some still go to a "shaman", or medicine man, rather than, or as well as, the hospital! But one day, Olaf heard that the first film in Greenlandic (the language of Greenlanders) was being shown, and he and his family excitedly went to see it. It was the Jesus movie, and told the true story of Jesus Christ, and how he died on the cross so that we could be forgiven of our sins. Olaf and his family accepted Jesus as Lord and now are really Christians!



Have YOU seen the Jesus movie? It has been translated into hundreds of languages and seen by millions of people all around the world.