Heritage and Archaeology in Barrow, Alaska

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Barrow: The Top of the World

Northernmost city in the United States
Major sites in the Barrow area
Utqiagvik/Ukkuqsi
Piğniq (Birnirk NHL)
Piğniq (Birnirk NHL) 2003
The Nuvuk Site: The Top of the World

Easy access from Barrow
Simulated ground temperatures at 1 meter depth for Alaska for the periods 2000-09 (above) and 2090-99 (below).

Simulated active layer depth for Alaska for the periods 2000-09 (above) and 2090-99 (below).

It is projected that communities of Point Hope and Kivalina will lose their permafrost by 2100.
Community members are interested in sites, but...
Community education about archaeology needed

- **Archaeology is not just digging**
  - That’s what the community had seen
  - They thought that was the end of the process

- Lab work, analysis and reporting are part of it too

- Local archaeology being used as basis of lesson plans, but teachers know little about archaeology in general
Community buy-in on the work to be done

- Particularly important when ancestral human remains may be involved
- Important even if community is not the landowner
- Need support from wide spectrum of groups, not just individuals
The Nuvuk Archaeology Project

- Originally suggested by community members as part of cultural education grant
- Project relies on local high school students
- Work addresses local questions and concerns, as well as broader research questions
Community Members are involved in everything
Outcomes

- Good Science
- Students Learn
- Non-local Students Learn
- Community Members Learn
- Teachers Learn
Public Outreach

- Multiplies effects
- Public talks
- Lab visits
- School visits
- Traditional media (print & broadcast)
Public Outreach

- Facebook group
- Twitter
- Blog—http://iceandtime.wordpress.com
- Project web pages tied to various education portals
- Working on digital site form for public
Thanks to:

► 2005-2013 Nuvuk Archaeology crews
► 2003 Punk/Bimirk/Thule Project Crew
► 1995 Pingusugruk/Ukkuqsi crew
► Barrow Arctic Science Consortium
► National Science Foundation (Office of Polar Programs)
► Education through Cultural and Historical Organizations (ECHO)
► North Slope Borough
► UMIAQ