

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Arctic Traditions

**Directions:** Read the passage carefully. Then answer the higher-order questions in complete sentences.

### Sámi Life in the Arctic

The **Sámi** are the Indigenous people who live across northern Sweden, Norway, Finland, and parts of Russia. For thousands of years, they have built their way of life around the Arctic environment, adapting to long winters, powerful winds, and short summers. One of the most well known Sámi traditions is **reindeer herding**, a practice that requires skill, patience, and deep knowledge of the land. Families often move with their herds throughout the year, following ancient migration routes that guide the reindeer to food and safe shelter.

Sámi culture is also expressed through **traditional clothing**, music, and storytelling. Many Sámi musicians perform **joik**, one of the oldest singing traditions in Europe. A joik is not just a song. It is a way to honor a person, place, or memory by capturing its spirit in sound. Even today, joik is performed at festivals, gatherings, and family events.

Though modern technology has changed daily life in the Arctic, many Sámi communities continue to protect their traditions. They balance snowmobiles with hand made tools, satellite maps with old migration knowledge, and new opportunities with cultural responsibility. By doing so, they preserve the connection between people, animals, and the northern lands that shape their identity.

1. Why is reindeer herding important to Sámi culture beyond providing food?
2. How does joik help preserve Sámi traditions and identity?
3. In what ways do Sámi communities balance modern tools with ancient knowledge?
4. Why might the Arctic environment influence how the Sámi live and move throughout the year?
5. What evidence from the passage shows that Sámi culture remains active today?