

# Student Journal



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Worksheet 2.3: Researching Local Knowledge of Climate Change

The term “local knowledge” as used here refers to knowledge and understanding that residents have about their community and region. We propose five areas of potential convergence to link traditional knowledge with Western science.

1. **Local Scale Expertise** – Understanding the impacts of global warming for the local/regional area.
2. **Climate history and baseline data** - ...Traditional knowledge, through cumulative experience and oral history, provides insights into past climate variability and fluctuation; such knowledge is embedded in Inuit history of wildlife populations, travels, unusual events, harvesting records and migrations.
3. **Formulating research questions and hypotheses** – Traditional knowledge may expand the range of concepts and possibilities upon which to base research questions and formulate hypotheses.
4. **Impacts and Adaptations** – How people see change – Human dimensions of change, including planning and understanding human adaptation. Including traditional knowledge in adaptation research can establish the changes that the communities see, how they perceive them, and how they explain these changes in the context of livelihoods.
5. **Community-based environmental monitoring** – Environmental monitoring occurs in the context of seasonal rounds of resource harvesting activities; it is closely tied to travel routes and the times and places of harvesting. This kind of community-based monitoring ensures that ecological relationships are noted...

Text paraphrased from:

Riedlinger, Dyanna. (2000). *Contributions of Traditional Knowledge to Understanding Climate Change in the Canadian Arctic*. University of Manitoba.

Before the interview, write some questions that might be helpful in researching local knowledge of the Arctic and climate change.

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