

90-06-282

Elders in Residence Collection. Jimmie and Mabel Toolie are interviewed in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Keywords: Siberian Yup'ik Eskimos, St. Lawrence Island, boats, walrus hide boats, walrus as food, walrus hunting, hunting captains, water currents, distribution of meat, preparation of meat, raw liver.

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Summarized by: Cecilie R. Ebsen

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Jimmie Toolie

00:01:12.37

Jimmie explains how sometimes when they went hunting they would be stuck on the ice over night. Sometimes they would hunt for days without sleep. If the weather was bad they would cut up the meat and prepare it for drying because it won't go bad once it's dried.

Jimmie Toolie

00:03:20.07

They cut the females' hide for skin boats. The males' hide is too thick to use for boats. Instead they use the male walruses for meat.

Students

00:05:23.50

Where do they shoot the walrus?

Jimmie Toolie

00:05:36.47

They aim for the head. [Jimmie points out where the walrus' brain is] That part of the head has thinner bone and is therefore easier to penetrate.

Students

00:06:06.96

Do they hunt 200 miles from the mainland [As seen in movie]?

Jimmie Toolie

00:07:19.50

Jimmie estimates that they are about 100 miles from the shore.

Students

00:07:31.02

How do they pick a hunting crew?

Jimmie Toolie

00:07:48.72

Sometimes they are three boys who go and shoot a walrus. Older people will choose which boys get to go. [Jimmie shows how to hold the rifle while in the boat] One boy never listened and tied a rope in the wrong way. He almost cut his bone of.

Jimmie Toolie

00:10:21.38

The boys are usually children or grandchildren of the boat captain.

Jimmie Toolie

00:11:30.85

Jimmie had his boys in his boat. One of his sons have his own boat now that he hunts walrus with.

Jimmie Toolie

00:12:33.56

They go hunting early in the morning at the start of daylight. Sometimes they only sleep one or two hours. The young boys are sleepy when they go out.

Students

00:13:03.12

Asks Jimmie if he thinks young people today are as tough and strong as he is/was?

Jimmie Toolie

00:13:24.66

He explains that they try to teach them to be. They tell them to go home and sleep instead of going out all night.

Jimmie Toolie

00:14:03.05

The currents that move the ice are stronger at times. Once in a while a current will stop and so will the ice. The current from the north will push the ice to the shore.

Students

00:16:10.48

Does the person who owns the boat get most of the meat?

Jimmie Toolie

00:16:19.14

Jimmie says yes. His wife will cut and dry it. All the boys in a boat would get some of the meat from a hunt. They all had their own houses and families to

feed. The captain gets most of the tusk.

Jimmie Toolie

00:17:54.80

They might also give meat to someone who has no meat and can't go hunting.

Jimmie Toolie

00:18:14.10

They boil the meat when eating it. They boil and eat the skin too.

Students

00:19:07.55

What is the best part of the walrus to eat?

Jimmie Toolie

00:19:25.71

Jimmie answers all the meat from the backside. They also eat the liver fried, or sometimes raw while they are on the ice. They don't eat the brain.

Students

00:20:50.96

What would they do with the intestines?

Jimmie Toolie

00:21:05.06

They would eat the liver and heart.

Mabel Toolie

00:21:35.73

They use the intestines for raincoats.

Teacher (Theresa John?)

00:21:44.83

In her village they don't save the skin anymore. They eat it instead. It is said that the coarse stuff cleanses the aura. The same with those little spiky fish. They work as cleansers for your body system.