L2/26-273

Proposal for Emoji: “Inukshuk”

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1. **Identification**.
    1. **Keywords:** *stone, Arctic, Indigenous, sculpture, Inuit, tradition, guide, heritage, wilderness, teamwork, leadership, navigation, hope*
    2. **Category:** *Object Other-object (after Moai, position indicated by red arrow below)*



2. **Images:**

Colour:

72×72 pixels ***18x18 pixels***




Black and White:




File:Inukshuk.png - Wikimedia Commons, ArtisticTraveler, CC BY-SA 4.0

Factors for Inclusion.

1. Expresses multiple concepts:

   It is important to note that there is currently no emoji that specifically represents the concept of a statue.

   1. **Cultural heritage:** Represents the Inuit culture and their traditions, symbolizing the importance of indigenous representation and respect for heritage.
   2. **Guidance and direction:** Inukshuks are traditionally used as navigation aids in the Arctic, symbolizing leadership, guidance, and direction.
   3. **Strength and stability:** The structure of an Inukshuk symbolizes resilience, stability, and steadfastness, metaphorically representing these traits in various contexts.
   4. **Teamwork and collaboration:** The construction of an Inukshuk often involves multiple stones balanced together, symbolizing the importance of working together, collective effort, and community.
   5. **Leadership:** As a guidepost in the Arctic, an Inukshuk represents leadership and the ability to lead others through challenging environments.
   6. For someone unfamiliar with the concept of an inukshuk, the stone humanoid figure could be interpreted in a variety of ways. Here are some possible meanings:
      a. **Strength and Endurance:** The stone figure could symbolize strength, resilience, or endurance, much like how rocks are seen as durable and unyielding.
      b. **Ancient or Mysterious Figure:** The stone figure could be interpreted as an ancient or mystical being, possibly linked to old legends or unknown civilizations.
      c. **Nature or Earth Connection:** It could represent a connection to the earth, nature, or the natural world, symbolizing stability and grounding.
      d. **Artistic Expression:** The figure could be seen as a form of artistic expression, representing creativity or human ingenuity in shaping natural materials into meaningful forms.
      e. **Stoic or Emotionless Person:** The stone figure could represent someone who is emotionally cold, unfeeling, or stoic, symbolizing a person with a "heart of stone."
      f. **Petrified or Frozen in Fear:** The figure might be seen as someone who has been turned to stone out of fear, symbolizing being paralyzed by a terrifying situation.

2. Can be used with other emoji to convey additional concepts
    1. 🏔️ **+ Inukshuk:** Signifies mountainous regions or Arctic landscapes.
    2. 🗺️ **+ Inukshuk:** Represents navigation, exploration, and journeying through unfamiliar territories.
    3. 🌟 **+ Inukshuk:** Highlights significant achievements or points of interest.
    4. 🛖 **+ Inukshuk:** Indicates traditional or cultural settings, emphasizing the connection to indigenous heritage.
    5. ❄️ **+ Inukshuk:** Denotes winter, cold regions, or the Arctic, emphasizing the environment where Inukshuks are commonly found.
    6. 🤝 **+ Inukshuk:** Symbolizes teamwork, collaboration, and community efforts.

3. Breaks new ground
    1. The Inukshuk emoji represents a culturally significant symbol unique to the Inuit people, filling a gap in cultural representation within the emoji set. It is not merely a variant of existing concepts but introduces new cultural and metaphorical meanings, enhancing diversity.

4. Is legible and visually distinctive
    1. **Design:** The distinctive stacked stone formation of an Inukshuk is easily recognizable and visually unique, ensuring it stands out among other emojis.
    2. **Symbolism:** Its cultural and navigational significance makes it immediately recognizable to those familiar with its meaning, and its unique shape ensures clarity at various sizes.

5. Has a high usage level

The inukshuk is deeply tied to the Arctic region, particularly within the cultures of the Inuit, who have lived in the Arctic for thousands of years. Here's how this connection is manifested:

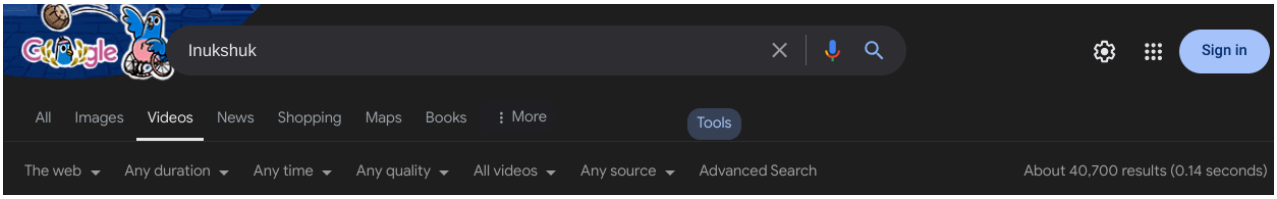
1. **Cultural Significance**: The inukshuk is a symbol used by the Inuit in the Arctic, serving as navigational aids and markers. It represents survival, community, and cooperation in the harsh Arctic environment.
2. **Geographical Presence**: Found across the Arctic (Canada, Greenland, Alaska), inukshuks are built from natural stones and are key landmarks in the featureless Arctic landscape.
3. **Modern Symbolism**: The inukshuk has become a broader symbol of Northern identity and unity, used in events like the 2010 Winter Olympics and Arctic tourism.

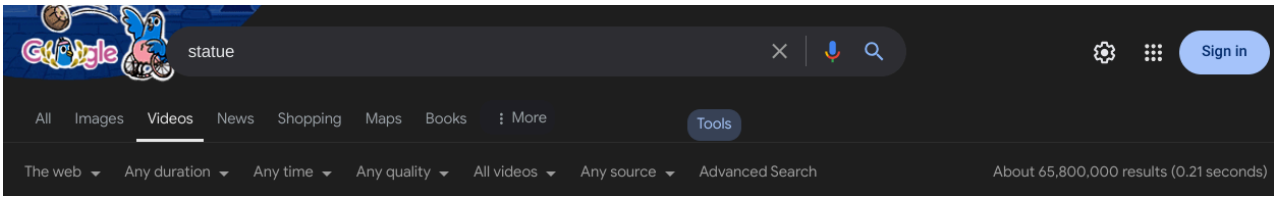
Citations:
The Canadian Encyclopedia: Inukshuk - https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/inuksuk-inukshuk

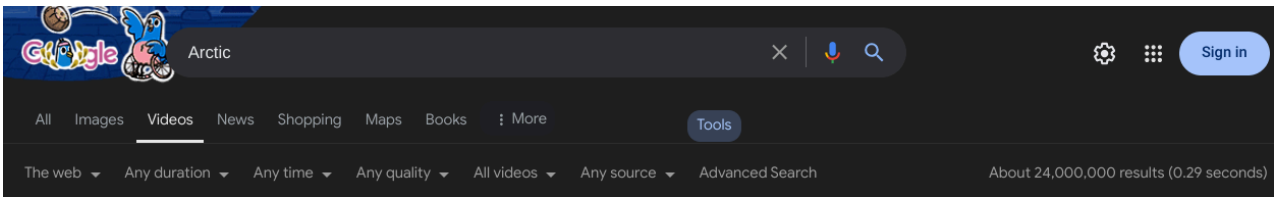
ARCTICKINGDOM: What Is An Inukshuk - https://resources.arctickingdom.com/what-is-an-inukshuk

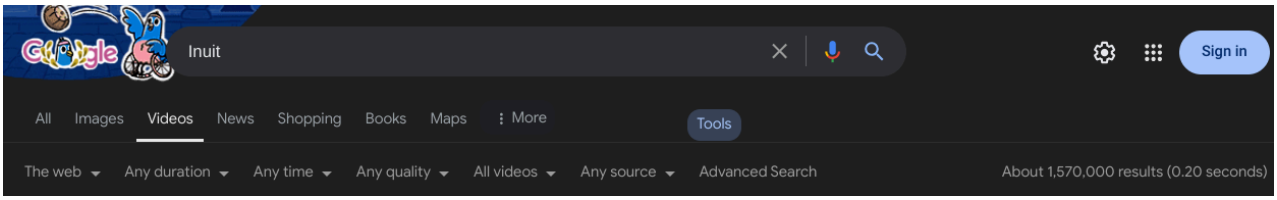
4. Frequency *(provide evidence with numbers)*
    a. Google Video Search:

Inukshuk	Statue	Arctic	Inuit
40,700	65,800,000	24,000,000	1,570,000



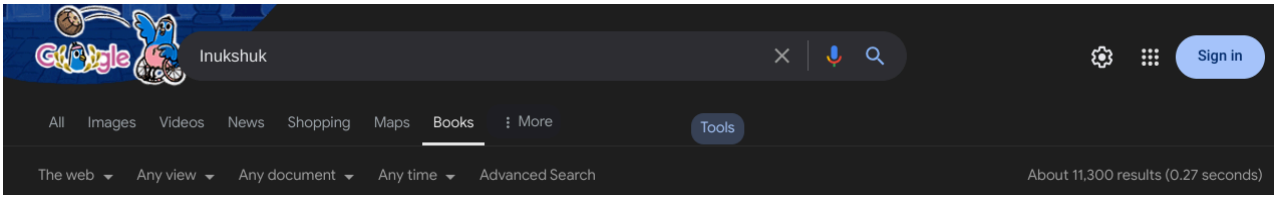


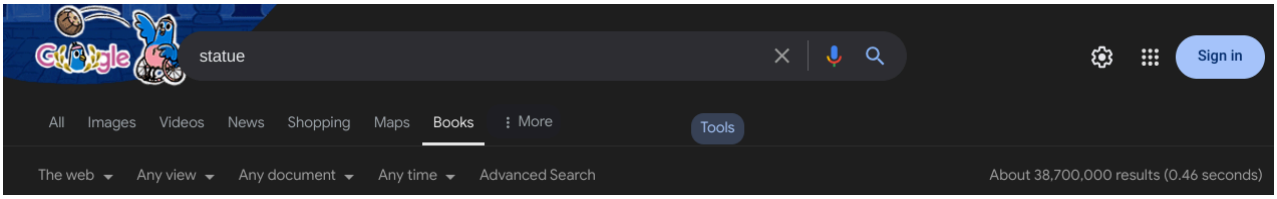


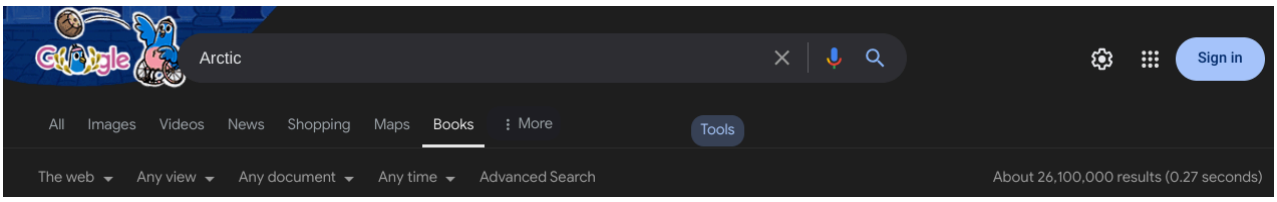


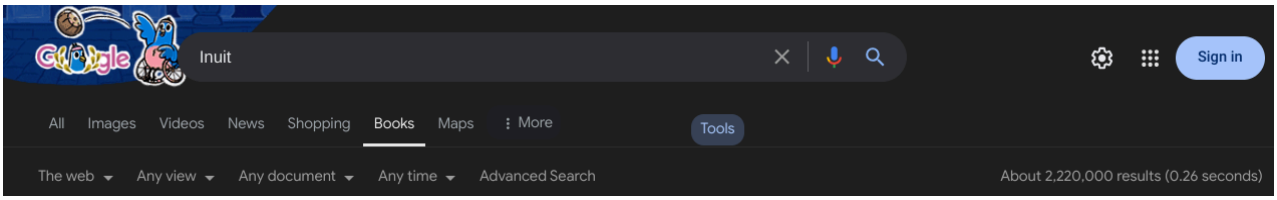
b. Google Books:

Inukshuk	Statue	Arctic	Inuit
11,300	38,700,000	26,100,000	2,220,000

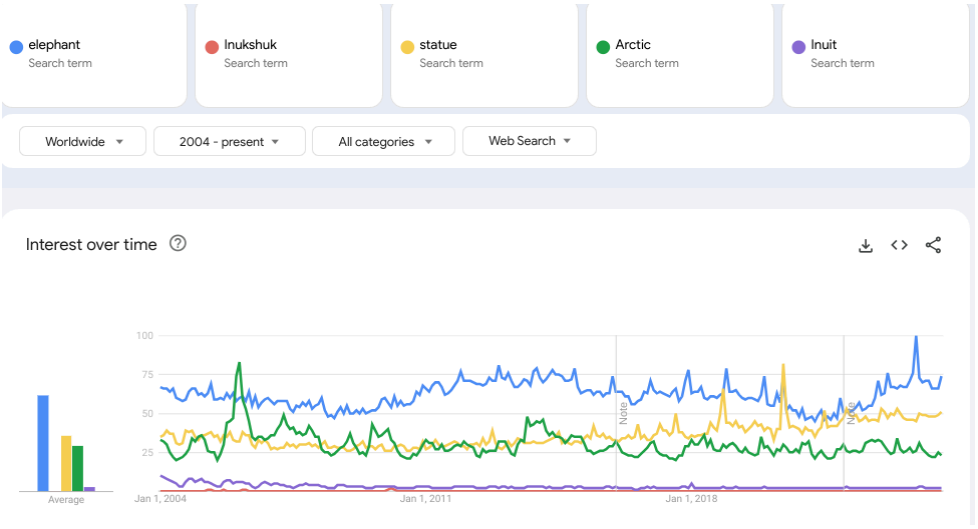




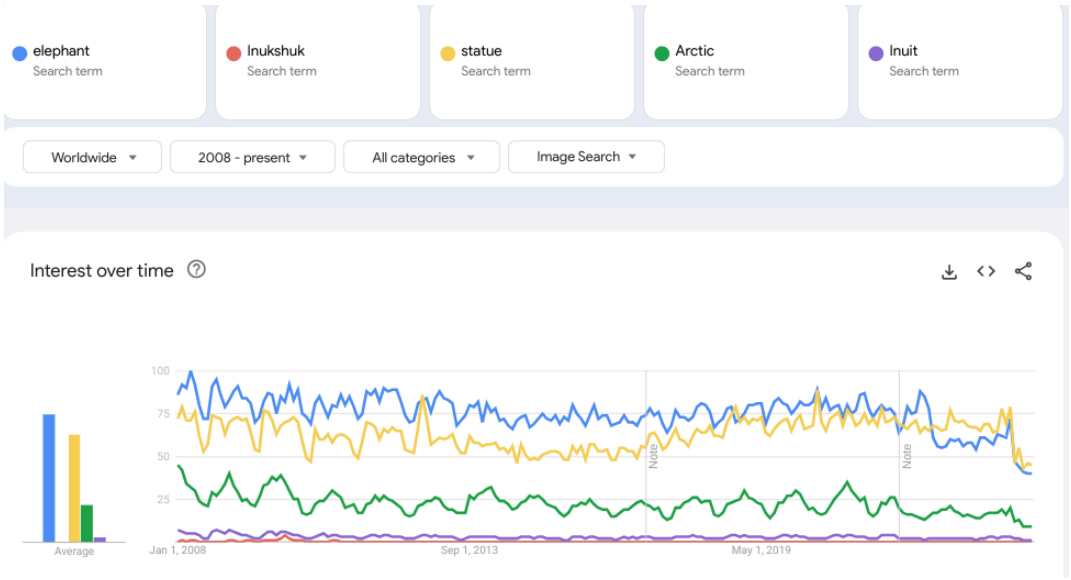




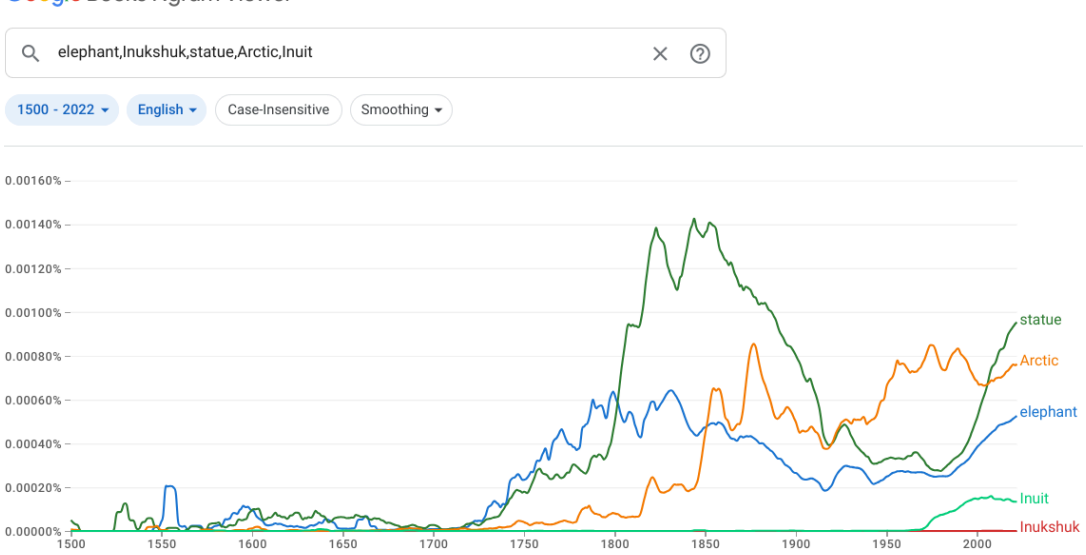
c. Google Trends: Web Search



d. Google Trends: Image Search



e. Google Books Ngram Viewer



6. Completes an incomplete category
    1. The addition of the Inukshuk emoji complements the existing set of emojis representing cultural diversity and heritage, filling a gap in the representation of indigenous and Arctic symbols.

7. Is needed for compatibility with popular existing systems
    1. **Cultural Education:** The inclusion of the Inukshuk emoji supports educational initiatives about Inuit culture and Arctic regions, promoting cultural awareness and respect.

2. **Navigation and Outdoors Apps:** Apps focusing on outdoor activities, navigation, and travel can use this emoji to denote Arctic regions and significant cultural symbols, enhancing user experience.

Factors for Exclusion.

1. Already represented
    1. The Inukshuk emoji is not already represented in the Unicode Standard. While there are emojis for other culturally significant symbols (e.g., 🗿), there is no existing emoji that represents the Inuit culture or the unique structure and symbolism of an Inukshuk.
    2. The current emoji set does not adequately represent the concepts of the Arctic, Indigenous culture, and the specific symbolism of an inukshuk for several reasons:
        a. **Cultural Specificity:** An inukshuk is a unique symbol deeply rooted in Inuit culture and the Arctic environment. It carries specific meanings related to navigation, survival, community, and spiritual significance. No existing emoji captures this blend of cultural heritage and practical symbolism.
        b. **Geographical Representation:** The emoji set lacks symbols that specifically represent the Arctic region. While there are emojis for snowflakes, ice, and cold weather, none of these convey the distinct identity of the Arctic or its Indigenous peoples.
        c. **Indigenous Symbolism:** Current emojis do not adequately represent Indigenous cultures, particularly the Inuit. While there are a few general symbols like the tipi 🏕️ or feather 🪶, they do not capture the cultural nuances of specific Indigenous groups like the Inuit.
    3. Given the absence of an inukshuk emoji, the following are the closest emojis that could be used to represent aspects of Arctic and Indigenous culture:
        a. **Snowflake** ❄️: This can symbolize the Arctic environment, though it is a broad and generic representation that does not convey cultural meaning.
        b. **Igloo** 🛖: While not an inukshuk, the igloo is a recognizable symbol of Inuit culture and Arctic life. It represents traditional Inuit architecture and living conditions in the harsh Arctic climate.
        c. **Mountain** 🏔️: This can represent the rugged and remote landscapes often associated with the Arctic, but it lacks cultural context.
        d. **Tipi** 🏕️: Although more closely associated with Indigenous cultures of the Plains, the tipi can be used to broadly represent Indigenous heritage. However, it is not specific to the Inuit or the Arctic.
        e. **Rock** 🪨: The rock emoji could loosely be connected to the stone structures of an inukshuk, but it lacks the human-like form and symbolic meaning.

4. Three top sources that explain why the inukshuk is a deeply symbolic representation of Arctic Indigenous life, culture, and community:
    a. The Canadian Encyclopedia: Inukshuk - https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/inuksuk-inukshuk
    b. What House Guest House: The Inukshuk: Cultural Icon – Cultural Appropriation - https://www.whalehouse.ca/travel/the-inukshuk-cultural-icon-cultural-appropriation/
    c. alive: Inspiration from the inukshuk - https://www.alivewithideas.com/blog/inspiration-from-the-inukshuk/

2. Overly specific
    1. The Inukshuk is not overly specific as it carries broad cultural and metaphorical significance beyond its physical structure. It symbolizes cultural heritage, guidance, strength, stability, teamwork, and leadership, making it applicable in a wide range of contexts.

3. Open-ended
    1. The Inukshuk emoji is not open-ended. It represents a specific, well-defined cultural symbol with a distinct form and significant cultural meaning. It is not part of an open-ended set that would require the addition of numerous similar emojis.
    2. Introducing an inukshuk emoji would not likely lead to a proliferation of similar emojis because:
        a. **Cultural Specificity:** The inukshuk is uniquely tied to Inuit culture and Arctic navigation, making it distinct and less likely to prompt the need for similar emojis.
        b. **Limited Comparisons:** There are few directly comparable symbols. Most existing iconic emojis like the Moai 🗿, Statue of Liberty 🗽, and Great Wall of China 🏯 represent specific landmarks rather than cultural practices or community symbols.
        c. The inukshuk's uniqueness lies in its cultural and geographical significance, making it a rare and specialized symbol.

4. Transient
    1. The Inukshuk is not a transient concept. It has been a part of Inuit culture for centuries and continues to be a significant symbol in various contexts, including cultural heritage, education, and tourism. Its enduring presence in cultural and educational discussions ensures its lasting relevance.

5. Justified by an existing emoji
    1. There is no existing emoji that justifies the exclusion of the Inukshuk emoji. While some emojis represent cultural symbols or landmarks, none capture the unique cultural, navigational, and metaphorical significance of the Inukshuk. Its inclusion

would fill a unique niche in the emoji set, providing representation for Inuit culture and broadening the scope of cultural emojis.

Other information. Any other information that would be helpful, such as design considerations for images.

Design Considerations

1. **Distinct Shape:**
    - The Inukshuk should have a clear and recognizable structure, typically composed of several stacked stones. This will ensure it is easily identifiable at various sizes, including small emoji dimensions (e.g., 18×18 pixels).

2. **Cultural Accuracy:**
    - The design should reflect authentic features of traditional Inukshuks, including the characteristic human-like form with outstretched "arms" and a central "body." This authenticity respects the cultural significance and heritage of the Inuit people.

3. **Color and Texture:**
    - Use natural stone colors such as shades of grey to maintain visual realism and cultural respect. The texture should imply rough, natural stones rather than smooth or polished surfaces.

4. **Simplification for Clarity:**
    - While maintaining cultural accuracy, the design should be simplified enough to be clear and recognizable as an emoji. Avoid overly intricate details that may not render well at small sizes.

5. **Consistency with Existing Emojis:**
    - The design should align with the stylistic elements of existing emojis, ensuring visual harmony and consistency within the emoji set.

6. **Visibility Across Platforms:**
    - Ensure the design is adaptable to different platforms and devices, maintaining its integrity and recognizability across various operating systems (iOS, Android, etc.).

Cultural Significance

- **Educational Tool:**
    - The Inukshuk emoji can serve as an educational tool, raising awareness about Inuit culture and heritage. Its inclusion promotes cultural diversity and representation in digital communication.

- **Symbol of Unity and Guidance:**
    - The Inukshuk's symbolism of guidance, teamwork, and resilience makes it a versatile emoji for expressing these concepts in various contexts, enhancing its utility and relevance in communication.

- **Promotion of Indigenous Cultures:**
    - Including the Inukshuk emoji supports broader efforts to recognize and honor indigenous cultures, fostering greater understanding and appreciation for their contributions and traditions.