Write an essay of 5 pages or less, contrasting the sense of time experienced by Arctic natives with that experienced by people in industrialized nations.

Use our readings to introduce you to the differing perceptions of the passage of time. Your essay should show how the Arctic environment contributes to a sense of time, and it should invoke some ‘hard’ science that contributes to these differing perceptions. Astronomy, seasons, climate, geography, food supplies, climate change, sun angles, day, night, even weather and ocean currents, all play their roles. A sense of time also implies a sense of history.

There are several ways to approach this essay. It could involve the spiritual and communal and family life of Arctic natives. It could involve accelerating global change and the former (pre-global-warming) pace of natural change in the cold North. The sense of time experienced by industrialized nations has, itself, many facets. Entire books have been written about it (e.g., *Future Shock*, Alvin Toffler, 1970 see en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Future_Shock). It could even be a short story about lives imagined, in which perceptions of time are central. Of course it can involve your own sense of time.

Use sources other than our reading. For example, an excellent broad introduction to the Arctic is the new Arctic Climate Impact Assessment, [www.acia.uaf.edu](http://www.acia.uaf.edu). You will find other resources, and look particularly for native perceptions of time and change (there is a publication called ‘The Earth is Faster Now’, expressing indigenous peoples’ experience of climate change), which the Oceans library (Louise Richards) may be able to make available. Your frame of mind might even be aided by watching a film about the Arctic. Recently, natives, particularly those in Igloolik, Nunuvut (the newly formed territory in northeast Canada, under native rule), have been making films. *Atanarjuat (Fast Runner)*, by its title, suggests something about time [www.atanarjuat.com](http://www.atanarjuat.com); it was the first major film made by Arctic natives, and it won the Camera d’or for best first feature film at Cannes, 2001. This is available in some rental shops.