



MAPPING MEMORIES

When landscapes change,
what happens to memory?

This is a place-based
exhibition where stories,
maps, and memory make
climate change visible.

Move through the mapped
locations tied to stories
from Greenlandic citizens of
different generations.

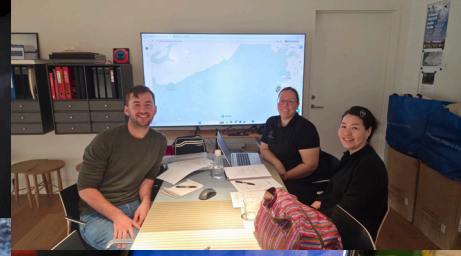
See how permafrost thaw
reshapes not only centuries-
old landscapes, but also the
identities rooted within them.



Nordregio



ILULISSAT
ICEFJORD CENTRE



Stories from a shifting Greenland

Across Greenland, the landscape is shifting. Ice melts. Coastlines change. Permafrost thaws beneath homes, roads and cultural sites. Places that once felt permanent are becoming unstable.

We can see these changes in satellite images, scientific measurements and maps. But climate change is not only transforming the environment. It is also affecting the stories, memories and identities connected to these places.

Mapping Memories was created to explore exactly that.

This exhibition brings together personal stories from people across Greenland and Ilulissat. Through interviews, mapped locations, photographs and memories, the project documents how environmental change and social transformation are affecting everyday life, cultural identity and people's relationships to place.

Some stories describe homes threatened by thawing ground or changing weather conditions. Others reflect on disappearing traditions, hunting routes, burial grounds or places that no longer feel the same as they once did. Together, they reveal something often missing from conversations about climate change: the emotional and cultural consequences of a changing Arctic.

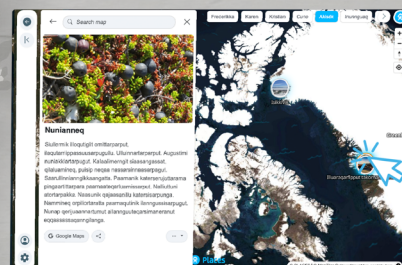
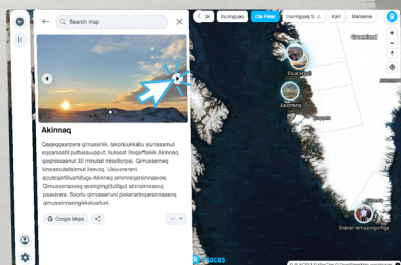
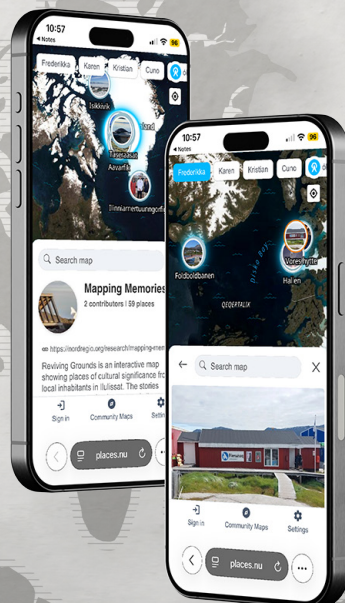
At the centre of the exhibition is a large physical map and a digital story map featuring more than 80 mapped stories connected to landscapes across Greenland. Visitors can move between places, memories and generations, discovering how individual experiences are tied to wider environmental changes.

The exhibition is built around ten in-depth interviews conducted together with local participants and partners. These conversations connect personal memories with broader questions about belonging, cultural continuity and the future of Arctic communities.

Mapping Memories is not only about loss. It is also about resilience, adaptation and the importance of remembering. The act of sharing stories helps preserve connections between people, places and generations, especially at a time when rapid change risks erasing both physical and cultural landscapes.

The project combines research, storytelling, mapping and exhibition design to make climate change more tangible, personal and accessible to the public. It invites visitors to reflect on their own connections to place and to consider what happens when the landscapes that shape our identities begin to change.

Welcome to Mapping Memories.



places.nu/p/mapping-memories/

Explore the stories behind the places

The exhibition continues beyond the walls of the Icefjord Centre. Through the digital platform [places.nu](#), visitors can explore an online version of Mapping Memories and dive deeper into the stories connected to Greenland's landscapes.

The platform combines interactive maps, personal interviews, photographs and short place-based stories. Each mapped location represents a lived experience tied to memory, identity, everyday life and environmental change.

Some places are connected to childhood memories, hunting grounds, travel routes or family traditions. Others document places threatened by coastal erosion, thawing permafrost or changing ice conditions. Together, the stories create a living archive of how climate change and social transformation are experienced locally.

The digital map allows visitors to move freely between places and perspectives. You can explore stories geographically, follow individual interviewees, or discover unexpected connections between different regions and generations.

Unlike traditional maps that focus only on geography, [places.nu](#) maps emotional and cultural relationships to place. It highlights that landscapes are not empty spaces. They are filled with memories, practices, histories and identities.

The platform also makes the exhibition accessible beyond Ilulissat. Local residents, schools, researchers, visitors and people across the world can continue exploring the stories long after leaving the exhibition space.

By combining digital storytelling with mapping technology, [places.nu](#) helps preserve stories that might otherwise disappear. It creates space for local voices and perspectives that are often missing from global conversations about the Arctic and climate change. The map is not static. Like the landscapes themselves, it can continue to grow with new stories, memories and connections over time.

We invite you to explore the map, listen to the stories and reflect on the places that shape people's lives.



Akisók Cortsen

- ¶ 1. Avatangiisera ¶ 5. Najugaqarfinga
¶ 2. Suliartortarfinga ¶ 6. Illuaraqarfipput
¶ 3. Nunianneq takornariaqarfiusoq
¶ 4. Isikkivik

1. My surroundings

I am at school from Monday to Friday with my students. In December and January, we go to work wearing summer clothes because there is hardly any snow and it is not very cold. Looking back, in January 2009 at Seqinniartfik it was around -30°C, and I will never forget that. Everything was covered in snow. Snow is very important, and our bodies are used to cold, dry air with snow. It is healthy for our surroundings. Climate change has affected us, as we take tourists ice fishing.

2. The road to my work

Every morning, when I walk to and from work, I use the same route. Each year, the road requires maintenance. I often think: "How many layers are there now?" In summer, the road gets worse. Other roads are also clearly affected, especially near Atuafik Jørgen Brønlund elementary school, where it is difficult to walk. Roads built on permafrost deteriorate quickly due to thawing. This negatively affects vehicles. In the future, roads might need to be constructed in a different way.

3. Berry picking

We go there as a family and stay the whole day. In August, we go to our summer place. We bring Greenlandic food with us, such as dried meat, narwhal and seal meat, unless we eat cod that we catch ourselves. I collect a lot of berries, and it is important to me that we have plenty. I use them for celebrations. I also gather plants and herbs. We also pick heather, as we make our own Christmas tree. I have not noticed changes in the permafrost.

4. The viewpoint

This is a place from my childhood, where I only lived for three years, but where my family comes from. I remember it as a place I always longed to return to. It was a very popular viewpoint, as you could see sea ice everywhere. Most of the time, we could stay on the ice and do activities. We fished through cracks in the ice and caught Greenland halibut. I was with my father, mother, grandparents, and others from the settlement. After 30 years without seeing the place, I visited it again in May - there was still ice, but not like before. It is a place where I regain energy.

5. My home place

It is our family's safe base. It is where I spend most of the year - a place with a beautiful view and open landscape. The view is important to me because I grew up with a good view. In the 1980s and 1990s, when I grew up, the sea would freeze. As children, we walked on the ice together with our family. Today, I no longer experience the same, because the sea no longer freezes.

6. Our cabin — a tourist site

We only visit it in summer, when we also take tourists out by boat every day and use the place as a family outing. We serve our self-caught Greenlandic food to guests. We want to show our way of life to tourists. We travel there ourselves by boat. The cabin is important to us. There have been many gulls, which has become a problem because they eat the capelin we lay out to dry by the cabin. In the past, we dried a lot of capelin (ammassat). The weather has also become more rainy and windier.



Cuno Jensen

- ¶ 1. Seqinniarfik
- ¶ 2. Happy place
- ¶ 3. Aavarfik
- ¶ 4. Eqi
- ¶ 5. Snescooter tur
- ¶ 6. Vores hytte

1. Seqinniarfik

It is a place I care deeply about, where you can watch the icebergs move. I can go to Seqinniarfik all year round. The feeling I get there is difficult to describe in words - the silence and the sound of the icebergs slowly shifting when you are out in nature. When we go for walks there, we can stay the whole day. Nearby there is a lake where we swim when the weather is warm. The very tall icebergs that used to be visible are no longer seen.

2. My "happy place"

I have family from Qullissat - my grandmother. I usually visit the place by boat. I had not been there for many years, but I returned in 2022. It was a powerful experience. My grandmother's house is no longer visible, as it was washed into the sea by a tsunami. My great-grandmother's house is still there. Now we have started going there every July, where we take walks and go on excursions. As there are no sled dogs, children can move around freely without concern. As a result of permafrost thaw, you can see landslides in the mountains.

3. Reindeer hunting

I have been reindeer hunting several times. We sail for about 10 hours from Ilulissat in our boat. Last time, we caught 17 reindeer. I am together with my family, and we stay overnight for about a week. We eat a lot of reindeer meat. When we return to Ilulissat, we prepare the meat - for roasts, soups, and other dishes. I have learned from the elders how to butcher a reindeer. It is important for me to have meat throughout the year. I have also brought home a head with antlers as a keepsake.

4. Eqi

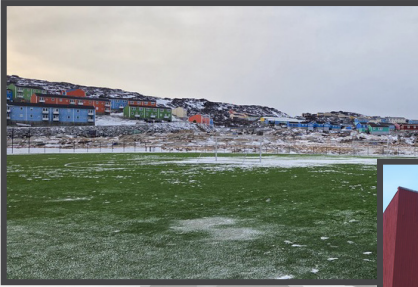
At Eqi, there is a river with clean and good-tasting water that we collect. My friends and family hunt seals there. You can see both the northern and southern ice sheet at the same time. When my father worked in tourism, I often joined him on trips during the summer. In summer, we often go on full-day trips. When I am with my siblings, we often stay overnight - sometimes for several days. When we were children, the ice sheet was larger, but now a small island has appeared at the glacier front.

5. Snowmobile trip

I have visited the hunting area since I was a child together with my father and siblings. The ice sheet used to be much larger than it is now. We go there to hunt ptarmigan, and the trip takes about an hour by snowmobile from Ilulissat. When I go alone, it can be faster. I enjoy nature and find calm and energy there. It is important to bring a GPS and necessary equipment. On the ice, you can sometimes see seal breathing holes.

6. Our cabin

In summer, we often stay in our cabin, where we fish and pick berries. We eat what we like best and enjoy time together as a family. In winter, when there is a lot of snow, we go there by snowmobile. In June, we dry capelin (ammassaat) ourselves. In the past, capelin arrived later in the year. Due to bad weather, the rope for the boat's anchor once snapped. When you think about the weather, it has become more unstable and harder to predict.



1. Pilersuisoq

Pilersuisoq is located in Oqaattut. We shop there when we sail past on our way to our cabin - we buy goods that are not available in Ilulissat at Pilersuisoq. We have always liked that shop. The products are interesting and have a Greenlandic character. We often stop by. Each year, we visit it mostly during the summer. I have not noticed changes as a result of permafrost thaw.

2. Grandmother's grave

When we have time, my children and I visit it, especially on holidays, when we sing a hymn. Now we simply place a candle in the window, and that is enough. My grandmother has family in Qeqertarsuaq, so we have chosen sand from there to decorate her grave. When it comes to permafrost, the only thing I have really noticed is that there is much less snow - there used to be a lot. However, the grave has not sunk.

3. The harbour

We have a fixed place at the quay where we dock our friend's boat. We bring extra clothes and some food for the trip. We have brought sand home - the sand from Qeqertarsuaq is very special and beautiful, and we use it for my grandmother's grave. I have not noticed major changes due to permafrost thaw, as I do not go there very often. I do, however, clearly remember that there was once very high tide.

4. Blue Cafe

My children and I often go to the café because my mother's uncle works there. We are treated to food that we like. We also meet family there, even though we do not see each other very often. We stay for a short time, enjoy ourselves, and appreciate the calm. It is nice to return and find a place of peace.

5. The football field in Qeqertarsuaq

I sometimes go to watch the children play football to support them. I do not go there very often, mostly in summer. We have lived in Qeqertarsuaq for a few months

Frederikka Petersen

¶ 1. Pilersuisoq

¶ 2. Bedstemors grav

¶ 3. Havn

¶ 4. Blue Cafe

¶ 5. Foldboldbanen

¶ 6. Vores hytte

¶ 7. Fodboldbanen

¶ 8. Hallen

with my parents. Near the field, we walk on the black sand. The sand in Qeqertarsuaq is very special. We arrive by boat, and there are many tourists. I am only there in summer. In this place I have not noticed clear changes due to permafrost thaw.

6. Our cabin

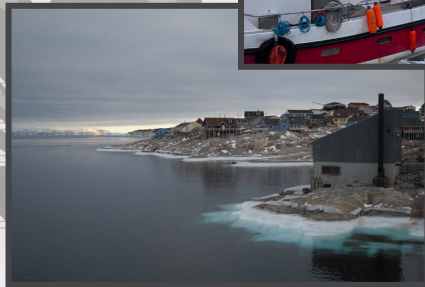
My father built it in 2006. In summer, we stay at the cabin, where we relax, pick berries, and gather mussels. When there is fishing and capelin are caught, we also eat them. I am there with my parents and children, and sometimes with friends. My parents are there almost every weekend in summer. Above the cabin, there used to be a large river that could be dangerous, but now it flows very weakly. The cabin now has a fence.

7. The football field in Ilulissat

The children play football, and sometimes I join them. My children are active, so I spend a lot of time outdoors with them, playing together. In summer, they are very interested in running, so they are often outside. I have not noticed clear changes due to permafrost thaw.

8. The sports hall

I am with the children in the sports hall, where they practise sports. I support and motivate them, and help if someone gets injured. I take part in the responsibility as a parent. I spend a lot of time in the hall, often most of the day and I like the calm there. I enjoy being involved with the children and helping. In winter, I am there a lot.



Inunnguaq Hansen

¶ 1. Kisartarfik / Ulussat

¶ 2. Jope

¶ 3. Atersuarnut aqqusineq

¶ 4. Katersungaasivik

¶ 5. Talittarfik

1. Kisartarfik / Ulussat

The place is called Ulussat. I imagine that it was once a place where flint was collected to make ulu (women's knives). Every place gets a name. We visit Torsukattak in the summer, in July/August, and sometimes we stay there through the winter until December, as there is not as much sea ice anymore. In recent years, there has been less ice, and the weather has changed significantly.

"We may travel for up to five days to fish for Greenland halibut. Sometimes we stay there for several days."

We can reach it in 6–7 hours, but it depends on the route.

2. Jope

We grew up with a particular shop. When I was a child and had just started eating white bread, we often shopped there. In the early 2000s, before it was renovated, it had a very low ceiling. When you walked inside, you could feel how the floor sloped both up and down. After it was modernised, the floor was levelled. As I grew older, the floor began to become uneven again. Despite this, the shop has been open for many years. When Jope was renovated and expanded, it improved, but the building began to tilt again.

3. The road to Atersuit

Most people are used to flat roads, but here the roads become uneven over time, even when they are paved. They sink and become uneven, possibly because the permafrost is thawing. There was a kiosk in the area where the floor clearly slanted because the foundation stood on permafrost. It opened in 2009 but was not open for long.

4. Katersugaasivik (Museum)

I go in there occasionally, but I pass it every morning on my way to work. Since I first heard about permafrost thawing, I have wondered what will happen. The museum is not built on rock, but on soil that becomes muddy and waterlogged in the spring. A small extension next to it has started to sink due to the thawing. It is an important place, because Knud Rasmussen and his family lived there, and many archaeological collections are kept there.

5. The harbour

My work depends on the weather. When conditions are good, we sail out in the morning. In winter, it depends on the daylight. We go out to set nets. When I work, it is important for me always to carry a knife – it is a tradition to always have a ready knife in your pocket. When setting nets, it can sometimes be dangerous, so it is important to have experience using a knife. Because of climate change, the surface of the sea has become less salty.



Inunnguaq S. Jensen

¶ 1. Utoqqaat pisinnaanerusut inaat

¶ 2. Aqqusineq

¶ 3. Angerlarsimaffinga

¶ 4. Nunianneq

¶ 5. Taseraasat

¶ 6. Sisorartarnerup silarsuaa

1. Housing for the elderly

When I was a child, a housing complex was built for elderly people who were still able to manage on their own, and we found out that my grandmother was going to move there. At first, it was fine, but my family quickly noticed that the floor began to tilt as a result of permafrost thawing. The building was constructed around the 1990s. After 18 years, the housing complex could no longer be used and had to be abandoned. The small football pitch next to it has also clearly become uneven.

2. The road

The road is maintained by paving it, but it sinks and becomes wavy. From my childhood until now, when I am 42 years old, the road is still in very poor condition. Even though it is repaired again and again, it is never properly fixed.

3. My home

In 1998 we got the house, and it was my mother who bought it first. It has always been my home, even after I moved out. We use it as a gathering place, where generations from my mother's side meet – it is very important to us. The house means a lot to me because it is quiet and peaceful.

“When talking about permafrost, you can see that the lake next to the house, which used to be very wet, is now becoming less wet. It is clearly visible that the area is sinking. Before it was level, but now it has become very uneven.

4. Berry picking

From around mid-August to September, I often go out to pick crowberries and blue-

berries. At first I did it alone, and later with my aunt. Regardless of the weather, I enjoy using my hands to pick and fill a bag. I also store berries for winter supplies. Berry picking means a lot to me – it is like therapy in silence, surrounded by beautiful nature. You can see geese and small birds nearby, and sometimes also seals. It makes you forget city life.

5. Taseraasat

My parents bought a cabin that was put up for sale. In spring we go there on weekends, and in summer we use it as a holiday place. Many different things happen at the cabin. We do not have mobile coverage. We carry out various activities outside. We dry fish and collect mussels along the shore. We enjoy time as a family and go into the water with our feet. We are often many together and store our catch for later use. It was also there that I learned how to make smoked fish.

6. The world of skiing

When it is not too cold and the snow is good, the area is used for skiing. It usually starts in February, driven by the desire to get outside. I was introduced to Ilulissani Sisoraartartut Peqatigiiffiat, a skiing association, and became a member in 1989. My parents were on the board, and my siblings skied. The sense of community was much stronger then compared to today. On Saturdays we were there from morning until evening. Both children and adults took part. It is a very meaningful part of my life.



Karen Alaufesen

- ✦ 1. Aalisarneq
- ✦ 2. Anaanakkuma illuat
- ✦ 3. Pisuttuarneq
- ✦ 4. Aavartarfik
- ✦ 5. Egalunniarneq

1. Fishing

We are usually three people in our boat, a Poca 600: my son, my husband and I, when we fish for Greenland halibut. We bring some provisions as well as our nets and longlines.

“Early in the morning, we head out, and after selling the halibut to Royal Greenland, we prepare the hooks again and get everything ready for the next day. We fish almost every day.

In recent years, it has become clear that there are fewer Greenland halibut.

2. My mother's home

When we arrive in Attu, we feel welcome and enjoy being together with family. My mother, siblings and relatives gather there. Our identity becomes very clear. We eat Greenlandic food and spend time together. We truly value Greenlandic food. It feels as if you can get all kinds of Greenlandic food in Attu. I have not noticed signs of climate change related to permafrost thaw.

3. Going for walks

I often go for walks because it gives me energy. Sometimes I walk with my son to Sermermiut. The surroundings, the icebergs and nature provide energy and calm. I walk more when the weather is good. Every time I go out, I almost always meet

someone. My thoughts are often focused on the surroundings, and I have not noticed changes in the permafrost.

4. Reindeer hunting

At the beginning of August, we go reindeer hunting, sometimes with family or friends.

“We bring many things with us, both equipment and food. We stay there for about a week, depending on our work. We walk long distances, also with the children. It is always exciting. Recently, we have also started fishing for trout there. We dry reindeer meat on the rocks.

When I think about the weather, I notice that it has often become colder. In summer, we even feel very cold.

5. Trout fishing

When we were children, we used to fish for trout in the river in May with our family. It means a lot to me. In the past, we sailed through the ice to the fishing spot, set up a tent and walked about 1 km. Even as adults, we still go there in summer, where we smoke fish and also use the area for hunting. Now that we are adults, there is no longer any ice. Today, there is only a little ice in some places where there used to be very large amounts, which have now disappeared.



Karl Sandgreen

- ¶ 1. Qaarsorsuaq
- ¶ 2. Katersungaasivik
- ¶ 3. Minnerup aqputaa
- ¶ 4. Narsarsuaq
- ¶ 5. Kingittoq
- ¶ 6. Inoqarfitoqqaq Sermermiut

1. Qaarsorsuaq

Since I was a child, we have passed it every time we sailed to Qeqertaq, and later, when I worked in tourism, I passed it again on the way to Eqi. Qaarsorsuaq is steep and shows clear signs of rockfalls. As a child, I did not notice whether rockfalls had occurred. As an adult, however, I have twice experienced smoke caused by rockfalls. It is uncomfortable to travel there, because I think about the risk of falling rocks, as you now hear more and more about rockfalls in Greenland.

2. Katersungaasivik

Everyone from Ilulissat has probably been there. For me, the place is very meaningful, partly because there is an umiak (women's boat) outside that my grandmother helped to build.

“When I worked in tourism, I visited the place often, sometimes with guests and other times to update my knowledge. It is an important house, which is unfortunately sinking due to permafrost thaw.”

The building is leaning, and the small house next to it is completely tilted. When you go inside, you can clearly feel that the floor slopes.

3. Minnerup aqputaa (Minner's road)

This road means a lot to me, as it is named after my great-grandfather, Minneq. As the town is small and there are not many roads, I often drive there. It may be the most expensive road in Ilulissat, as it is almost every year levelled with asphalt, but quickly becomes uneven again. It is very muddy, and the drainage often causes water to accumulate.

4. Narsarsuaq

Everyone has passed Narsarsuaq in winter. It is the starting point for dog sleds and the most common winter route for pedestrians. I use it mostly in winter. In recent years, however, I have noticed that it is also possible to walk there without problems. When we were children, there were more ponds, so you always needed rubber boots. Recently, I was surprised that I could walk there in ordinary shoes.

5. Kingittoq

When I worked in tourism, I often walked there, and I have also used the trails since childhood. The weather determines whether you can go there. I visit the place mostly in summer, as it is an important time. My mother, who is from Illumiut, has told me where they used to play. Now, as the permafrost thaws, old hunting tools are emerging from the ground.

6. The old settlement Sermermiut

Sermermiut is very important to me, also through my work, especially in tourism. There are clear traces of previous settlement. Grass that only grows where people have lived can be found there. We visit the place depending on the weather, and I am often there in connection with various activities. As the permafrost thaws, cracks appear in the landscape, and coastal erosion occurs. You can clearly see layers of different cultures on top of each other.



Kristian Petersen

- ¶ 1. Qullissani illorput
- ¶ 2. Biiliniq aqqartarfik Oqaatsunut, aamma qimussit aqqutigisarpaat
- ¶ 3. Oqaatsunut biilerneq
- ¶ 4. Ukiukkut qilaluarniarneq
- ¶ 5. Qimussimik aalisariarneq

1. Our home in Qullissat

At that time, the town was well developed, both in terms of infrastructure and equipment. Around 1,300 people lived there, and there was a large coal industry. I left Qullissat in 1961, when I was eight years old. The population began to decline, and in 1972 Qullissat was closed. Around 1950, there was a tsunami, but it did not have major consequences for the town. Many houses were destroyed after a tsunami in the 1990s. Later, an association was formed, and in 1987 efforts began to renovate many of the houses. There is still hope for development in the future.

2. The route to Oqaatsut — used by both cars and dog sleds

The route was used by dog sleds, and when the sea froze, it could also be used by car.

“Dog sleds used the route regardless of the conditions on the sea. Today, it remains only as stories from the past.”

In the past, the sea froze with thick ice, but today this rarely happens, and the ice is no longer as it used to be.

3. Driving to Oqaatsut

One winter, my wife and I drove from Ilulissat to Oqaatsut and back again. We passed Zion Church and drove across the ice. At that time, the ice was very thick and even, so it was easy to travel. The trip took

about 15 minutes. This was around 1987. Later, there was still some ice, but not in the same amount. Today, we travel to Oqaatsut by boat, and in winter it is sometimes possible to cross by snowmobile if the sea is frozen.

4. Beluga hunting in winter

When the sea towards Disko Bay froze, dog sleds and fishers would gather. We used our own dogs and brought tents and equipment. Sometimes we stayed overnight, especially if the catch was good. We hunted with rifles, and when we caught something, it was pulled home by the dogs. We built shelter by placing two sleds next to each other. Later, people began to come by car for hunting. Since around the year 2000, the ice has changed significantly and is no longer as it used to be.

5. Fishing by dog sled

When I was young, we fished using dog sleds. We were together with both young and old, and the elders taught us how to hunt. When fishing for Greenland halibut, we spent much of the day making holes in the ice. We sold the catch to the factory and kept some for ourselves. It gave a strong sense of energy to have a close relationship with the dogs. It is clear that the ice sheet has become much smaller. The glacier has retreated far back, and the large icebergs have become fewer. At that time, there were no snowmobiles.



Marianne Steffani

- ♥ 1. Piniarneq
- ♥ 2. Qajaasartarfik
- ♥ 3. Pilineq
- ♥ 4. Arpaffik
- ♥ 5. Blå rute
- ♥ 6. Akinnaq

1. Hunting

In summer, we hunt different animals, such as seals and porpoises. We store them in the freezer so we can use them during the winter. Porpoise meat is especially taken out for festive occasions. We are often out all day. We always bring food and drinks, and we always carry safety equipment. I often go with my family and sometimes with my partner. The time spent there means a lot to me, because I feel a sense of calm when I am out on longer trips.

2. Qajaasaarfik

It is a place where you can pick Greenland tea plants. In summer, we sail there in our boat with an inflatable dinghy. The trip takes about one and a half hours, and on the way back we often hunt seals. We pick the plants by hand from the branches and put them into bags. We dry them and use them throughout the year for tea and food.

“The fact that the plants are becoming shorter, I see as a sign of climate change.

We lay them on baking paper and dry them at room temperature.

3. Smoking fish

We make smoked fish on site, especially from late July to early August. We smoke fish (trout), and depending on their size, they can be ready in three days. We catch them ourselves with nets, salt them and smoke them. As a family, we travel there by boat. Depending on the food, drinks and clothing we bring, we decide whether to stay overnight. What we prepare is stored for the rest of the year and also used for festive occasions.

4. Running route

I start running when spring arrives, and I mostly run after work, not in the morning. I always bring chewing gum so I do not get thirsty. I cannot name one specific important route, as there are several options. It is an advantage that there are not many cars, because it is quiet. I run alone. The road becomes uneven, even though it may be asphalted every year. It seems that it becomes uneven more quickly now. I imagine that the road will become even more uneven in the future.

5. Blue route

In summer, I use it as a hiking route, where I walk at a steady pace. I only use it in summer. I always go with someone, as I can feel a bit uneasy on my own. I bring drinks and some snacks. I start from Qoororsuaq, because I like the view from there. I feel very comfortable, as I can see how beautiful our nature is. I return to town via Sermermiut. I have noticed that the icebergs appear smaller when seen from the viewpoint.

6. Akinnaq

From February to April, I go to Akinnaq to stay active. The round trip takes about two hours. I am often with others and bring drinks, chocolate and similar items. For me, it is important to be in nature and get fresh air rather than staying only in town. I have noticed that there is less snow. I can go there often, but the weather also plays a role. When the weather is good, you meet many dog sleds, and there are always people, as it is also a popular place for walks.



Ole Peter Hansen

- ✦ 1. Ilinniarnertuunngorfiga
- ✦ 2. Pernaqqaarfiga
- ✦ 3. Akinnaq
- ✦ 4. Aavarneq
- ✦ 5. Illuararput

1. My upper secondary school

I attended upper secondary school for about five years in Qaqortoq. I actually started in Aasiaat in 2020, but later moved to Qaqortoq. It has always been important for me to have my laptop with me. In 2025, I graduated. Qaqortoq means a lot to me because it has opened up opportunities for my future. Near the school there are stones and graves, and you can see how the graves are slowly sinking and disappearing.

2. My first hunting place

During holidays, I used to go seal hunting with my parents in our own boat. We could be out for a long time, almost a whole day. We only hunted seals with our own rifles.

"We cut up the seals either on the ice or below the summer cabin. We left the skin and the head behind. To thank the Woman of the Sea, we threw the seal's bladder into the water."

We ate fresh seal meat, but also stored some for winter supplies and special occasions.

3. Akinnaq

The first time I stood on the mountaintop with a dog sled, I was filled with thoughts and dreams about the future. From Ilulissat, it takes about 30 minutes to reach the top of Akinnaq.

"Dog sledding is part of our identity. In winter, when there is enough snow, you can go there."

I have learned that there are different ways of travelling by dog sled – for example, you can also go hunting with a sled, not just use it for transport.

4. Reindeer hunting

When the reindeer hunting season begins, we go to Nassuttooq. From Ilulissat, the journey takes three days with overnight stays.

"We bring different kinds of equipment, as we hunt reindeer, musk oxen, hares, and foxes. Reindeer are the most important for us."

If we see hares, we also catch them for food. When we have hunted reindeer, we carry them over long distances. We move from morning to evening, typically from 07:00 to 22:00.

5. Our cabin

My grandparents were very fond of the cabin, which was inherited from the Hansen family. In summer, I go there more often, especially on National Day. We also use the place to process our catch. We often go there by the family's boats. We do many different things there – relax, stay active in nature, or race in rubber boats. It is very important to my identity, because I grew up among fishers and hunters.



Building Memory Together

A collaboration between communities, culture, research and storytelling Mapping Memories brings together researchers, cultural institutions, local communities and storytellers across the Arctic. Together, the project partners

explore how climate change is affecting not only landscapes, but also the memories, identities and ways of life connected to them.

The project is based on a simple but important idea: places are more than locations. They are lived systems of knowledge, memory and belonging. When landscapes change, something cultural and deeply human is also at risk.



ILULISSAT
ICEFJORD CENTRE

Ilulissat Icefjord Centre

Located beside the UNESCO World Heritage landscape of the Ilulissat Icefjord, the Ilulissat Icefjord Centre is both a cultural meeting place and a gateway to understanding Greenland's changing environment.

The centre has played a central role in the project through interviews, translations, local coordination and community engagement. The original idea for Mapping Memories emerged through discussions with the Icefjord Centre about the urgent need to document stories and cultural sites connected to Greenlandic landscapes and traditions.



Nordregio

Nordregio

Nordregio is a Nordic research institute working with regional development, planning and policy across the Nordic Region and the Arctic. In Mapping Memories, Nordregio helps connect research, communication and public engagement. Its role is to translate the project's knowledge into accessible formats, including the exhibition, booklet and wider communication activities. By working across climate, cultural heritage, mapping and storytelling, Nordregio supports the project's aim to make Arctic change visible not only through data, but through the lived experiences and memories of the people connected to these places.



Places.nu

Places.nu is the participatory digital mapping platform used throughout the project. Developed by geographer and cartographer Levi Westerveld, the platform allows stories, photographs and memories to be connected directly to specific places on a map.

The platform combines storytelling and geography to create a living archive of landscapes, memories and lived experiences across the Arctic.



Stefansson Arctic Institute at University of Akureyri

The Stefansson Arctic Institute in Iceland is a research institution specialising in Arctic societies, environments and communities. Within Mapping Memories, the institute contributes expertise on Arctic sustainability, cultural heritage and community-based research.

The institute also supports the project's broader goal of connecting local and Indigenous knowledge with climate research and Arctic policy discussions.

Researchers, youth participants and local contributors

At the heart of the project are the people who shared their stories, memories and experiences.

Young people have participated in documenting stories from Elders and community members through interviews and participatory mapping. This intergenerational approach helps strengthen knowledge transfer between generations while preserving memories connected to places under pressure from climate change.

The stories featured in the exhibition reflect personal experiences of everyday life, environmental change, cultural continuity and belonging across Greenland and the Arctic.

40 ÅR VESTLANDSFORSKING

Vestlandsforskning

Vestlandsforskning (Western Norway Research Institute) is an independent Norwegian research institute working with climate adaptation, sustainability and regional development.

Within Mapping Memories, Vestlandsforskning contributes knowledge related to environmental change, climate impacts and Arctic resilience, helping connect local stories to wider questions about adaptation and future planning.



Nordens Institut i Grønland

NAPA – The Nordic Institute in Greenland
Mapping Memories is supported by NAPA – The Nordic Institute in Greenland through the Nordic Arctic Programme. NAPA works to strengthen Nordic and Arctic cooperation through culture, knowledge-sharing and community-based initiatives across the region.

Through its support for projects connected to youth engagement, Arctic perspectives and cultural resilience, NAPA helps create collaborations that strengthen local communities and make Arctic voices more visible across the Nordic region.

The Nordic Arctic Programme supports projects that contribute to socially resilient and sustainable Arctic communities across generations. For *Mapping Memories*, this support has made it possible to connect storytelling, cultural heritage and climate research through exhibitions, digital mapping and intergenerational collaboration.

