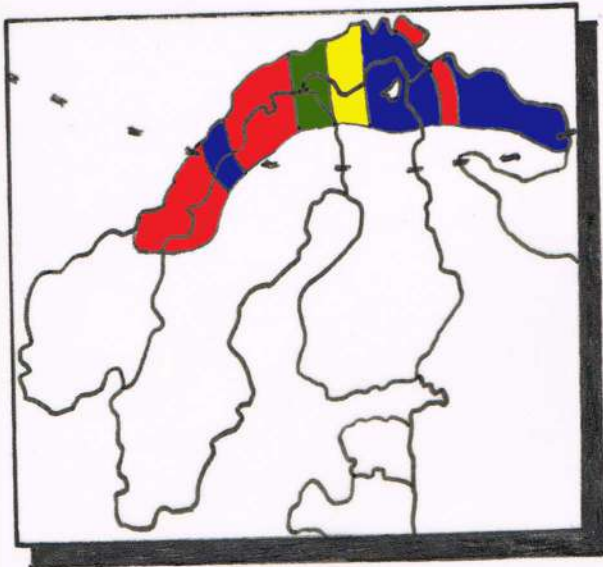


LAIÐIITTÄS

Shamanism lii Säämi puáris oskoldáh, mii lappui kuu-loold muáddi ihečyeđe tassaaš talle ko ristâosko poodij Sáámán. Taan oskolduvvâst puoh tehálumos olmooš lâi nuáidi, tot vijses almai, kii išedij ulmuid sii vädisvuodâiguin. Nuáidirumbu lâi nuáidi tehálumos tyejipiergâs já sun vaaldij toin ohtâvuodâ vuoinâlâš maailmân. Tot adelij sunjin ravvuid, maht čuávdiđ suu almug vädisvuodâid. Ruumbuh láá lappum nuuvtko puáris oskoldáh-uv, mutâ mottoom rumbu lii vala kavnámist museoin.



INTRODUCTION

The Saami people are the indigenous people of the northmost area of Europe, which is called Lapland. They still live in the area that reaches all the way from the Kola Peninsula in the east to the coast of Norway in the west. You can see the area in this map. Most of this area is located north of the Arctic Circle.

The Saami are best known as reindeer herders, but in fact the people are divided into several different cultures and speak different languages. Traditionally the Saami people used to live off the land, off whatever their natural surroundings provided.

Nowadays the Saami lead relatively modern lives. People still work as reindeer herders or fishermen, but can also be for example postmen, taxi drivers, teachers or nurses. The people still have a close contact to nature, which often begins at their doorstep. Community and family are also important as the old traditions are taught by elders to the children.

Shamanism is the old Saami religion which slowly disappeared a few hundred years ago when Christianity came to Lapland. The shaman was the most important person in this religion, the wise man, who helped his community with any problems they may have. The magic drum was the main piece of equipment of the shaman and he used it for communicating with the spiritual world. It gave him advice and guidance in solving his people's problems. The drums have also disappeared alongside the old religion but some can still be found in museums around Europe.