



Heart-Shaped Uummannaq Greenland

It is no mystery how Uummannaq Island got its name. In Greenlandic, the word means “heart-shaped,” an apt description for the multi-peaked mountain that towers over the island.

Located off the coast of northwestern Greenland, the mountain’s granite and gneiss peak rises sharply from sea level to about 1,170 meters (3,840 feet). The rock that makes up Uummannaq is ancient, likely forming 3.0 to 2.8 billion years ago.

Well north of the Arctic Circle, Uummannaq Island is home to one of the most northerly towns in Greenland. The Earth Observing-1 satellite captured this image in May 2012. Sea ice still surrounded the island, but breaks in the ice—called leads—exposed seawater beneath it.