

The Canadian Arctic Inuit

Grades 2-3

Written by Joanne Irons
Illustrated by Sean Parkes

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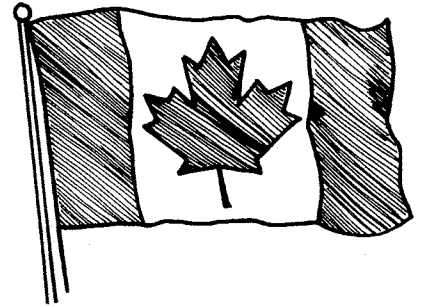




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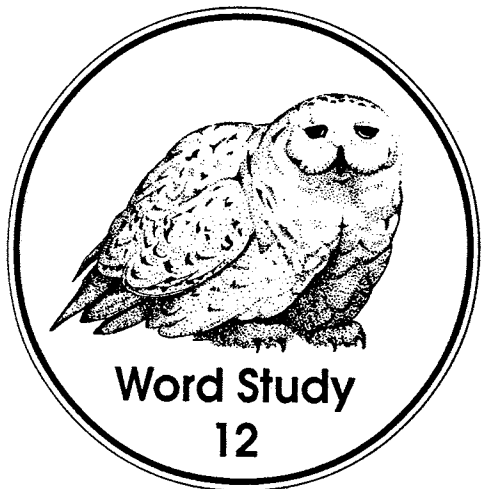
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Colour the Rhymes



Colour the Rhymes:

Rhymes with **tent** = green

Rhymes with **camp** = yellow

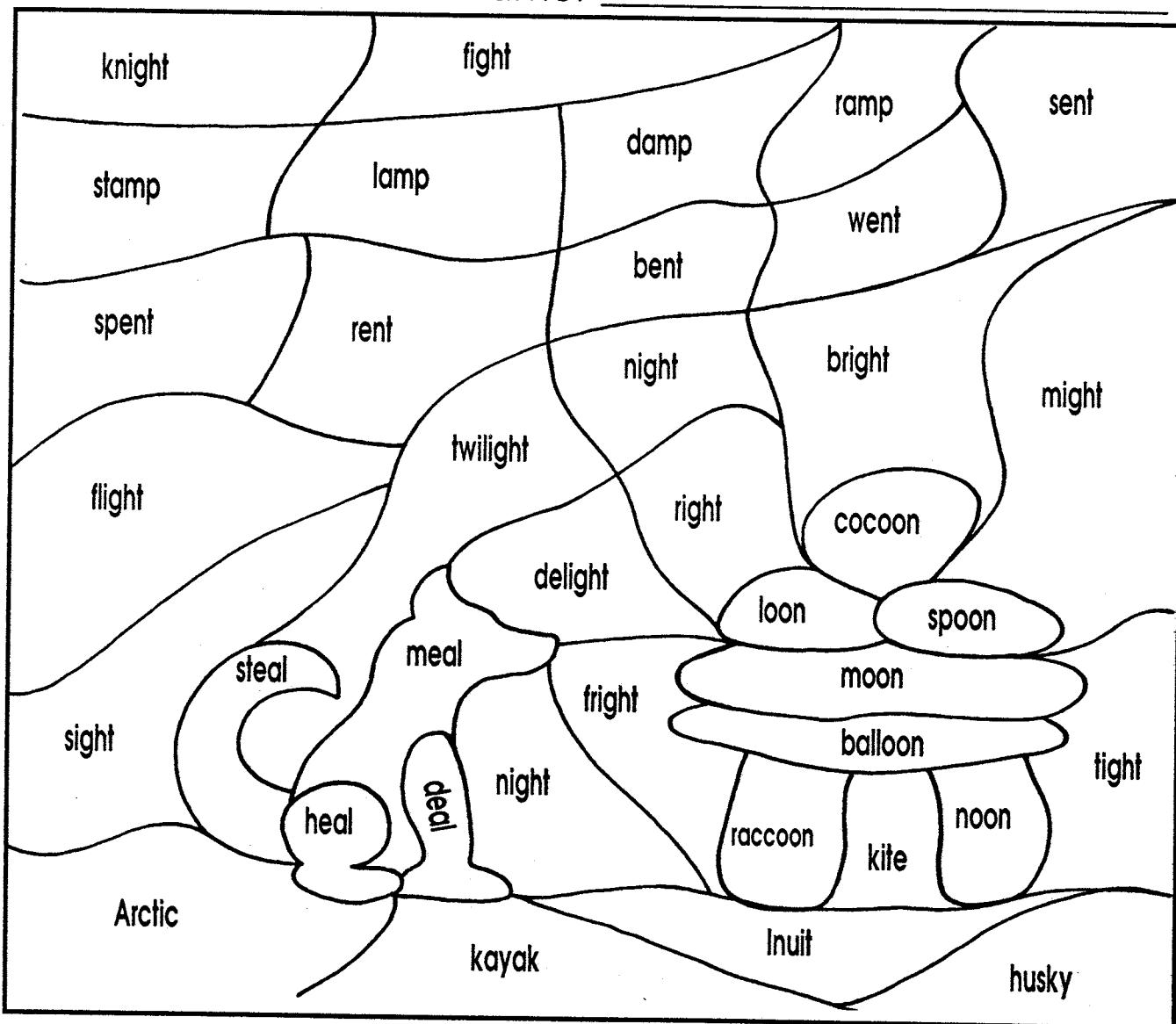
Rhymes with **light** = blue

Rhymes with **harpoon** = black

Rhymes with **seal** = brown

No rhyming words leave white

Name: _____





About 6,000 years ago people migrated from Siberia in Asia to Alaska in North America. They crossed the Bering Sea in small boats during the summer or crossed the ice in winter. These people are the ancestors of today's Inuit.

They lived along the Arctic Coast and inland to the treeline from Alaska to Greenland. They spoke a similar language and all used kayaks and snowhouses. Called "Eskimos" by others, they called themselves "Inuit" meaning "people".

There are _____ main groups of Inuit living in Canada. (see the map). The area which the Canadian Inuit lived in covered several different provinces and territories.

Name the provinces and territories where the Inuit lived.

_____ , _____ , _____ ,
 _____ , _____ , and _____ .



The Inuit Languages



The Inuit language has an oral history. Inuit did not have a written language until the missionaries came to the North.



Though there are at least six different dialects spoken in the North, Inuit from Alaska to Greenland can understand each other because of the common base of their language. Inuktitut is the most common of these dialects. There are two ways to write Inuktitut, Roman letters (that's the alphabet used for English) and syllabics, which was originally based on the Pitman Shorthand symbols.

The Inuit were not taught to speak or write their own language when they went to residential schools in the 1950's until the 1970's. Many people lost their original language and spoke only English.

Today there is a renewed interest in saving the Inuktitut language as an everyday language in the Arctic. Inuktitut is an official language in Canada's Nunavut Territory. The schools now have trained northern teachers to teach Inuktitut language in the classrooms. Some computers even have a "MacTitut" programme to write syllabics. There are magazines, T.V. and radio programmes produced in Inuktitut to encourage the use of the language in the homes.

Today the language is challenged to develop new words that deal with modern terms used in medicine, technology, government and business.



The Inuktitut Language

Use the alphabet to write your name. Final letters (or combinations) are written like our apostrophes, smaller than regular letters and in the upper position.

The Inuktitut Syllabic and Roman Orthography Alphabet

i	△	u	▷	a	◁	Finals	
pi	∨	pu	>	pa	<	p	<
ti	∩	tu	∪	ta	∩	t	∩
ki	∩	ku	∩	ka	∩	k	∩
gi	∩	gu	∩	ga	∩	g	∩
mi	∩	mu	∩	ma	∩	m	∩
ni	∩	nu	∩	na	∩	n	∩
si	∩	su	∩	sa	∩	s	∩
li	∩	lu	∩	la	∩	l	∩
ji	∩	ju	∩	ja	∩	j	∩
vi	∩	vu	∩	va	∩	v	∩
ri	∩	ru	∩	ra	∩	r	∩
qi	∩	qu	∩	qa	∩	q	∩
ngi	∩	ngu	∩	nga	∩	ng	∩

For the sound of **b** use **p**, for **d** use **t** and for **w** use **u**. For the letter **y** use **j**, for **o** use **u** and for **e** use **i** because there are no **e**, **o** or **y** letters in their alphabet.



The Inuktitut Language

Match the words to their syllabic form. **Try** your own words.

1. qajaq (kayak)

___ ◁ L P 9b

2. nanuq (polar bear)

___ 9b 4b

3. amaruq (wolf)

___ Δ^u 3

4. iglu (house)

___ ▷^b ^^b

5. ukpik (snowy owl)

___ a o 9b