

## Activity 4

### Vowel Differences in Cree-Innu

The **vowels** in the Cree-Innu languages are: a, e, i, and o/u, some of which can be long or short. The length is indicated by either a double vowel, a macron, a hat, or a dot over the syllabic character: **ii, ī, î, Ĩ**. As a result of sound changes from the mother language, Proto-Algonquian, some languages or dialects use fewer vowels, creating different pronunciation of the same words. You can group the different speakers by the vowel that is used.

#### Instructions:

- ▶ Open the Linguistic Atlas found at [www.atlas-ling.ca](http://www.atlas-ling.ca).
- ▶ Go to the 'location and travel' category.
- ▶ Select the phrase "on the road".
- ▶ Click on each marker on the map and listen carefully.
- ▶ When you find the speakers listed below, copy the word on the corresponding line.

#### What do you notice about the first vowel in the word for each speaker?

- ▶ Martha Michell - Woodland Cree - North \_\_\_\_\_
- ▶ Leda Corrigan - Plains Cree \_\_\_\_\_
- ▶ Brigitta Piwas Aylward - Innu - Mushuau \_\_\_\_\_
- ▶ Louise Blacksmith - East Cree - South - Inland \_\_\_\_\_
- ▶ Marion Cox - East Cree - North \_\_\_\_\_
- ▶ Silas Nabinicaboo - Naskapi - Western \_\_\_\_\_

Answer:

- |  |  |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Woodland Cree - North</li> <li>▶ Plains Cree</li> <li>▶ Innu - Mushuau</li> <li>▶ East Cree - South - Inland</li> <li>▶ East Cree - North</li> <li>▶ Naskapi - Western</li> </ul> | <p>mīskanāhk<br/>mīskanāhk<br/>meshkanat<br/>meskanaahch<br/>maaskinaahch<br/>maaskinaahch</p> |
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<b>ī</b>	<b>e</b>	<b>aa</b>
Plains Cree Woodland Cree	East Cree - South Innu	East Cree - North Naskapi