

Small Number
Counts to 100
Apsch Akichikiwan
akichikeet isko
mitatomitano

Written by Veselin Jungic & Mark MacLean

Illustrated by Simon Roy

Cree Translation by Barry Cardinal

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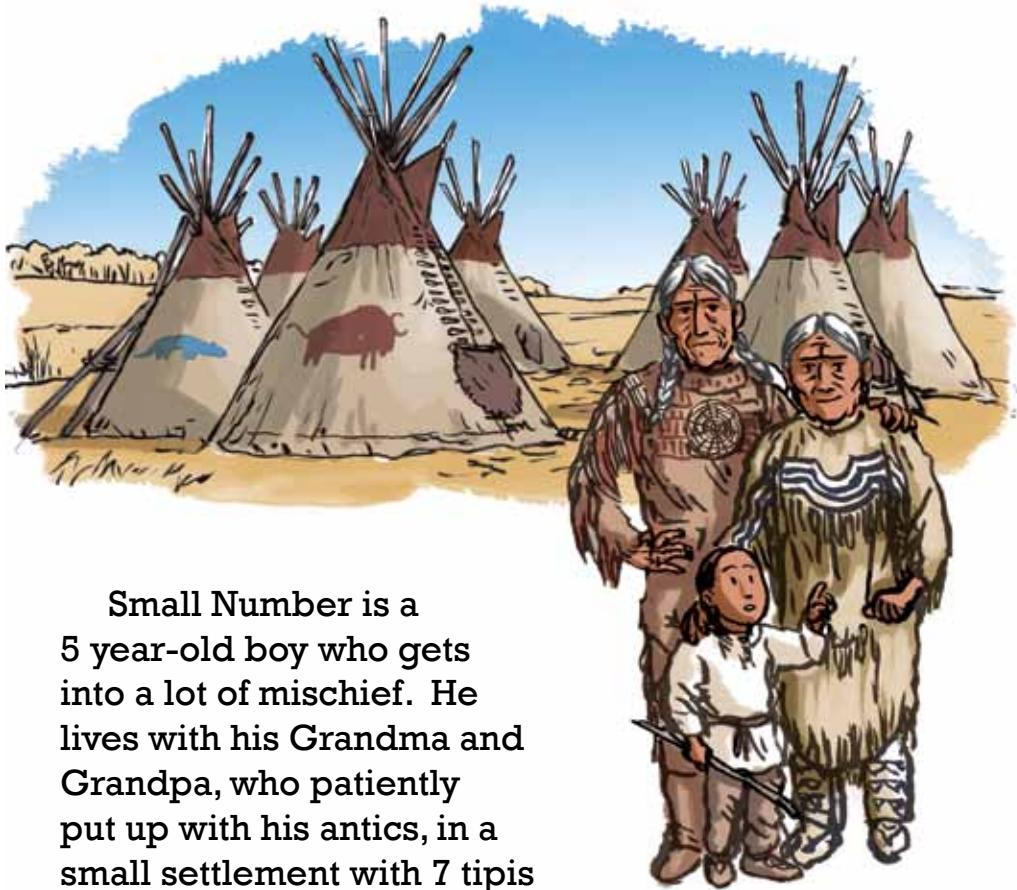
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Small Number is a 5 year-old boy who gets into a lot of mischief. He lives with his Grandma and Grandpa, who patiently put up with his antics, in a small settlement with 7 tipis arranged in a circle.

Apsch Akichikiwin niyanan tahtohpuneet aya isa mana igee natohkunkeet. Ohkuma ikwa Ohmoosuma iwitookeemat aya isa mana peyahtik ke nakateemkut uma kanatohkunkeet. Tepakohp esa wasagamaskiteekaw megwahpah etah kaweekihtaw.

One day Small Number wanders out into the woods and sees a beautiful black cat with a long white stripe down its back.



*Peyuk kesikaw esa Apsch Akichikiwan sakahk
papamohteet kawapimat esa mimosa, paskutch
esa wapskiyk upskun awa minos.*

Wanting to take the cat home to show Grandma, he tries to catch it and learns that the black cat is really a skunk.



Kakoykatinat esa ikewkiwitahat Ohkuma iki-ywapahteehat. Ikohta esa kakskituhk Sikakohk chikana esa ohi.

Smelling strongly from the skunk spray, he runs home to Grandma, who quickly takes him out to wash the smell off him. As hard as she scrubs him down, she can't quite get rid of all the bad smell.



Katakohpatat esa wekowak Ohkuma esa iksipi-kusteenkoot ohsam oma wihcheeksit. Maka esa pohkeekohk ata kaksipikusteenkoot peyakun esa kasimakohsit.

Grandma doesn't want Small Number spending time in their tipi until he smells better, so she decides to set him a task she thinks will take him a long time. She knows Small Number can count to 100.



Ohkuma esa awa Apsch Akichikiwan igiya intaweeemkut koonta kahuyapit uma migwapihk usam wihcheeksit, machik esa atoskeyan meegoot uma kinoys uma kahnoochitat machik nowach kakunatchmaksit. Ikseytumeet esa uma kuskitaat akichikeet iskoh mitatomitan.

She tells him to start at their tipi, which is right beside the entrance to the settlement at the east point of the circle, and to walk around the circle of tipis by first heading south.



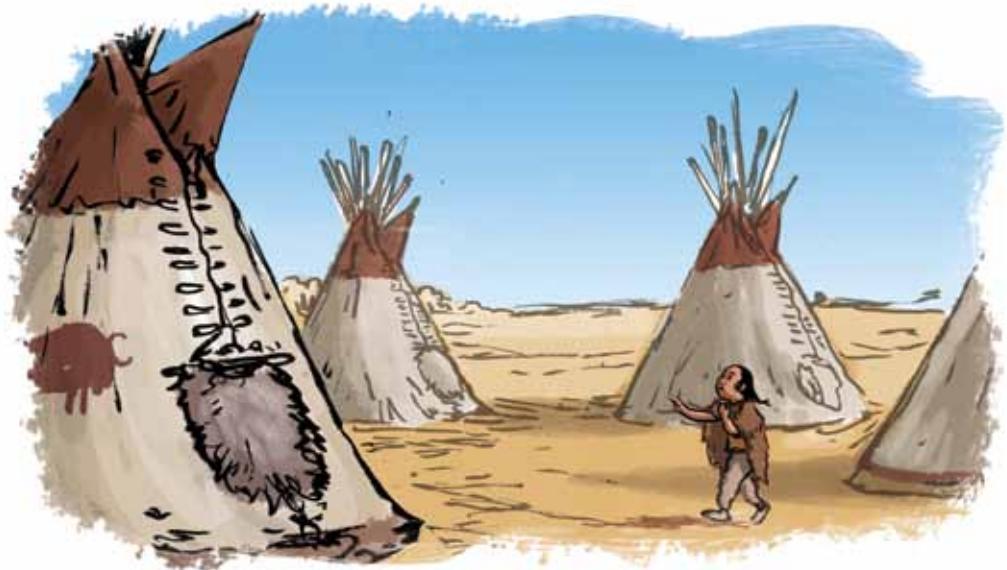
*Wihtumakoot esa uma kamachitat eta
kaweeikitaw, ekotawchi sakasteenohk isih
keetohteeet, ekootawchi kawasakateet ohi
megwahpah apihtaakesikunohk sih.*

His task is to count the tipis going round and round until he can tell her which tipi he gets to when he reaches 100.



Otatoskewin esa uma, kawasakateet kagihtahk megwahpa iskoh mitatomitano. Ikohtawchih kawihumowat Ohkuma tanimah ikonma migwahp etah kakisukichikeet mitatomitano.

Small Number starts walking around the circle counting. He starts at 1 at his tipi, and when he gets back there, he has counted to 8.



*Apsch Akichikiwin esa machi wasakateet
akichikeet. Mach akichikeet esa “Peyuk” etah uma
kawekitaw, igwa kowih ikota katuksihk “ayinanew”
mamowih agihtum migwapah.*

When he gets to 15 and is back at his own tipi, he stops and sits down. He counts on his fingers for a while...



*Niyanosap esa kakisakichikeet takohtew kowih
wekowahk, ikota esa ikwa kanugeet pita ayapit.
Ohchicheesik esa akichikeet noomih.*

...and then runs in to see his Grandma and yells: "It is Auntie Rena's tipi!" which is one tipi south of his grandparents'.



*Igutowchih esa Ohkuma spahtaht wihtumowat
"nimamaas Rena omigwahpim" igonma igotah
migwahp apihtakisikhunohk ohchi eta Ohkuma
kawigeet.*

Question: How did Small Number know that the 100th tipi is the one just south of his grandparents' tipi without actually counting them?



Tansi? Apsch Akichikiwan isihskitum mitatomitanoo migwaphah, apihtakisikhunohk ohchi Ohkuma etee kawikeet atah kiya ahgihtahk?

What is Cree?

Cree is part of the very widespread Algonquian language family. There are six main Cree dialects: Eastern Cree (Labrador and eastern James and Hudson Bay), Attikamek Cree (Quebec), Moose Cree (Ontario side of Hudson and James Bay), Swampy Cree (Manitoba and Ontario), Woods Cree (Manitoba and Eastern Saskatchewan), and Plains Cree, spoken mainly in Saskatchewan, Alberta and Northern BC.

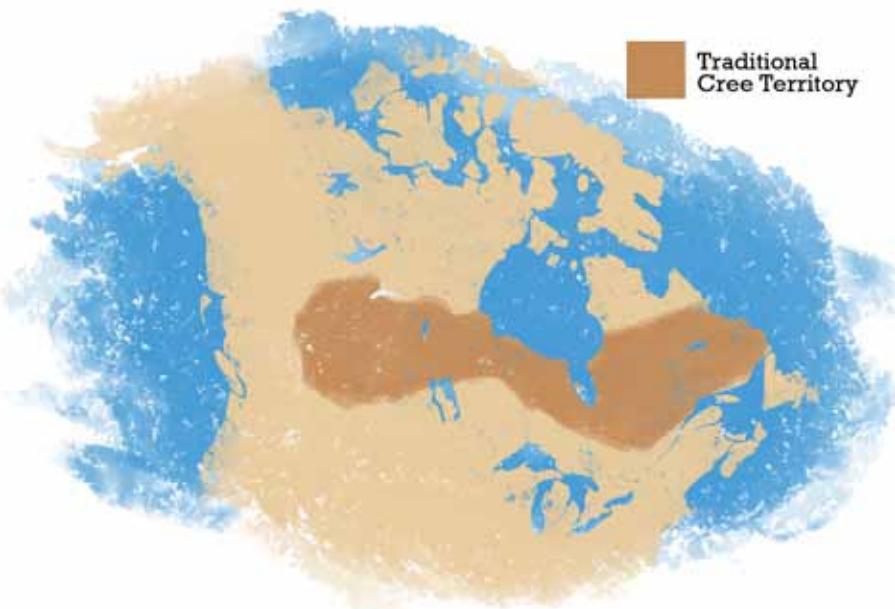
The word ‘Cree,’ itself probably came from a French version of an Ojibwa word, ‘kistanowak,’ meaning “people of the north.” Plains Cree call ourselves Nêhiyaw. Many Elders tell us that Nêhiyaw means, “People of the Four Directions”.

When French and English colonizers came to this land, they were mostly welcomed by Aboriginal people, who helped them survive in our territories.

But the colonizers didn’t think we should keep our languages or cultures. Laws were passed, assimilation policies were developed and, ultimately, residential schools were set up to eliminate Aboriginal languages and cultures. Residential schools took children from their parents and communities, and Aboriginal children were denied the right to speak their language, including Cree.

But Cree has never disappeared because of the strength of our people, and especially our Elders who were determined to keep the language living. Today, there are well over 90,000 Cree speakers in Canada, and there are many initiatives in Cree communities to make sure the language remains strong.

Loretta Todd



“Be truthful and respectful in our speech, which in itself is a miracle and a gift from the Creator, that we might use it only to speak good of each other and pass on the good things of life.”

“óma ka-píkiskwiyák ta-kí kistíthimitomowak mina ta-kí-tapwiyak, iyako áyamíwin mitoni mamáhtáwisíh cikíwin óma ki-mámawóhtawímawánaw ká-kí-mitho-mithikowak, ka-tahkaki-píkiskwatówák ikwa mina ka-mitho-aniskowin-imak pimatisiwiwina.”

- Cree Proverb



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