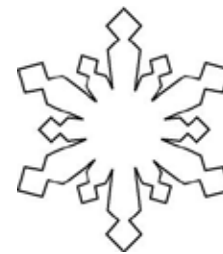


# Native Language Ties



## Overview:

During this project, students learn Native language words used for common directions.

## Objective:

The student will use Native language words for the directions north, south, east, and west.

## Materials:

- STUDENT WORKSHEET: “Native Language Ties”

## GLEs Addressed:

### *Science*

[7] SF3.1 The student demonstrates an understanding of the dynamic relationships among scientific, cultural, social, and personal perspectives by investigating the basis of local knowledge (e.g., describing and predicting weather) and sharing that information (L).

## Whole Picture:

Integrating western science with traditional Native knowledge creates science curriculum that is relevant to Alaskan youth. Part of that integration involves knowledge of Alaska Native languages.

At the 1986 Inupiat Language Convention, Lee Barger said, “With our language we have an identity. It helps us to find out who we are in our mind and in our heart.”

In Western culture, winds are named from their source direction. A West wind is *coming from* the West, not going toward it. The same is true in most Alaska Native languages.

Yup’ik Elder Paul John explains:

“If the wind is blowing from between the west and north, [one would say] ‘The wind is blowing from between the west and north.’ And again, they will know that it is blowing from the northwest. The Yupiit had their own way of discussing weather.”

In the Yup’ik culture understanding the wind is a part of learning vital hunting and outdoor survival skills.

“The ones who paid close attention to the weather were better able to forecast bad weather than the ones who didn’t pay attention to it,” John said. “We have seen that the weather has been very bad for the people who are in the wilderness since the day before yesterday. Especially yesterday evening conditions were such that people could get lost even in the village. The conditions were such that one could lose directions while walking.”

## Activity Procedure:

1. Distribute the STUDENT WORKSHEET: “Native Language Ties.” Go over the chart with students, asking them to pronounce any words they may already know. Ask students to complete the worksheet by filling in the blanks with words from the chart.

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**Extension Idea:** Instruct students to create a vocabulary book first by folding a sheet of notebook paper in half lengthwise, then cutting every third line of one side. This should result in ten tabs. Each tab can be labeled with a different word. The definition and a drawing representing the word can be drawn in the lines underneath the tab.

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## Answers:

1. One of the following: arnineq, calaraq, keluvaq, kiugkenak, ungalaq
2. south
3. Yupik
4. One of the following: nigiq, kiluagnaq, kivaknaq, atchabiniq
5. ungalaq
6. kanaknaq
7. Two of the following: negeq, nerqik, qagaani, qagna, qakemna, qakmani
8. taa`ełgheyhtl denh
9. Yupik and Inupiaq
10. ikagnaq

## Sources:

Alaska Native Knowledge Network, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Abridged Inupiaq and English Dictionary by Edna Ahgeak MacLean (Alaska Native Language Center, University of Alaska Fairbanks and the Inupiat Language Commission, North Slope Borough, Barrow, Alaska, 1981)

Yupik Eskimo Dictionary compiled by Steven A. Jacobsen (Alaska Native Language Center, University of Alaska Fairbanks, 1984)

Koyukon Athabaskan Dictionary by Jules Jetté and Eliza Jones (Editor-in-Chief James Kari, Alaska Native Language Center, University of Alaska Fairbanks, 2000)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Native Language Ties

## Student Worksheet

**Directions:** Fill in the blanks with words from the chart below.

1. What is one Yupik word for east? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Which direction (north, south, east or west) has no Athabascan word? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Which language has the most words for north? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What is one Inupiaq word for east wind? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Which Yupik word means both south and east? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What is the Inupiaq word for west wind? \_\_\_\_\_
7. List two Yupik words for north: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
8. What is the Athabascan word for the west? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Which two languages have similar words for north, west and south? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
10. What is the Inupiaq word for north wind parallel to coast? \_\_\_\_\_

Language	North	South	West	East
<b>Athabascan</b>	yoofets`en` (from the north) dofkk`ol (north wind, cold wind)	N/A	taa`eigheyhti denh (the west) nok`e`oyh denh (the place, time of sunset, the west)	hok`e`oyh denh (the place, time of sunrise, the east)
<b>Inupiaq</b>	nigiq (north, north-east wind) nigiqpaq (north, northeast wind) ikagnaq (north wind parallel to coast) atauabnaq (north wind not parallel to coast)	unalaq (south-west wind) ufalak or ufallaq (south wind) uafnagruk (south-west wind)	kanaknaq (west wind)	nigiq (east, north-east wind) kiluagnaq (east, southeast wind) kivaknaq (east, southeast wind) atchabniq (east wind)
<b>Yupik</b>	negeq nerqik qagaani qagna qakemna qakmani	ungalaq	kanaknak nerqik uassiaq	arnineq calaraq keluvaq kiugkenak ungalaq