

## Acknowledgements

My thanks is first and foremost to God who led me to situations where I learned to know, appreciate, and love the people whose mother language was Cree. My thanks is also to Jesus Christ who died in my place to provide salvation for me.

My thanks is to the people who were patient and taught me much of the Cree language - a word or sentence at a time.

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Cover picture taken by Wayne Pope 1983 at God's Lake Narrows, MB.

Kinaskomitinaanawaw anihi kīyawaw kaa kī kiskinohamaayek ta nehiyaweyaan

Helen Pope

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## INSTRUCTIONS

This course is designed to learn to read and write the Cree syllabics. You can download the lessons in Adobe, print them out, and then fill in the answers. If you use Nitro Reader, you can download and save the lessons on your computer. However to write in your answers, you will need to print out the lessons. Nitro Reader does not support the syllabic font for typing the answers. The "syllabic font" in the provided text is embedded in the Nitro file

The lessons are laid out with frames divided by asterisks. There is a bit of information in each frame and a question. You can correct your answer by looking just below the next row of asterisks. This makes it possible for you to correct all your answers as you go along.

A good game is to fold a piece of paper into four. Then take a pair of scissors and cut out one syllabic - you find you have four syllabics. A good one to start with is the syllabic for the "c" family. Lay the syllabics out like this:


Repeat this with all the syllabic families. It will make the learning fun and easy to remember.

If you know the tune to the song "There is coming a day," practice singing the song in Cree.

If you find a Cree Bible in syllabics, practice reading it. Find an older person who speaks Cree and read to him or her in their own language.

# SYLLABICS ARE IMPORTANT 

Syllabics are the key:
To the content of the Cree Bible
To the language of the forefathers
To communicating with the old people
To sharing the Word of God with Cree speaking people


Copy of the first Cree Bibles printed in London England 1861

| Consonant Short vowels |  |  |  | Long vowels |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | a | i | 0 | e | $\overline{\mathrm{a}}$ | İ | $\bar{\square}$ |
| c | ca | ci | co | ce | cā | cī | cō |
| h | ha | hi | ho | he | hā | hī | hō |
| k | ka | ki | ko | ke | kā | kī | kō |
| m | ma | mi | mo | me | mā | mī | mō |
| n | na | ni | no | ne | nā | nī | nō |
| p | pa | pi | po | pe | pā | pī | pō |
| s | sa | si | so | se | sā | sī | sō |
| t | ta | ti | to | te | tā | tī | tō |
| w | wa | wi | wo | we | wā | wī | wō |
| y | ya | yi | yo | ye | yā | yī | yō |


| Consonant | Short Vowels | Long Vowels |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |


|  | a | i | 0 | e | $\overline{\mathrm{a}}$ | I | $\overline{0}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| c | し | $\Gamma$ | J | า | i | $\Gamma$ | J | - |
| h | " $\downarrow$ | " $\triangle$ | "® | " $\nabla$ | " ${ }^{\text {d }}$ | " $\triangle$ | " $\triangleright$ | " |
| k | b | $p$ | d | 9 | b | $p$ | d |  |
| m | L | $\Gamma$ | ل | 7 | L | $\Gamma$ | ل | c |
| n | Q | $\sigma$ | - | 0 | Q | $\sigma$ | - | $\bigcirc$ |
| P | $<$ | $\wedge$ | > | $\checkmark$ | $<$ | $\wedge$ | > |  |
| S | ᄂ | r |  | 4 | ¢ | $\checkmark$ | - | n |
| t | C | $\cap$ | $\supset$ | $\cup$ | $\dot{\text { C }}$ | $\cap$ | $\checkmark$ | , |
| W | $\checkmark$ - | $\triangle^{*}$ | D | $\nabla \cdot$ | - | $\Delta^{*}$ | $\triangleright$ • | 。 |
| y | $\zeta$ | $\stackrel{ }{ }$ | $\checkmark$ | 4 | ל | $\stackrel{ }{ }$ | $\checkmark$ |  |
|  | I | $\Sigma$ | r | 3 | Christ X |  |  |  |

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$\dot{C} V \cdot p C \Gamma 」 \rho \dot{b}$

Kita pe kīsikaw ke mīyweyihtākwahk，
Ekā ke mātoyahk ekā ke nipiyahk，
Kahkiyaw mīwāsin kihci kīsikowaskihk，
Tāpwe kita mīyo kīsikaw，

Ke mīyo kīsikāhk wāpamaki Jesus，
Ke kanawāpamak ana kā pimācihit，
E sakicihcenit e kiskinohtahit，
Tāpwe kita mīyo kīsikāk．
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