Is a Muskox an Ox?

by Patricia Walz-Tracy

**Suggested Grade Levels**
Grades K - 6

**Materials**
- Copy of: *Veronica and the Alaskan Muskoxen*
- Samples of qiviut
- Two sets of 10 index cards per student (10 cards of one color/10 of another color)
- Pencils
- Scissors
- Glue Sticks
- One Sandwich bag per student

**Alaska Standards**
LA: B1,2,3
SCI: C2

**Terms to Define**
Bull
Dehydrated
Domesticated
Dominant
Extinct
Guard hair
Heifer
Oomingmak
Qiviut
Ruminant

**Introduction**
The use of this book serves to convey information and to inspire budding writers; the author lives in Palmer and was seven when she decided to write a book. It was published two years later. Also, this selection is an excellent resource book for a unit on Animals specifically, or a broader Agriculture in the Classroom unit.

**Background Information**
This study of musk oxen clearly demonstrates fiber as an agricultural product. This species inhabited Canada, East Greenland, and Alaska. After becoming extinct in the late 1800's they were reintroduced to Alaska from East Greenland in 1930. This farm is an excellent example of the diversity of new livelihoods created by individuals to thrive and to be successful in our unique agricultural setting. The qiviut is harvested, carded, and sent to various Native groups in the state to be made into scarves, mittens, etc. The book shares Veronica’s personal experiences learning about these animals at the Musk Ox Farm in Palmer, as well as additional information about these animals.

**Activity:**
Use the book as a read-aloud for enjoyment and discussion of the facts presented. Allow time for each child to feel the qiviut. The attached Memory Card Game can be made by each child in the class. After the children have had a chance to play the game with class members, encourage students to take the game home to play with family member as a way to share their newly acquired information about musk oxen.

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Teacher Preparation:
Memory Card Game
Prepare copies of the blank word cards and the Definition Cards
(one page per student). The children copy the Vocabulary Words on to
the blank word cards from the teacher prepared Vocabulary List. (If a
student developmentally is not ready for copying, the teacher can write
the words and the child can trace them with a highlighter). Students cut
apart the Vocabulary Word Cards and glue them on one set of the
colored index cards. Then cut apart the Definition Cards and glue them
on the second set of index cards. Both sets are placed in the sandwich bag
for storage.

Memory Card Game Instructions:
The Vocabulary Word Cards are placed face down in an array on
the left with the Definition Cards placed face down in an array on
the right. Players take turns selecting a Vocabulary Word Card
and a Definition Card attempting to make a match.
The student with the most matches is the winner. Non-readers can
be paired with readers, older buddy students, or adult helpers.

Resources:
http://www.muskoxfarm.org/visit-the-farm
Younack, Veronica
Veronica and the Alaskan Muskoxen
Bloomington, IN: AuthorHouse
The book itself includes several additional resources.

The Musk Ox Farm
12850 E. Archie Road
Palmer, AK 99654
(907) 745-4151

Other Activities:
Visit the Muskox Farm
Located just past Milepost 50 on the Glenn Hwy.
Open May – August, seven days a week from 10:00am – 6:00pm
Tours begin every 45 minutes

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult male of various large animals</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>To lose water or body fluids</td>
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<tr>
<td>Living near or around humans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prevails over others</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long course hair that protects the undercoat of a mammal</td>
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<tr>
<td>No longer existing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Young female animal that has not calved</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eskimo word for musk ox that translates to “the bearded one”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wool of the undercoat of the musk ox</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mammals that chew a cud and have a complex, Usually four chambered stomach</td>
<td></td>
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