

# 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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*This lesson provided by Alaska Agriculture in the Classroom, with funding from the Alaska Farm Bureau and Alaska Division of Agriculture. Alaska AITC is a 501c3 educational project of the Alaska Farm Bureau. To learn more, visit [www.agclassroom.org/ak](http://www.agclassroom.org/ak) or email [akaitc@alaskafb.org](mailto:akaitc@alaskafb.org).*

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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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