



Early Learning Classroom Package

Dënēsutīnē





Michif Language Development Labels

How to Use the Labels

1. Label Placement:

- For larger items, place the label directly on or near the object to create a visual connection between the item and its Michif name. For example, attach the label “chair” to a chair in the classroom.
- For smaller or abstract items, use the image-based labels to reinforce recognition. These can be placed on posters, in learning centers, or on flashcards.

2. Interactive Language Practice:

- Educators and caregivers can reference the labels during daily routines, introducing the Michif term naturally. For instance, while setting up for snack time, point to the labeled “plate” and say the word in Michif.
- Begin with just a few key labels in your space, and slowly add more as children become familiar and confident with the Michif words.
- Use online recordings and Michif dictionaries to support accurate pronunciation and model the words confidently for children.

3. Language Games:

- Use the labels for matching games where children pair objects with their Michif labels or images.
- Create a scavenger hunt where children find items with their matching labels around the classroom.

4. Routine Integration:

- Incorporate the labels into daily songs, stories, or discussions to foster familiarity and repetition.
- Encourage children to repeat the Michif words and use them in sentences during play and structured activities.



About Michif Language

Métis people have been multilingual since the birth of the Métis Nation, speaking the languages of their neighbours and trading partners in addition to their own. This multilingualism allowed the Métis to prosper during the fur trade era, and language remains an important part of Métis identity in contemporary times. You may have heard of Michif, a language spoken among some Métis throughout the homeland; in fact, “Michif” has come to refer to any of three unique languages that formed alongside Métis culture: Heritage Michif, Northern Michif, and Michif French.

Heritage (Southern) Michif: Heritage Michif, also known as Southern Michif, or Michif, is spoken mainly from western Manitoba all the way to central Alberta, in addition to Northern North Dakota and Montana. It originated among the bison-hunting Métis who lived on the plains. Today in Saskatchewan, it is spoken especially in the Yorkton, Cypress Hills, Qu’Appelle Valley, Regina, and Round Prairie/Saskatoon areas.

Linguistically, it is considered to be one of the most unique languages in the world – described somewhat simplistically – as a blend of French nouns and Cree verbs. The French element of Heritage Michif mostly comes from Michif French, with the majority of the Algonquian element coming from the Plains Cree (Y dialect) and a small Western Ojibwe (Saulteaux) influence. That said, Heritage Michif has solidified into its own language: it contains elements from its source languages, but also has characteristics that are unique to it alone. A good example of this is the way in which some French elements are “sandwiched” in Cree grammar, like the French noun *le vieux* (‘old man’) becoming a verb in phrases like *ni maachi li vyeu-iwin* (‘I am getting old’). It is important to note that for the majority of its existence Heritage Michif has been an oral language passed down through oral transmission. Today, there is no universal standardized spelling system in Heritage Michif. Spelling systems can vary from speaker to speaker, or province to province. At MN-S we have adopted the double vowel spelling system used by mother tongue speaker Norman Fleury and linguist Peter Bakker. Other examples of spelling systems exist, with different variations of the double vowel system being used, as well as a phonetic spelling system used by some speakers.

Northern Michif: Northern Michif is primarily spoken throughout North-Western Saskatchewan and parts of Northern Alberta. Notable communities in Saskatchewan include Green Lake, Meadow Lake, Beauval, Île-à-la-Crosse, and Buffalo Narrows. Many consider it a dialect of Cree, but with a noticeable French influence. Northern Michif is a historic language that holds stories and cultural teachings. It is likely that as Métis began moving north in greater numbers, they began to speak Cree to easily communicate with their First Nations kin and neighbours. Speakers say that the French vocabulary in Northern Michif was introduced by the clergy and school system, rather than coming from Michif French, and the Cree (Plains Cree Y-Dialect), came from First Nations neighbours. As missionaries and voyageurs followed the river systems from Red River to Northern Saskatchewan, Cree was the language they heard. It is through this connection to the land that Northern Michif gives identity to those who speak it, a connection to where they come from. In terms of a writing system, Northern Michif follows the Standard Roman Orthography (SRO). SRO is a system for writing the Cree language that uses a modified form of the Latin alphabet. It provides a consistent way to represent Cree sounds, assigning one letter to each distinct sound or phoneme.



Michif French: Michif French, sometimes referred to as French Michif and Michif, is known to be spoken in regions such as St. Laurent, St. Eustache and Saint Ambroise in Manitoba, St. Louis, Batoche, St. Laurent, Duck Lake areas in Saskatchewan, and the Lac la Biche, St. Paul, St. Albert and Bonnyville areas in Alberta, with slight variations in the language within regions. It is said to have been the language primarily spoken in the Red River area in the 1870s. Linguists often refer to Michif French as a dialect of French; however, traditional speakers of the language refer to it as Michif, the language of their Red River Métis families. It is said to have been influenced by the phonological and syntactic features of Algonquian languages, as noted in examples such as the word 'window' in French, which is 'fenêtre' but is shaasii or vett in Michif French, and the term 'skunk' in French is 'moufette' but is shiikawkw in Michif French.

For more information on the Michif languages, please visit: [Three distinct languages | Metis Gathering](#)

*If your classroom or center is interested in using this resource in a different Michif language, please contact metisgathering@mns.ca

Special Thanks

This important cultural resource was created in cooperation with several Michif language speakers in Saskatchewan. Métis Nation-Saskatchewan would like to give thanks to these contributors. We are grateful to have their expertise during the creation process.

A special thank you goes out to the people listed below:

Heritage Michif Contributors:

Dr. Elder Norman Fleury
Koohkum Rita Ducharme

Northern Michif Contributors:

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Sandra Laliberte
Leda Corrigan
Laura Burnouf
Maureen Belanger

Michif French Contributors:

Mataant Ang
Pawpaw Sonny
Maymair Phyllis

Use these apps for pronunciation:



Discover learning,
language, & culture
resources!

metisgathering.ca



Classroom Labels





Bëk'ë shelyi



the table



Daschënë

a chair





Sa

clock





Tth'ai K'e

the cabinets



Bëyë Tth'al

K'ënaltstl

the sink





Bëk'ë Asië

Dáthëla

the shelf





Bëyë Bër

Nëk'ëth thëla

the fridge



Bak'ëni



the lights



Tsak'ëñë
a stove



Dëchëntél



the floor



Yoh dzi



the wall

Dök'ë

Nats'ëtsıl Kqë

the bathroom



Bëyë Asië

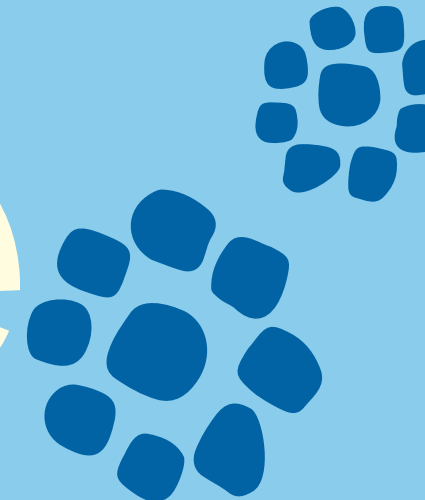
Aıdelı tılë

the garbage can



Yak'e

the window



Et'eth kqë

the kitchen



Tthya

the door





Yok'ety,

the broom



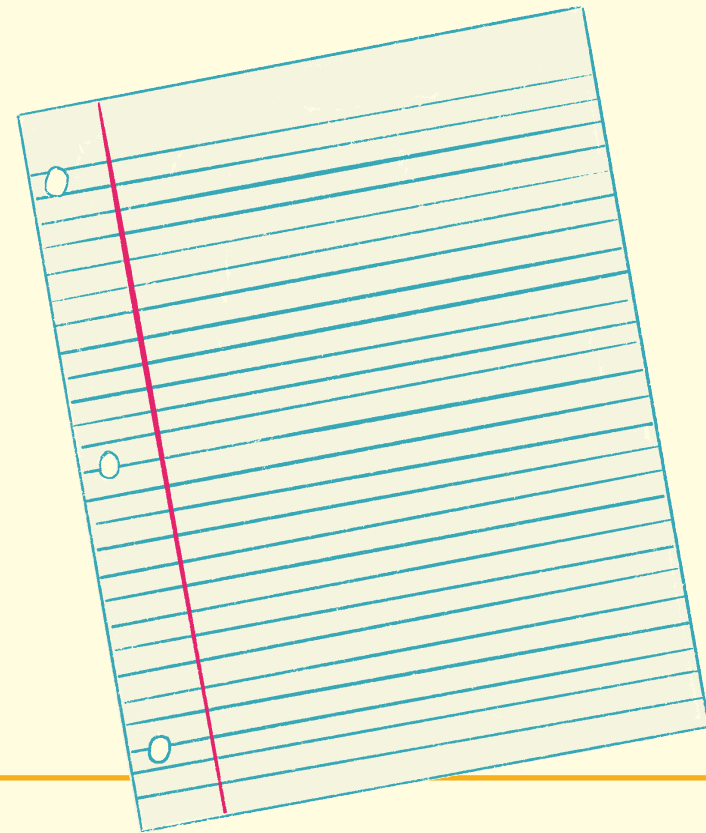
Data

the soap



Erith's

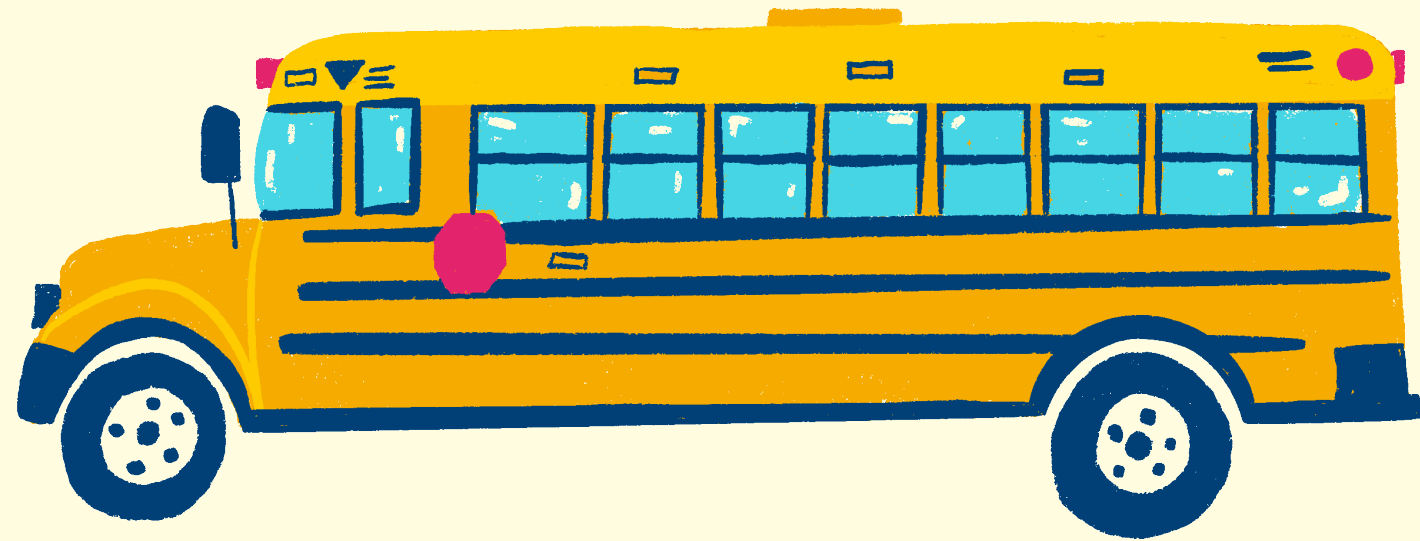
the paper _____



Bëk'ë Dënë

Nahëlyı

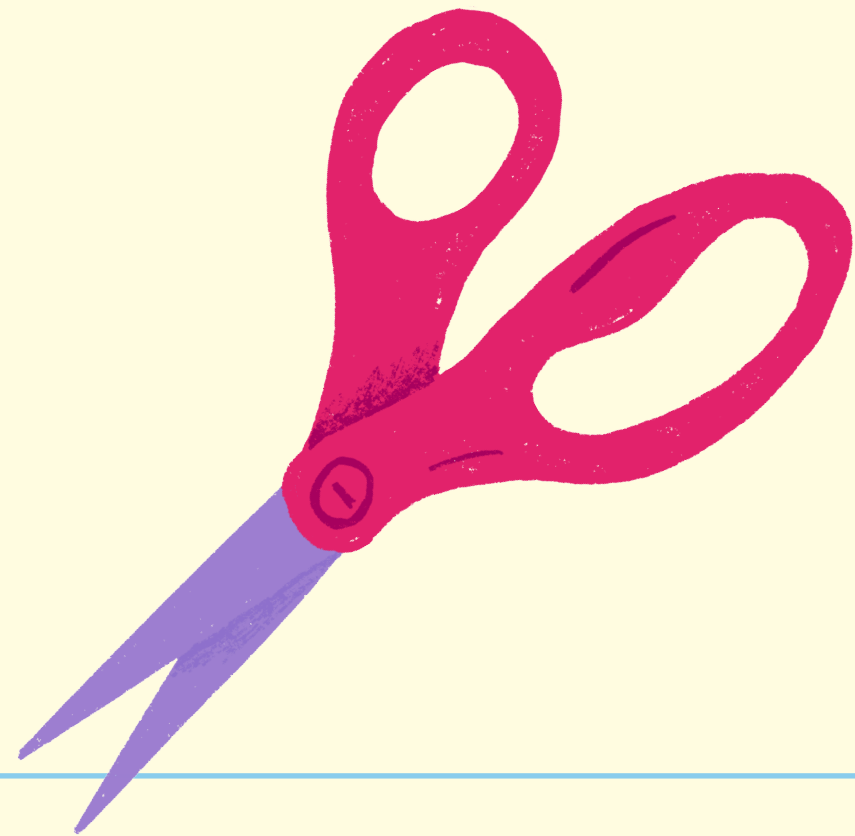
the bus





Tabes

the scissors



Bët'a Asië Ëtorilt'us

the glue



Bët'a Asië Narıldé

eraser



Sënëádhër

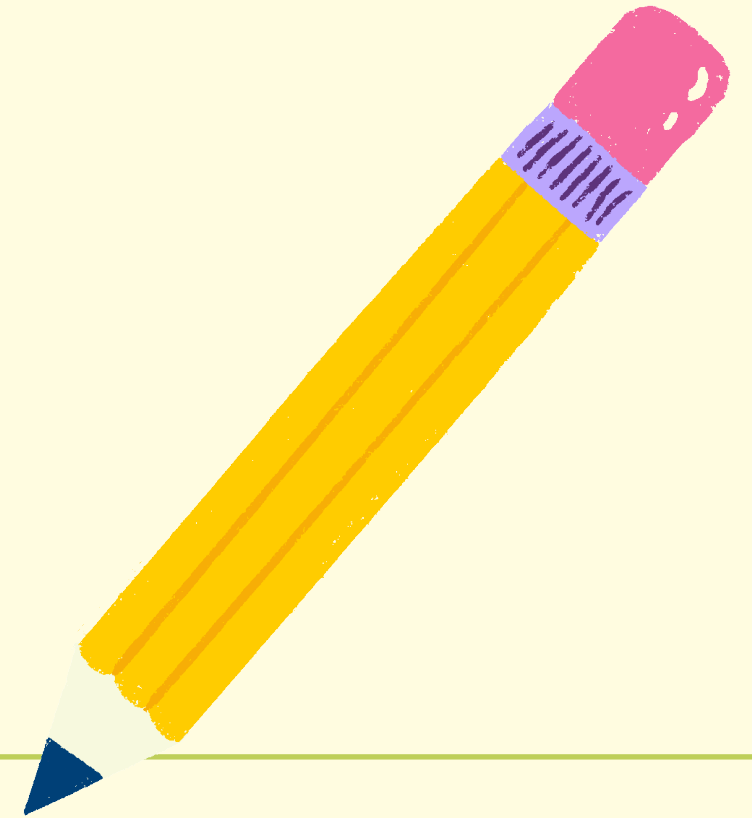
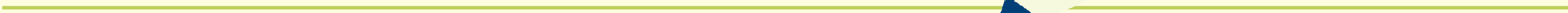
play





Ērēt'is chēnē

a pencil





Bët'a horëthogh

a crayon





Kut'a — Əyi t'ay!

that's it; that's all



Nanest'ı Losq

see you later (everyone) _____





Ädla n'et'ë

hello





Kozudët

come here (all of you)





Ēja danu?

look here (everyone)

Ediri Sëzi...

my name is...

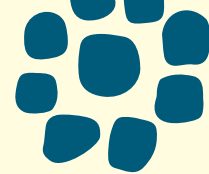
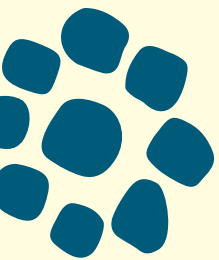




Sinië

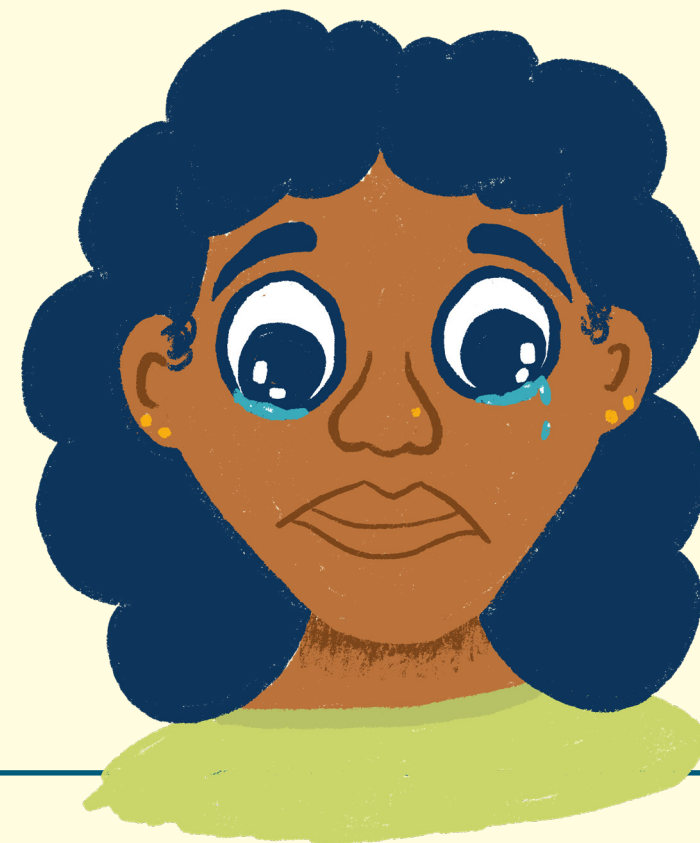
I'm happy





Saduuë

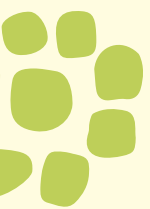
I'm sad



Hanëdhë Tthëy!

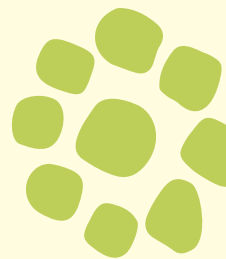
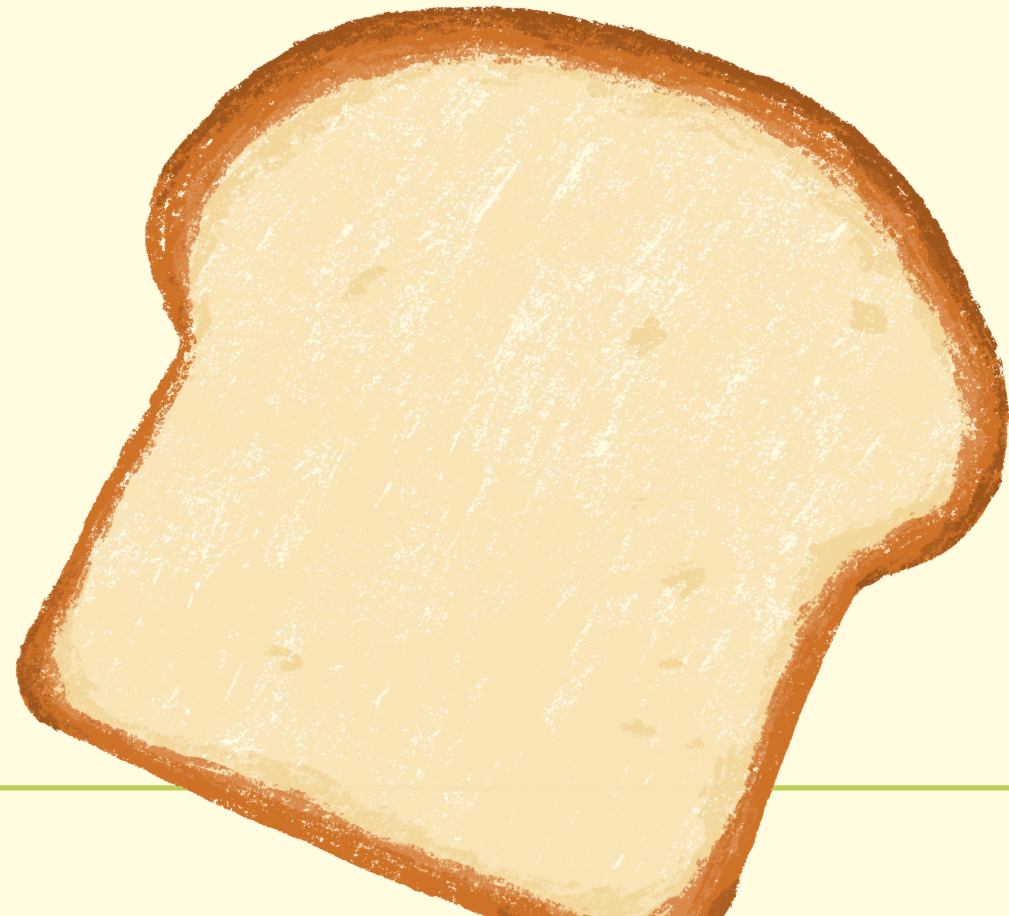
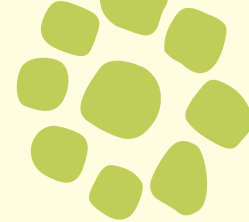
line leader _____





Lähebë

bread



Ts'ëkuı Sëkuı
Honëttën Dënë

teacher (female)





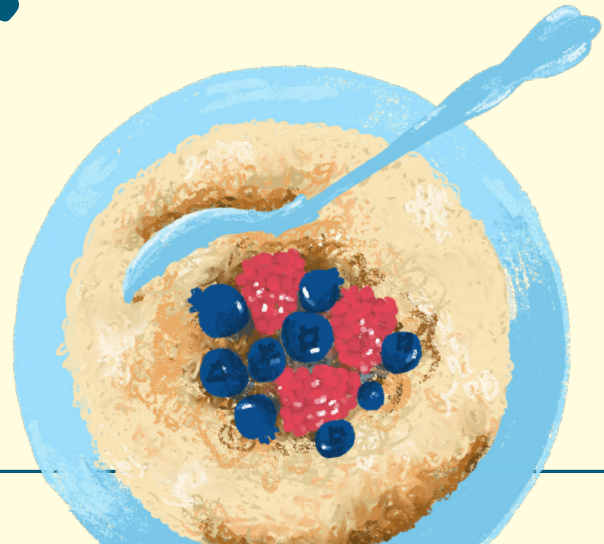
Thëchasë

soup



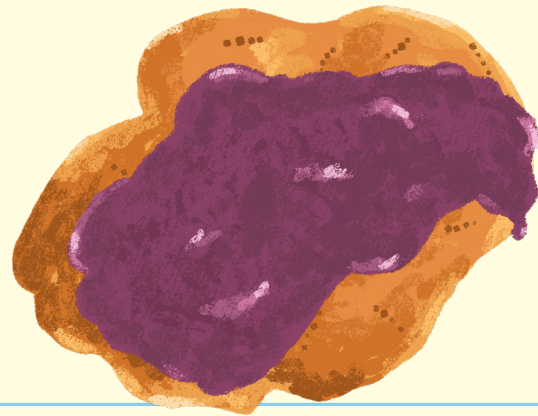
Naldëdhë

oatmeal



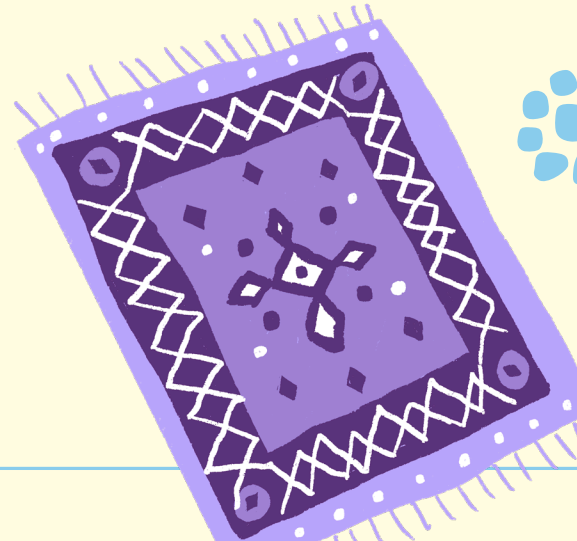
Läst'eth

bannock



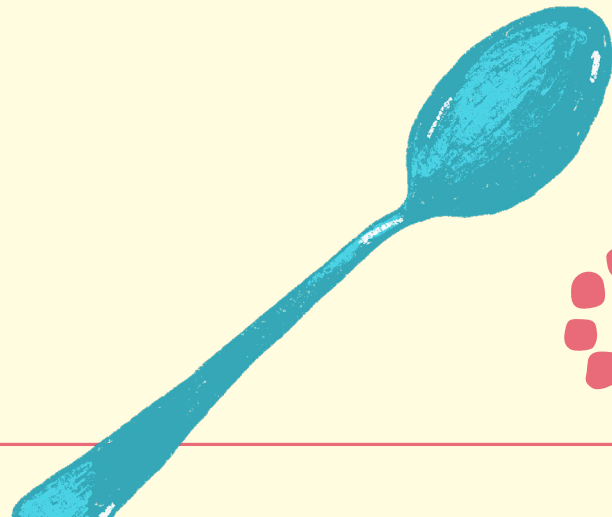
Nih Thëtcudhë

a rug



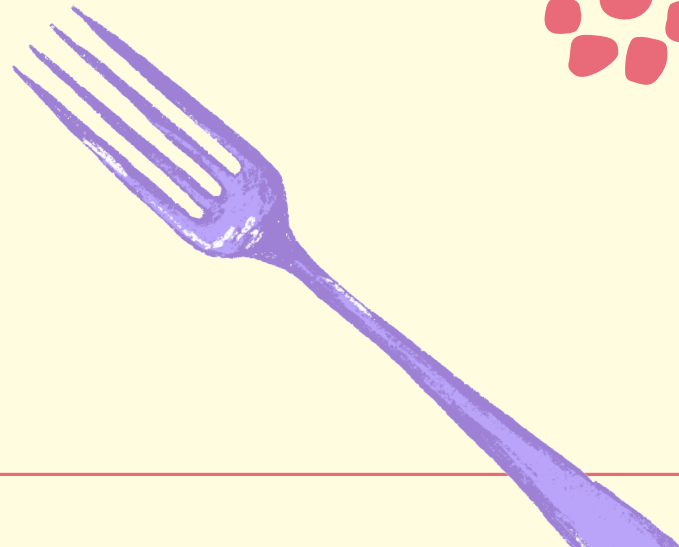
Lus

a spoon



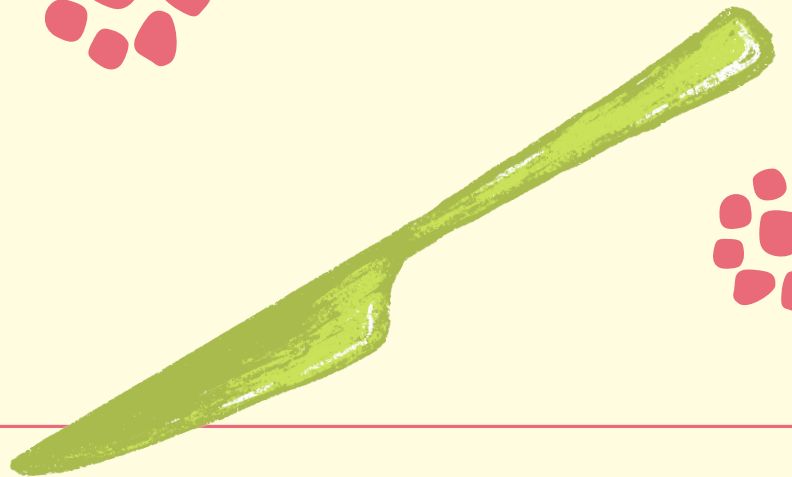
Mógal / Bogol

a fork



Bes

a knife



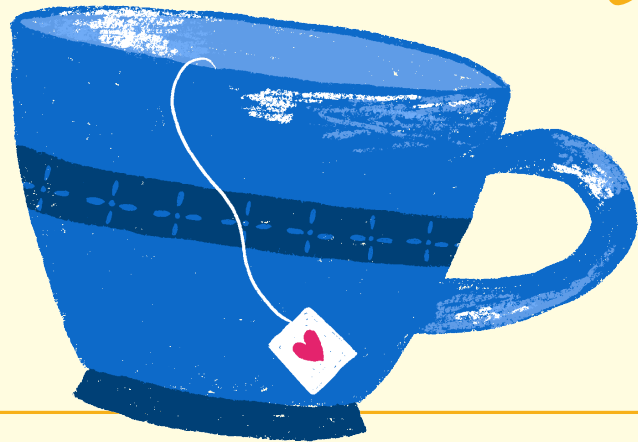
Tth'ai tsoghazë

a bowl _____



Tth'ai

a cup



Ėjėrė ttth'vė

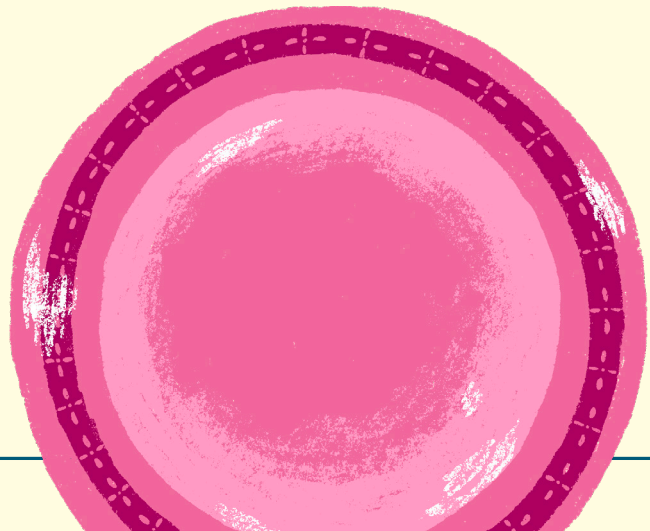
milk





Tth'ai Kalë

a plate



Tf'ok'etj

a fiddle



Classroom Posters

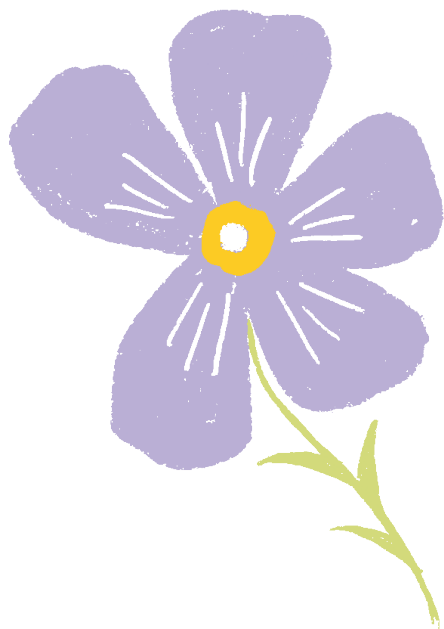


1



Itaghë

2



Naké

3



Taghë

4



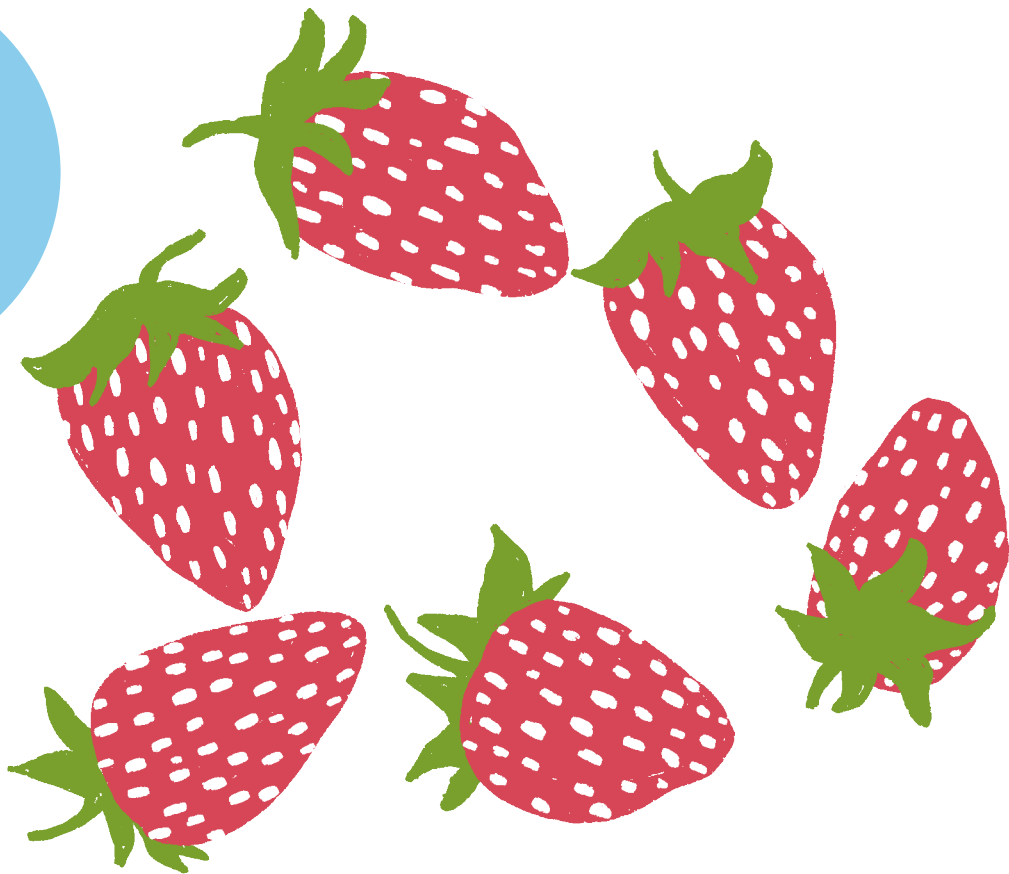
Dighi

5



Sq̌laghë

6



Ētk'ëtaghë

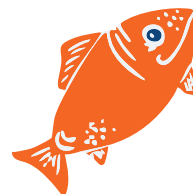
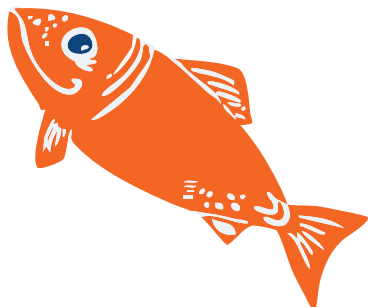
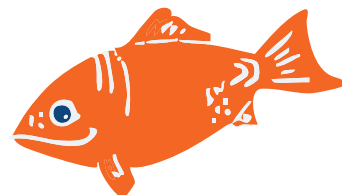
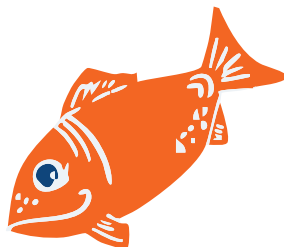
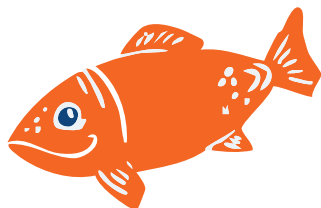
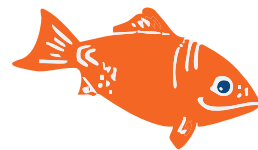


Łasdy

8

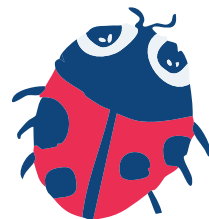
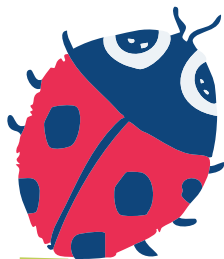
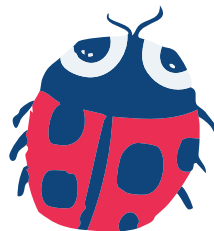
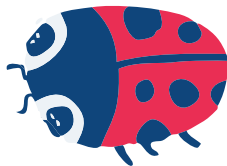
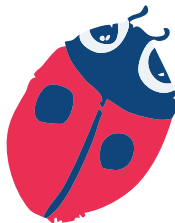


Ētk'ēdıghı



Łota

10



Honēna



Dëlk'os



**Jiëchogh
Lahoht'!**



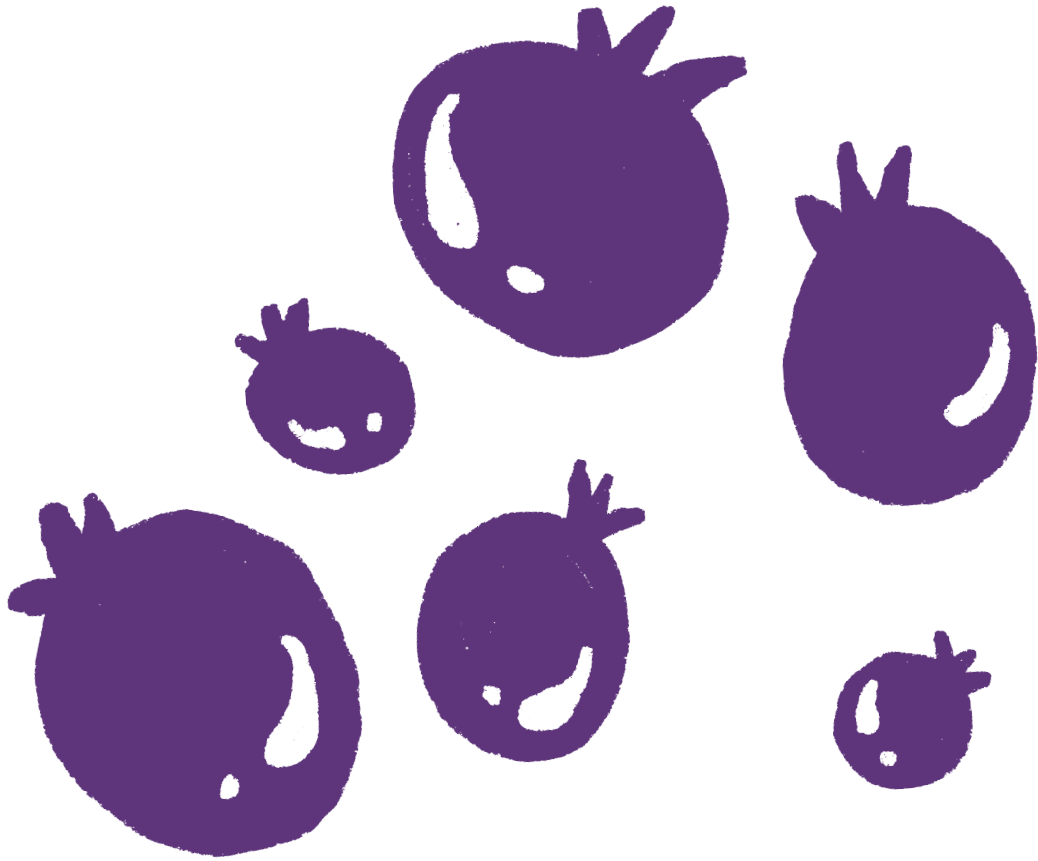
Dëltthogh.



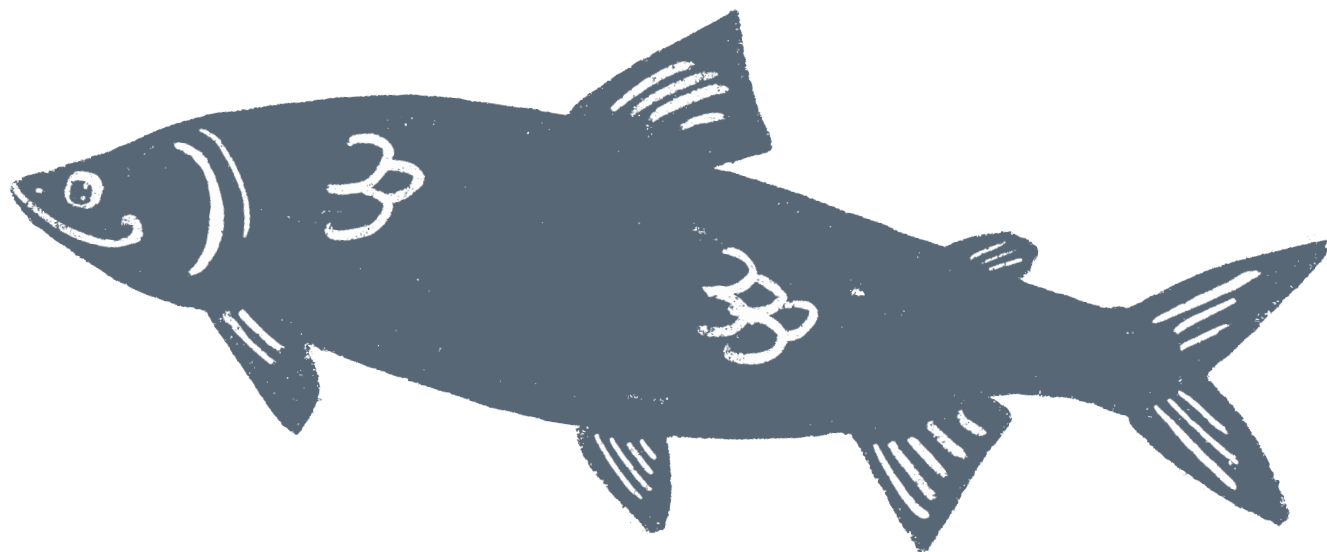
Ät Lahocht',



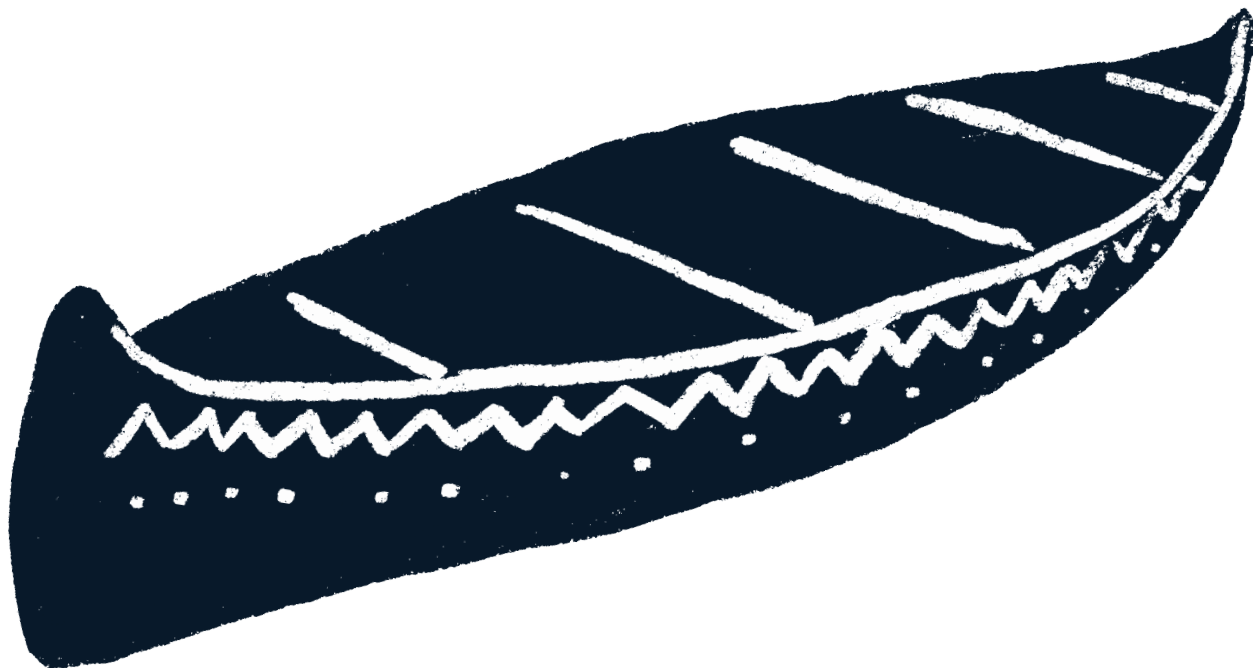
Dött'ës



Jiëtuë Lahocht'j



Dëlbai



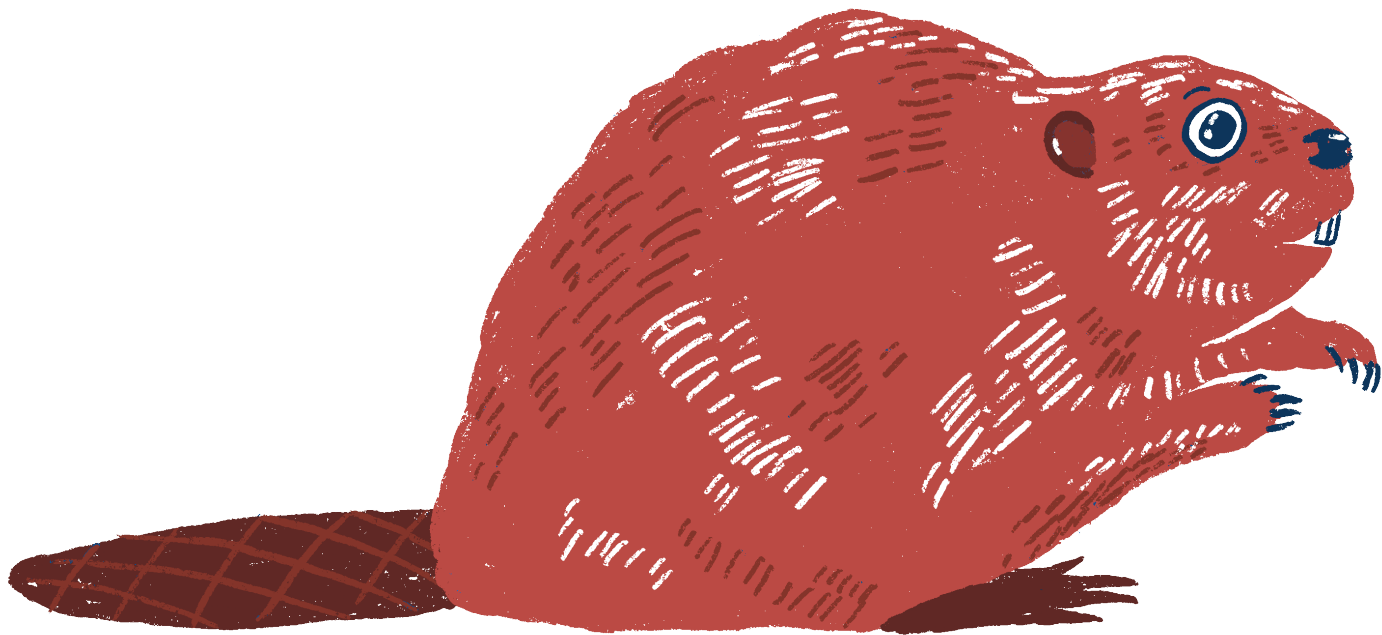
Dëlzën



Dëlgai



Nults'!



Tsá



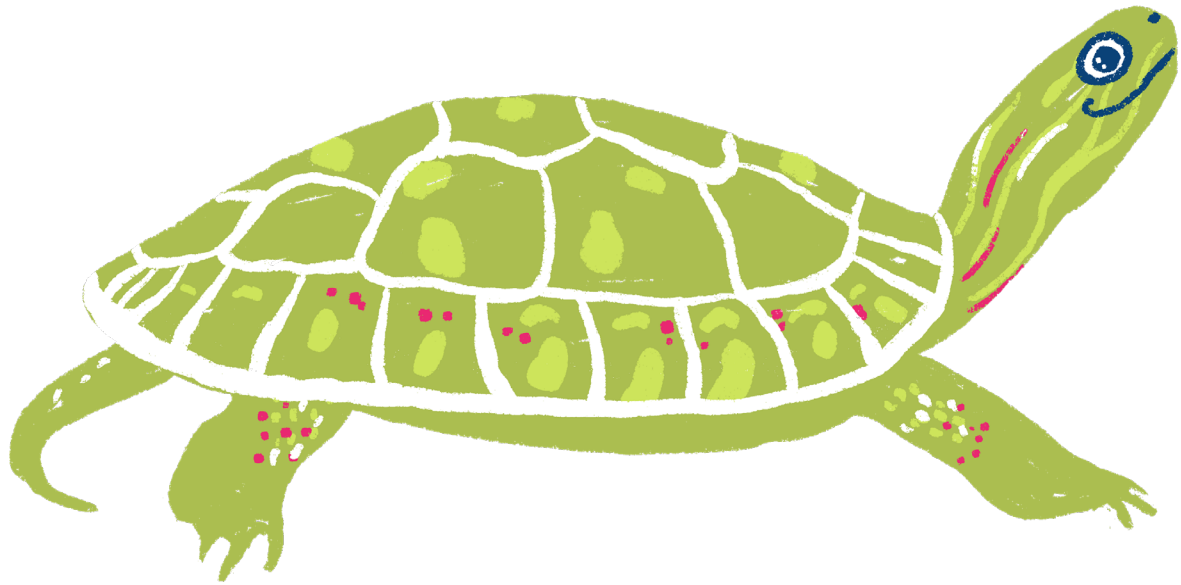
Sas



Nağıdhı



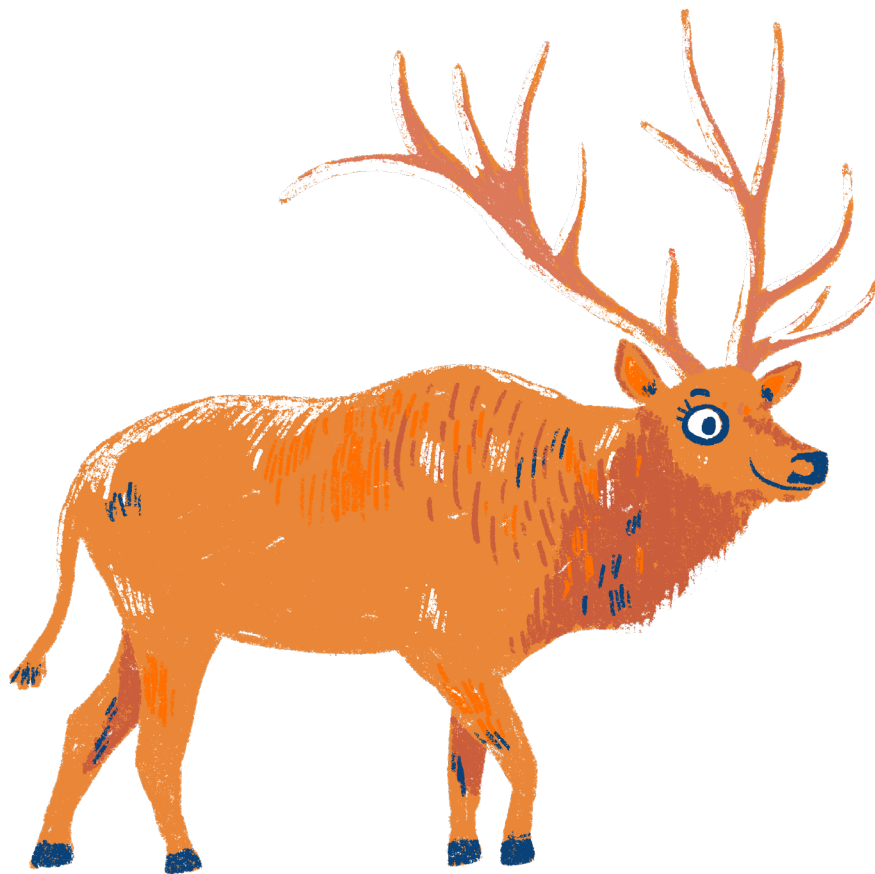
Thëlazë



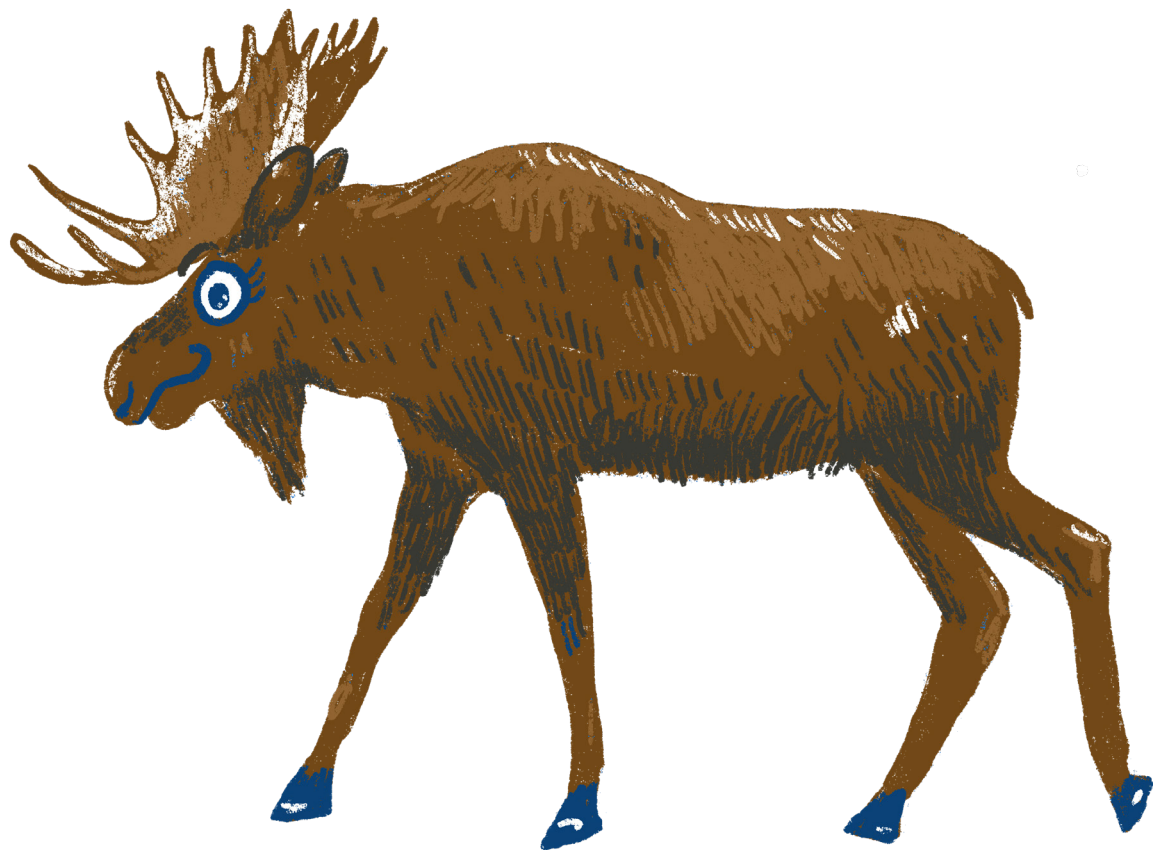
Gu dëtth'ënë



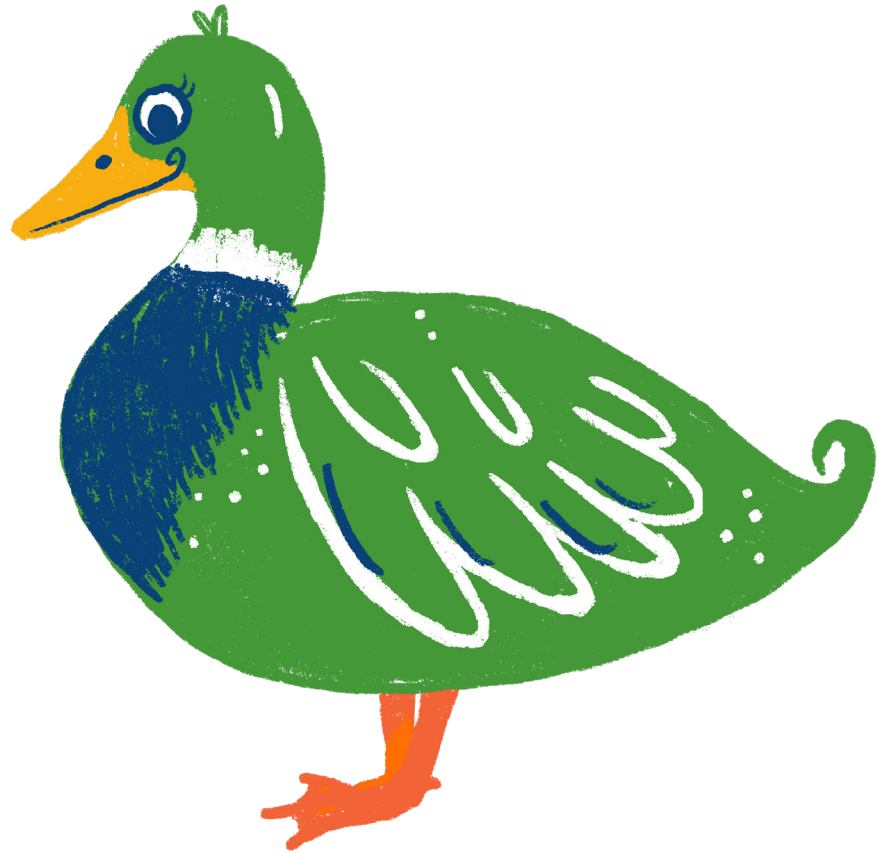
Dlië



Dzëdhıt



Dënië



Chëth



K'asba



!yesë



Nunië



Tsarëet'anë



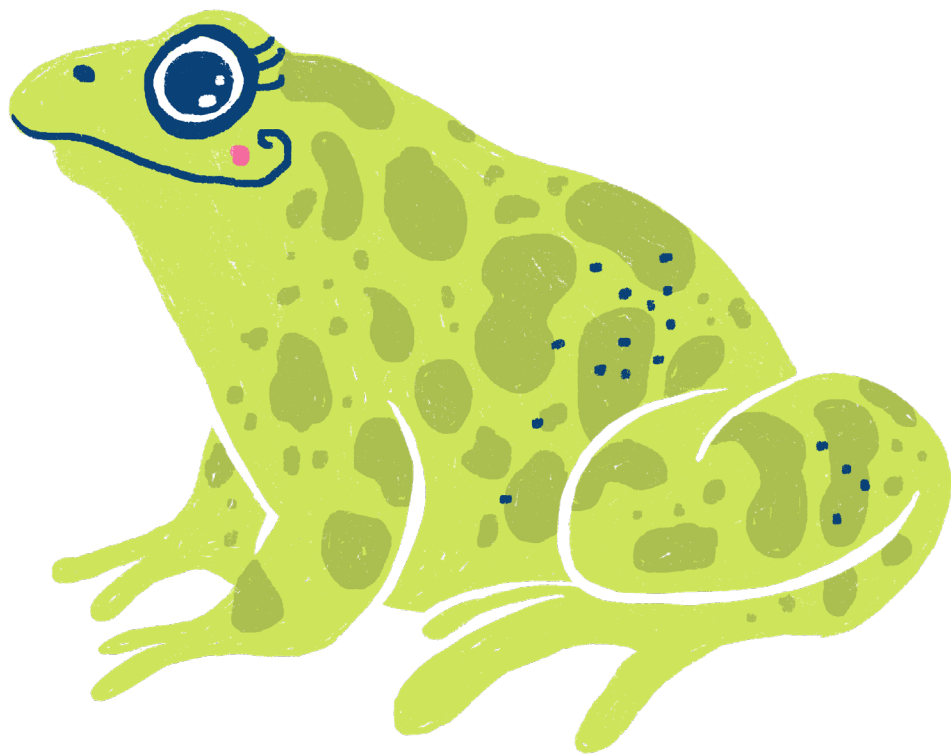
Mułdzaghë



Łuë



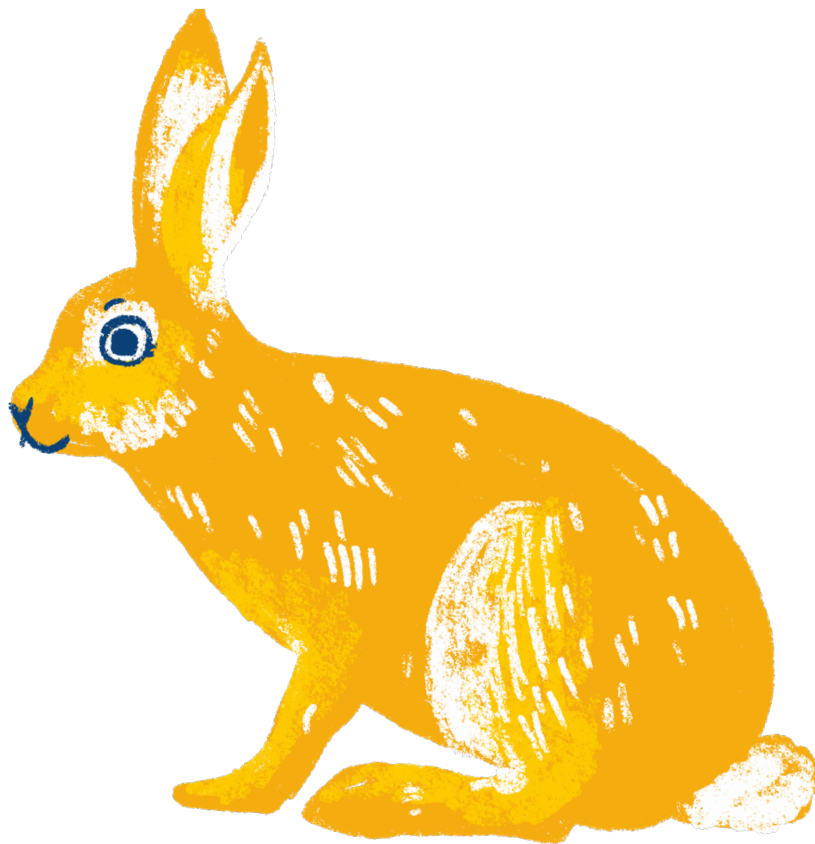
Ts'ı



Ts'ëlë



Tł'oghijërë



Gah

Classroom Calendar



1

Iłaghë

2

Naké

3

Taghë

4

Dıghı

5

Sqłaghë

6

Ėłk'ëtaghë

7

Łasdı

8

Ėłk'ëdıghı

9

Łotq

10

Honéna

11

Iłaghë Ch'adhët

12

Naké Ch'adhët

13

Taghë Ch'adhët

14

Dıghı Ch'adhët

15

Sqłaghë Ch'adhët

16

Ėlk'ėtaghė Ch'adhėt

17

Łasdĭ Ch'adhėt

18

Ėlk'ėdĭghĭ Ch'adhėt

19

Łotq Ch'adhėt

20

Nonėna

21

Nonėna Ts'en Įtaghė

22

Nonėna Ts'en Nakė

23

Nonėna Ts'en Taghė

24

Nonėna Ts'en Dĭghĭ

25

Nonėna Ts'en Solaghė

26

Nonėna Ts'en Ėlk'ėtaghė

27

Nonėna Ts'en Łasdĭ

28

Nonėna Ts'en Ėlk'ėdĭghĭ

29

Nonėna Ts'en Łotq

30

Tonėna

31

Toněna Ts'ën Iłaghë



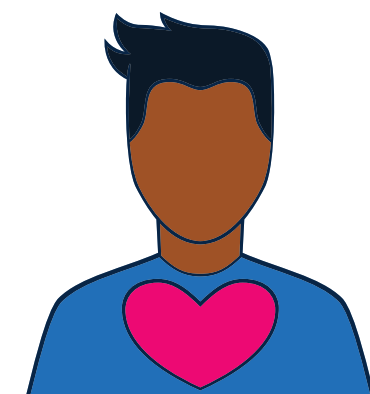
Ėyunë Dzinë



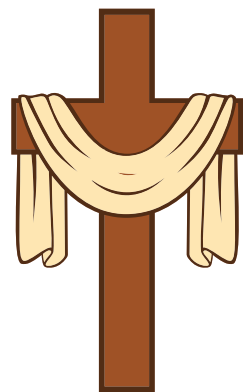
Nëdzinë!



*Sëkui Honëltën
Kqë Nqde Dzinë*



Ėtá Bëdzinë



Naghídái Dzinë



Ėł Dzinë



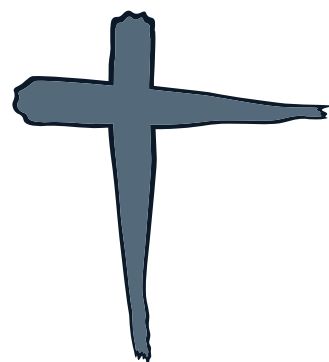
Naghídái Dzinë



*St' Patrick
Bedzinë*



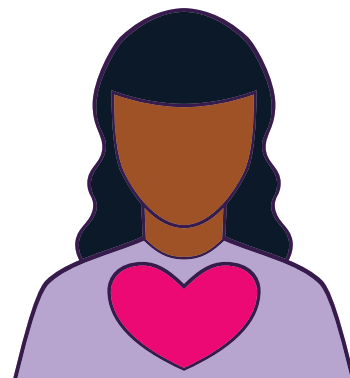
Nih Dzinë



K'ëstëzë Dzinë



*Dënë Dedlinë Jq Nih
K'ë Nade Bëdzinë
Bëk'ësorëdlí*



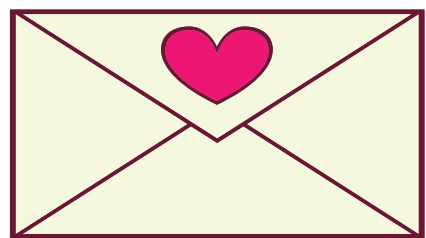
Ėnë Bëdzinë



*Iłaghë Bëthchënë
Dzinë Hots'ën Sëkui
Honëltën Kqë Nats'j Dé*



*Ėlëts'ëlts'un
Dzinë*



*Ēlghənowətq
Dziné*



Tədhə Yatı T'ası



*Tədhə Yatı
OR Tətłə Yatı*



Tədhə Yatı T'ası



*Tədhə Yatı
OR Tətłə Yatı*



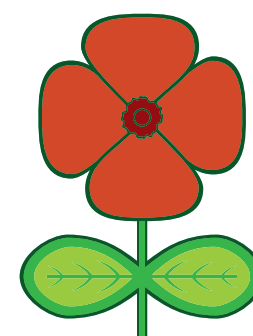
*T'atthə Səkuı Honəltən
Kqə Dats'jdeł*



Thəlazə Dziné



*Louis Riel
BəDziné*



*Ēləts'əlghəlı Ēnahut'ə
Dzine Bənalnı*



*Masí Danídhən
Nih Bət'a Daghída*



*T'is?ıh Jiəchogh
Lahot'ı Dziné*



Dzjk'arë

monday



Naké Dziné

tuesday



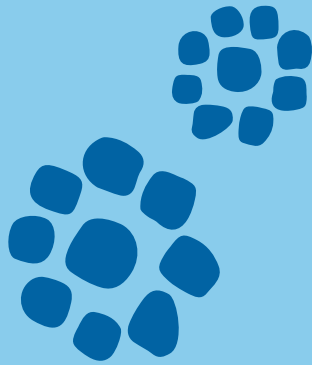
Taghë Dzinë!

wednesday



Dighi Dziné!

thursday





Luë Ts'ëdel Dzinë

friday





Dzjt'azi
saturday

Dzík'ë
sunday





Dënië Ëlk'ënade Zaghë



september





Itts'uzı dzinë Zaghe



october



Ēyunë Dzinë Zaghë

november





Tëdhë Yati T'ëttë Yati Zaghtë *december*





Ėtėts'ėłts'un
Dzinė Zaghė
january





Dët'anichogh Zaghé

february





Hah Zaghë!

march





Ts'èl| Zaghè

april





Ēghezë Zaghë

may





Ēghez Yëholye Zaghé



june



Sinä

summer





Hait'azı

autumn





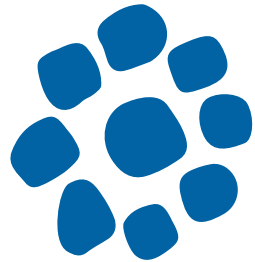
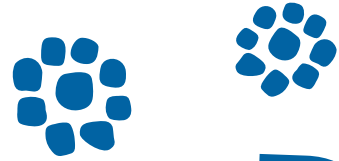
Hai
winter





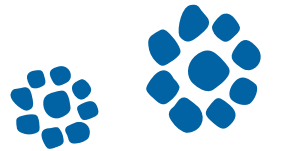
Luk'ë
spring





Duhý Dzině K'ë

today (is)...





K'abı

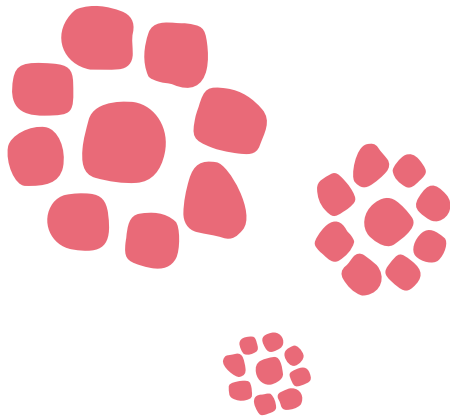
tomorrow (is)...





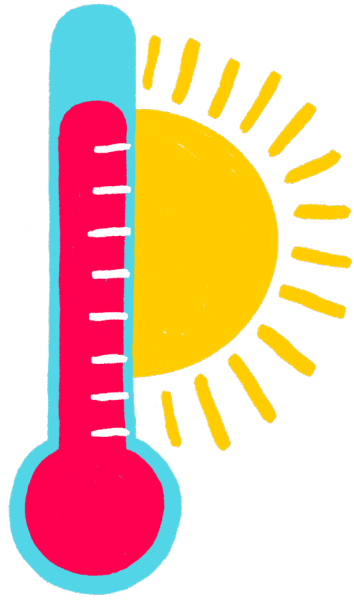
Thydzinë

yesterday (was)...



Word of the day

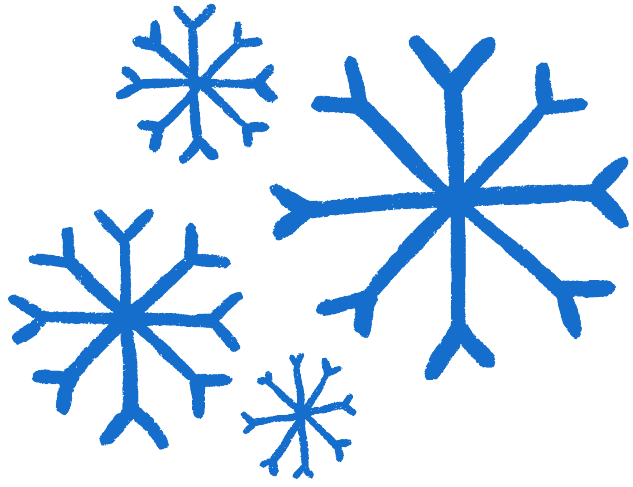




Ėdu
hot



Nitts'i
windy



Tsit
snowing



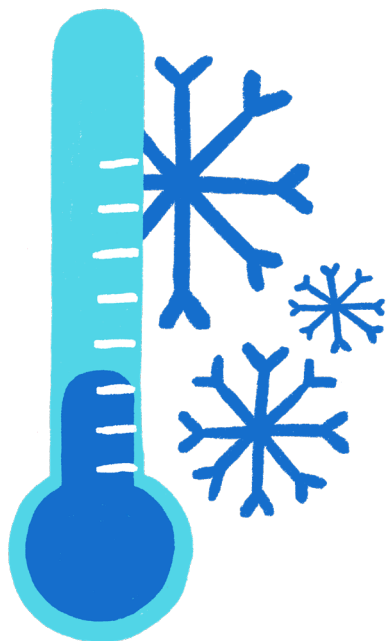
Ts'e?at
sunny



Yak'oth Chogh
overcast



Cha
raining



Ėdza
cold



Gurádzi bītė
rainbow



Sëla
cousin (male)

Sëghe
cousin (female)



Sëku?asë
OR Tåttsiazë
baby



ᐃᐅ
dog



Pusi Hasë
cat



Sëchëlä
younger brother

Sunaghë
older brother



Sëdézé
younger sister

Sarë
older sister



Habá
dad



Hamá
mom



Sëtsië
grandfather



Sëtsunë
grandmother



Djt'ëth
walk



Hjshut
throw



Danëltt'i
dance



Yëlgus
jump



Nëdã
drink



Shënët'
eat



Yodaghë
Katthıgha
climb



Tuë nadhër
swim



Kon
Nadërjthët
chop wood



Ënitka
beading



Nëla
K'ënëtts'il
wash hands



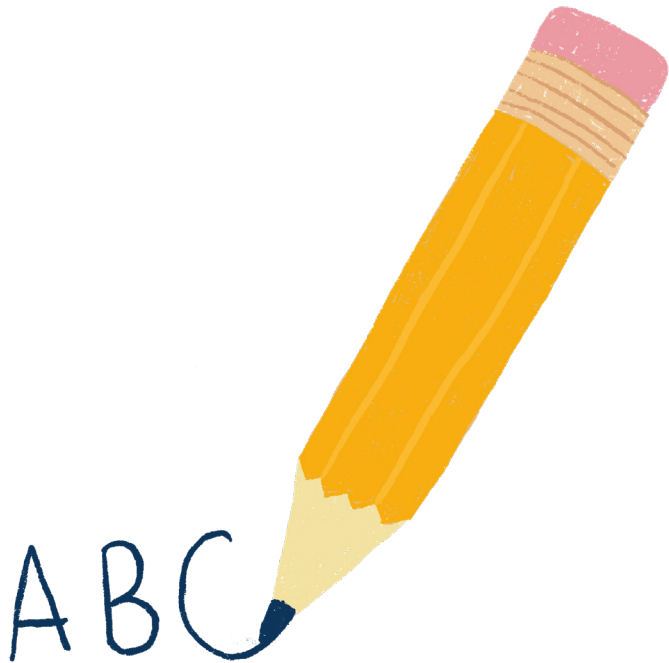
Njdá
sit



Tthëbaghıgał
run

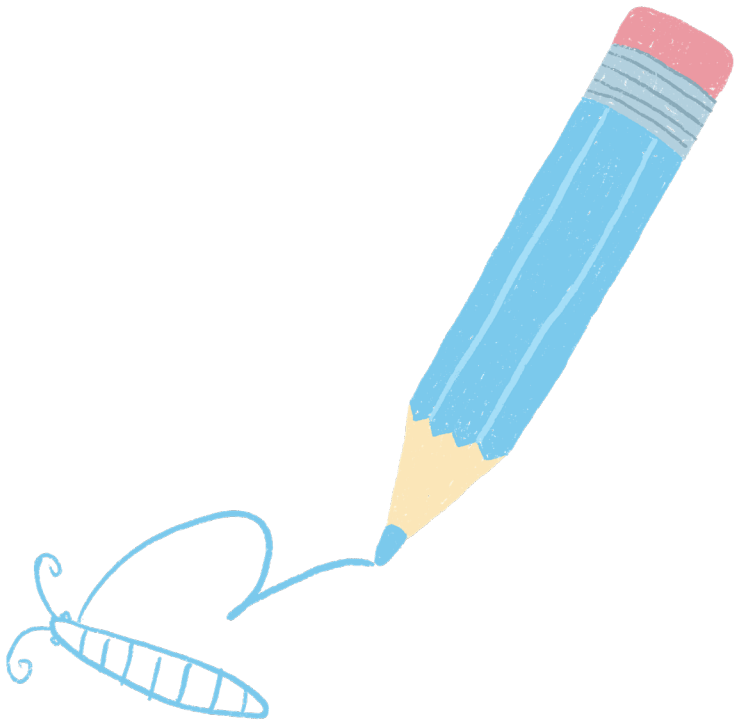


Bëta
Sats'ëdhırı
toy



Dıtt'ıs
write

Asië Dyt'is
draw

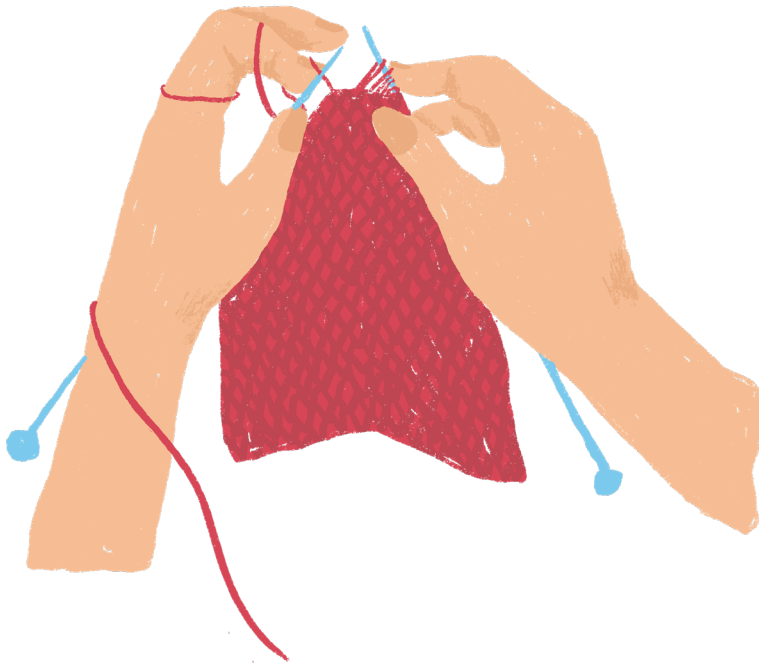


Huttá
count





Itt'eth
cook/bake



Asië Nëttsı
make



Natł'ų
dress up



Ėja Nonųnė
bring



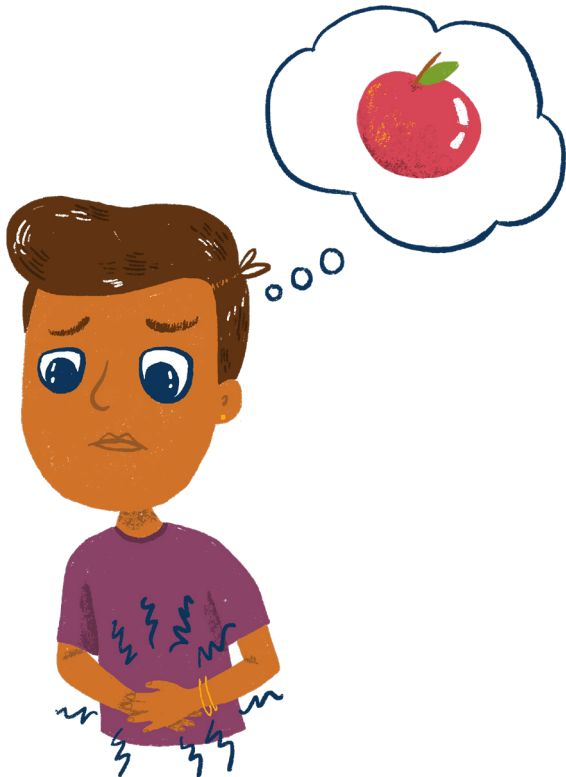
Hj?ith
kick



Hj?dzi
catch



Tu Bastthı
I am thirsty



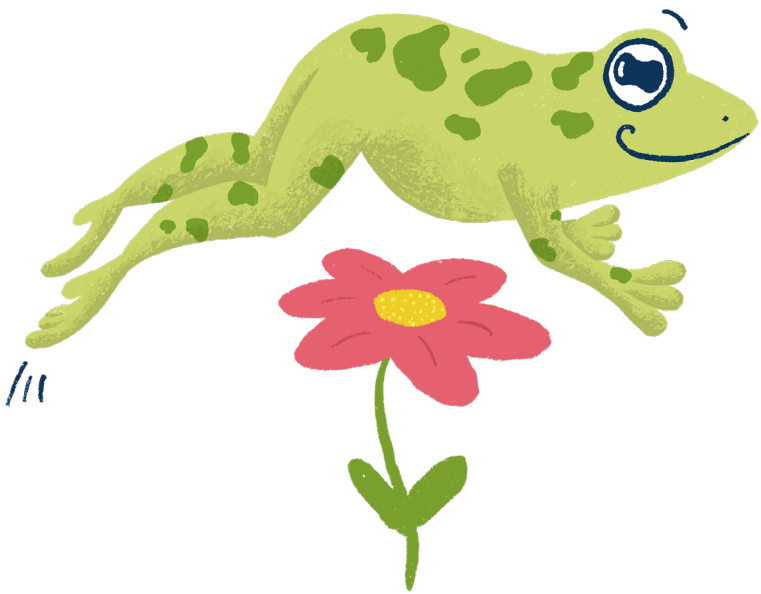
Bër Bastth'ı
I am hungry



Naniṭhaṭ
hit/strike



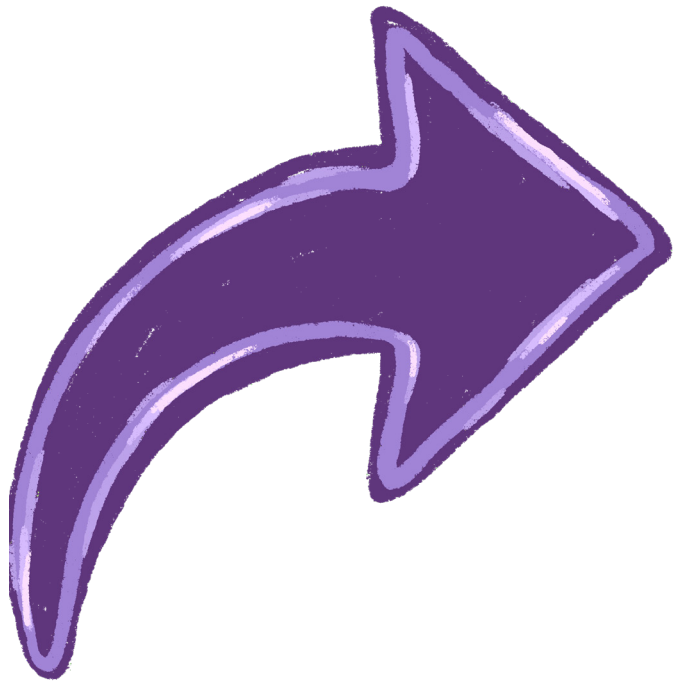
Naghjdë
move



Bělá
over



Its'Its'
left



Nanįsok'ëdhë
right



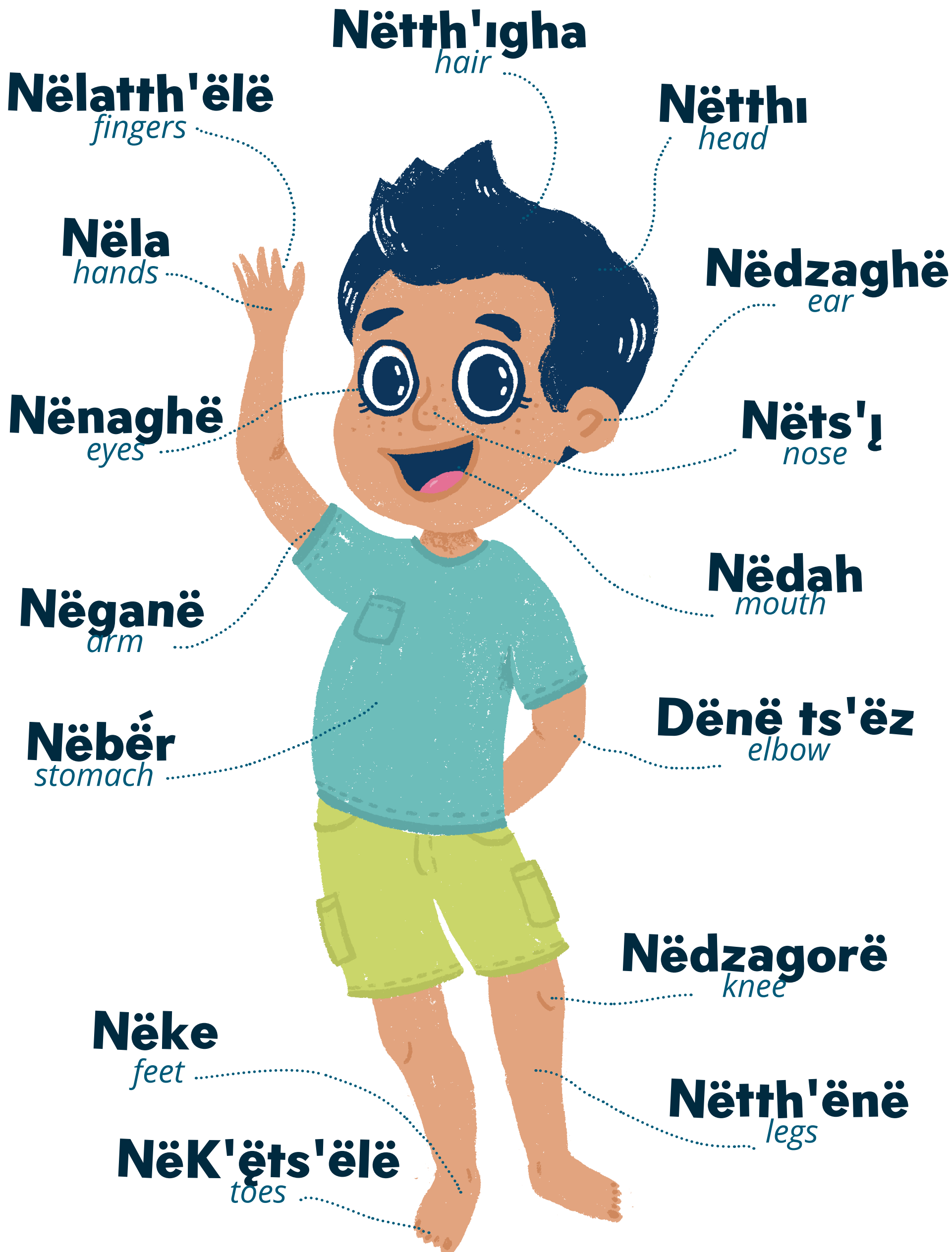
Sehyle
clean it

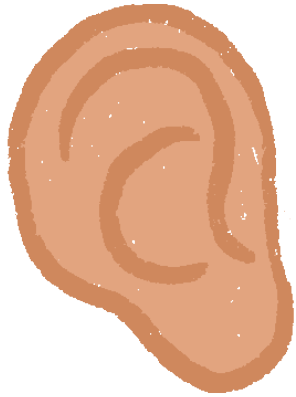


Dënë zi

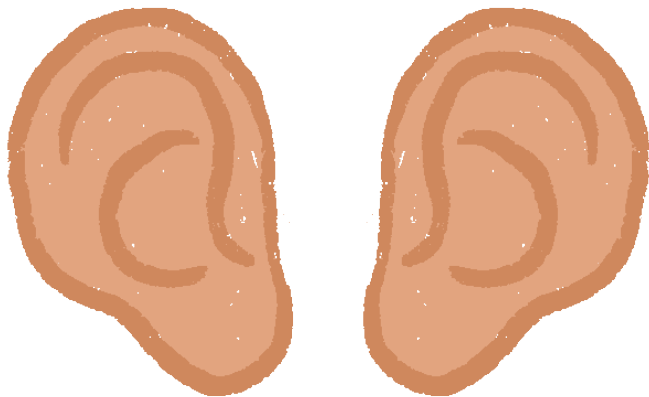


the body





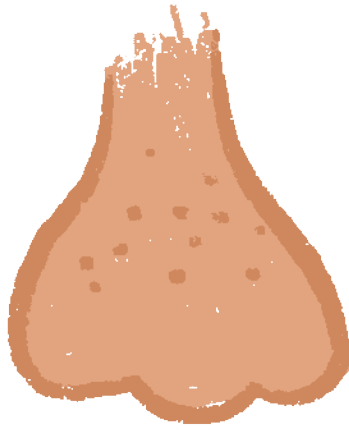
Nëdzaghë
ear



Nake
Nëdzaghë
ears



Nënaghë
eye



Nëts'
nose



Nëla
hand



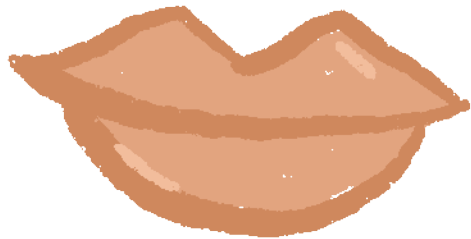
Nëke
foot



Nëdah
mouth



Nëtth'u
tongue



Nëdadhëdh
lips