Activity 4
Vowel Differences in Cree-Innu

The *vowels* in the Cree-Innu languages are: a, e, i, and o/u, some of which can be long or short. The length is indicated by either a double vowel, a macron, a hat, or a dot over the syllabic character: ii, ī, î, ă. As a result of sound changes from the mother language, Proto-Algonquian, some languages or dialects use fewer vowels, creating different pronunciation of the same words. You can group the different speakers by the vowel that is used.

**Instructions:**
- Open the Linguistic Atlas found at [www.atlas-ling.ca](http://www.atlas-ling.ca).
- Go to the ‘location and travel’ category.
- Select the phrase “on the road”.
- Click on each marker on the map and listen carefully.
- When you find the speakers listed below, copy the word on the corresponding line.

**What do you notice about the first vowel in the word for each speaker?**

- Martha Michell - Woodland Cree - North
- Leda Corrigal - Plains Cree
- Brigitta Piwas Aylward - Innu - Mushuau
- Louise Blacksmith - East Cree - South - Inland
- Marion Cox - East Cree - North
- Silas Nabinicaboo - Naskapi - Western

**Answer:**
- Woodland Cree - North  mīskanāhk
- Plains Cree  mīskanāhk
- Innu - Mushuau  meshkanat
- East Cree - South - Inland  meskanaahch
- East Cree - North  maaskinaahch
- Naskapi - Western  maaskinaahch

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<tr>
<th>Vowel</th>
<th>Plains Cree</th>
<th>East Cree - South</th>
<th>East Cree - North</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i</td>
<td>Woodland Cree</td>
<td>Innu</td>
<td>Naskapi</td>
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<td>e</td>
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