

# cahkipêhikana Spirit Markers



# tânisî!

Many people ask about the origin of the cahkipêhikana. Here are some links about this:

<https://newsinteractives.cbc.ca/longform/a-question-of-legacy-cree-writing-and-the-origin-of-the-syllabics>

<https://creeliteracy.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/calling-badger.pdf>



## ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ / cahkipēhikana

## Plains Cree Syllabics

English sounds	kwē	q	kwē	kwē	kwē	kwē	kwē	
Cree Vowels	ē	i	ī	o	ō	a	ā	Finals
Syllabics	▽	△	△̇	▷	▷̇	◁	◁̇	
w	▽̇	△̇	△̇̇	▷̇	▷̇̇	◁̇	◁̇̇	o
p	▽	△	△̇	▷	▷̇	◁	◁̇	i
t	U	U	U̇	U	U̇	U	U̇	r
k	q	p	ṗ	d	ḋ	b	ḃ	ʼ
c	ᑭ	ᑭ	ᑭ̇	ᑭ	ᑭ̇	ᑭ	ᑭ̇	-
m	ᑭ	ᑭ	ᑭ̇	ᑭ	ᑭ̇	ᑭ	ᑭ̇	c
n	ᑭ	ᑭ	ᑭ̇	ᑭ	ᑭ̇	ᑭ	ᑭ̇	ᑭ
s	ᑭ	ᑭ	ᑭ̇	ᑭ	ᑭ̇	ᑭ	ᑭ̇	ᑭ
y	ᑭ	ᑭ	ᑭ̇	ᑭ	ᑭ̇	ᑭ	ᑭ̇	ᑭ
	l ɛ	r ɔ	kwē q	h "	hk *			

There are many different versions of syllabic charts available. Here is one developed by Arok Wolwengrey and distributed through the First Nations University of Canada.

Sometimes the syllabics are also called: cahkipēyikanak

The most important thing to notice is that most of the main (larger) symbols represent a consonant and vowel sound together. The top symbols are stand-alone vowels. The smaller symbols along the right hand side are single consonants.

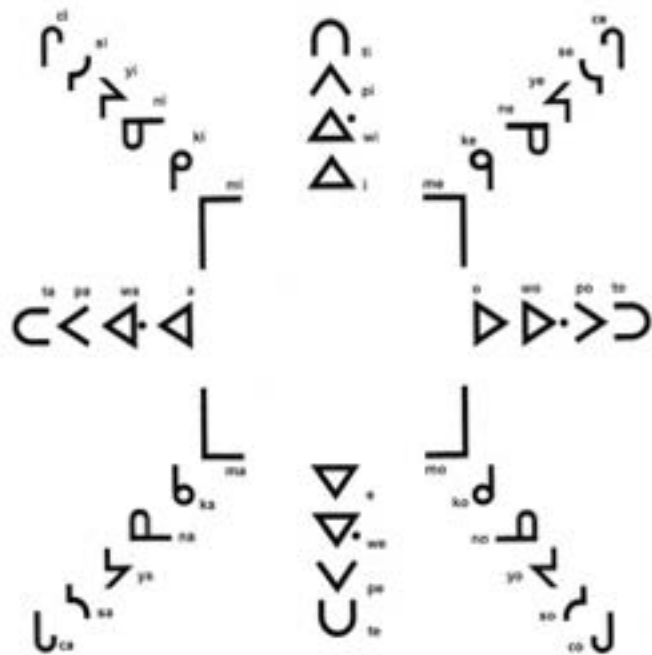


	▽ i	△ i	▽ o	▽ o	△ a	△ a	
w	▽ wi	△ wi	▽ wo	▽ wô	△ wa	△ wâ	° w
p	▽ pī	△ pi	▽ pō	▽ pô	△ pa	△ pâ	' p
t	U tī	∩ ti	∩ tō	∩ tô	C ta	C tâ	/ t
k	q kī	p ki	d kō	d kô	b ka	b kâ	` k
c	∩ cī	∩ ci	∩ cō	∩ cô	L ca	L câ	- c
m	∩ mī	∩ mi	∩ mō	∩ mô	L ma	L mâ	° m
n	∩ nī	∩ ni	∩ nō	∩ nô	a na	â nâ	° n
s	∩ sī	∩ si	∩ sō	∩ sô	∩ sa	∩ sâ	° s
y	∩ yī	∩ yi	∩ yō	∩ yô	∩ ya	∩ yâ	+ y
t	∩ thī	∩ thi	∩ tho	∩ thô	∩ tha	∩ thâ	∩ th
	h "	hk x	r *	l *	Christ x	kwâ b	

Here is a link to an interactive chart with audio. Along the bottom, it includes the "th" sounds that are present in the TH Woods Cree dialect:

<http://learncree.ca/syllabic-chart>





g f o i / s - c a n e x u  
r l w p t h c m n s y k k b

This syllabic chart, also called the star chart, is taught by Reuben Quinn.

Here is a link to high resolution version of the chart:

<https://www.bluequills.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/ResCent01.jpg>

q



	a	ê	i	o
[vowel alone]	◁	▽	△	▷
p	<	v	^	>
t	c	u	∩	∪
k	b	q	p	d
c	l	ŋ	r	j
m	L	ɿ	ɽ	ɺ
n	e	ɔ	σ	ɓ
s	ʃ	ʒ	ɹ	ɻ
y	ɥ	ɣ	ɸ	ɹ

This syllabics chart was put together by Elder Jerry Saddleback and he wrote a song to accompany the sounds.

Here is a link to that song, sung by Wayne Jackson:

<https://creeliteracy.org/syllabic-song-wayne-jackson/>



## More interactive resources

- **Cree syllabic Matching game.** There are six games available. Includes "th" sounds from Woodland Cree: <http://learn Cree.ca/syllabic-matching-game/type1/1>
- **Matching the first two rows of syllabics to their sounds:**  
[https://www.liveworksheets.com/worksheets/cr/Cree\\_Language\\_and\\_Culture/Cree\\_Syllabic\\_Chart/Syllabic\\_Chart\\_First\\_2\\_Rows\\_do32069jv](https://www.liveworksheets.com/worksheets/cr/Cree_Language_and_Culture/Cree_Syllabic_Chart/Syllabic_Chart_First_2_Rows_do32069jv)
- **A Halloween syllabic word search:**  
[https://www.liveworksheets.com/worksheets/cr/Cree\\_Language\\_and\\_Culture/Cree\\_Language/Halloween\\_Word\\_Search\\_Cree\\_af30204uo](https://www.liveworksheets.com/worksheets/cr/Cree_Language_and_Culture/Cree_Language/Halloween_Word_Search_Cree_af30204uo)



