



Michif-French Newsletter

Spring 2025

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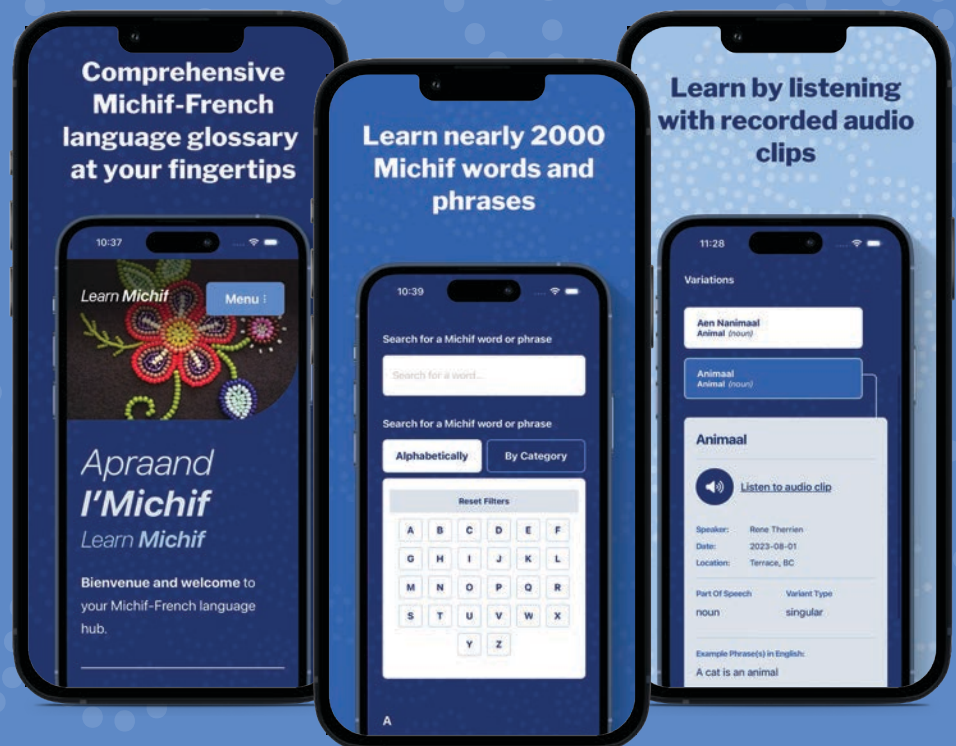
Learn Michif Mobile Language App Now Available on Android & iOS

Exciting News! A'praand l'Michif: Learn Michif is Here!

We're thrilled to announce the official launch of A'praand l'Michif: Learn Michif, designed to revolutionize the ways you can learn and access the Michif-French language. Whether you're looking to learn a new word or phrase or want to start a community class using the Michif-French curriculum, this app has everything you need!

Top Features:

- » Search alphabetically or by topics for the translation of Michif-French and hear the word spoken
- » Link to Michif-French Language Curriculum materials
- » Link to BCMF Noot Chim d'Michif (Michif Team)
- » Link to Michif-French News Updates on the Language and ways you can get involved



Language Corner

Apprentice & Silent Speaker Graduates

The BC Métis Federation (BCMF) is proud to announce the successful graduation of the first cohort of participants from its Michif Language Revitalization Program. This significant achievement highlights the dedication of 9 individuals committed to preserving and revitalizing Michif-French, a critically endangered language and a vital part of Métis cultural heritage.

The graduates of both the Michif-French Apprentice Program and the Michif-French Silent Speakers Program have completed intensive training to reclaim and learn the language, ensuring that Michif-French continues to thrive for future generations.

Michif-French Apprentice Program Graduates:

- » Amie Edwards
- » Lindsay Patton
- » Katrine B. Hallock
- » Rosanne Forget
- » Jeanie Cardinal

These five graduates have completed a year-long program focused on linguistic skills, oral pronunciations, and conversational Michif-French. They have gained Year One proficiency in the language and are ready to act as ambassadors for its preservation and revitalization within the Métis community.



Michif-French Silent Speakers Program Graduates:

- » Carol Ringrose
- » Fay Nidosky
- » Caleb Rosenthal
- » Tammy Filgate

The four graduates of the Silent Speakers Program have completed a 10-week intensive course to reconnect with the language they were once exposed to but struggled to speak. Through linguistic practice, oral exercises, and a deep connection to Métis history, they have overcome the obstacles that previously prevented them from speaking their mother tongue.

“This achievement represents a critical milestone in our language revitalization efforts,” said Jeanie Cardinal, BCMF’s Director of Michif Language. “Our graduates have shown extraordinary commitment and perseverance, not only learning Michif-French but also becoming stewards of its future. They can now teach others and ensure that this beautiful language continues to be spoken in our communities.”

The Michif-French Language Revitalization Program was made possible through the support of Heritage Canada, which provided funding to help launch this vital initiative. The program also greatly benefited from the contributions of fluent Michif speakers, including Rene Therrien and Earl Belcourt, who generously shared their knowledge, stories, and language with the participants.

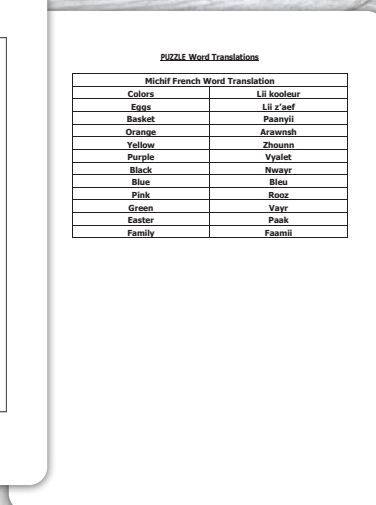
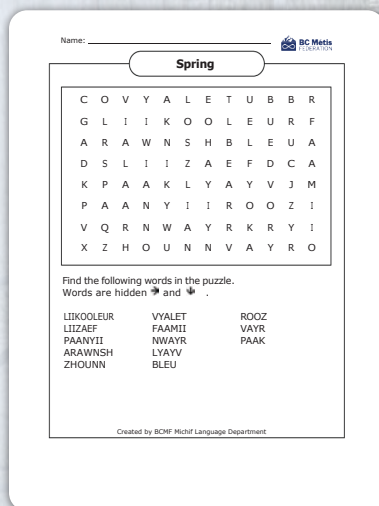
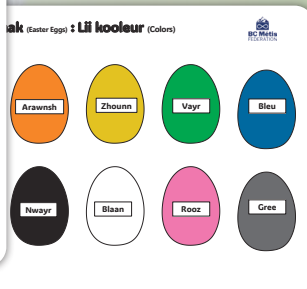
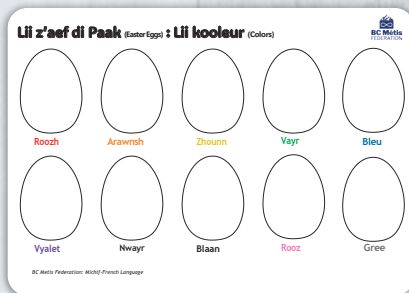
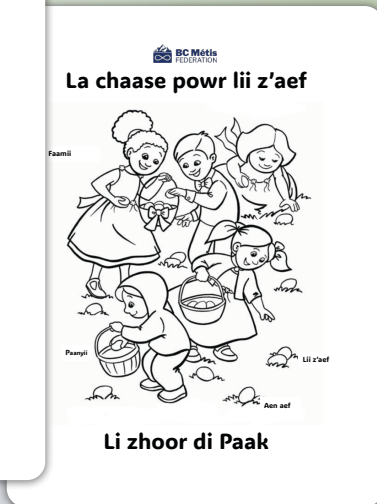
To learn more about the BCMF’s language programs or to get involved, please visit Michif.ca.



Spring Michif-French Children's Activities

Print the activity sheets at the end of this newsletter and practice saying the words during the Spring season with your family!

Visit Michif.ca to hear the sounds and pronunciation!



Michif-French	English
Praentaan	Spring
Lii z'aef	Eggs
Aen aef	An egg
La chasse powr lii z'aef	Hunt for the eggs
Paanyii	Basket
Lii kooleur	Colors
Bleu	Blue
Arawnsh	Orange
Rooz	Pink
Zhounn	Yellow
Vayr	Green
Vyalet	Purple
Nwayr	Black
Faamii	Family
Faamii d'Michif	Métis Family
Li zhoor di Paak	Easter Day
Paak	Easter
L'yayv	Rabbit

Michif-French Story Corner

A Métis Easter when we were Children:

Story Generously Contributed by Métis Elders Faye Nidosky & Carol Ringrose

We grew up on a farm in Lecoq, Saskatchewan, about ten miles from Batoche. Lecoq is not a well-known or common place name in Saskatchewan, yet it has a rich history and diverse geography with place names of Indigenous origins, as well as towns and villages with Michif-French speaking communities.

At Easter time, our Métis family used to go to church on either the Good Friday or the Easter Sunday, the church we went to was in St. Louis, Saskatchewan.

Easter dinners were often at our grandparent's home, on occasions we would have turkey and more often a roasting chicken was in its place. We also would make **lii Boolet** as a main dish made with thicker gravy sauce that was served over mashed potatoes and a side of vegetables. Another familiar family dish was called **Ragoo**. Ragoo was made with hamburger fried with onions, celery, adding flour to thicken to make a gravy base and serve it over mashed potatoes and vegetable on the side.

Our mother created Easter, having each of us go outside to make our Easter nests out of straw and selecting a spot for our Easter goodies to be placed. Of course, we thought it was the rabbit delivering the goods so this Easter Nests of straw we did not question. I remember getting colored eggs that were filled with a marshmallow type of filling, a few chocolates and occasionally a chocolate bunny rabbit. We were poor back then, yet so grateful for everything we received.

I have a vivid memory of one particular year, us children, we all had our Easter Nests, we went to our grandparents for Easter dinner, our brother

who was younger than us, left his Easter eggs in the nest thinking that if he left his treats, perhaps the Easter bunny would bring more. We left for dinner at our grandparents and returned home to the farm. My brother went to check his Easter nest, and the nest was gone! We came to realize that our nanny goat ate everything from my brother's Easter nest. He cried and cried. We shared our Easter eggs with our brother to comfort him.

Thinking back, we did not know how poor we were until we got older. My mother's mother died when my mother was 14 years old, and her youngest sibling was 18 months old. My mother had to grow up fast to raise her siblings and herself. My mother and her siblings spelled each other off to take on odd jobs to keep the family together. So, we grew up poor and struggling, but we were always together. Our mother was very gentle and kind and these are the things we remember. My mother and her sister worked and each month they got paid \$5 a month each. To earn this income, they had to clean the whole house for people and families who were more financially well-off families.

My mother had eight children, and we were a close family of aunts, uncles, and cousins. Our cousins were remarkably close with us, they used to always be in our farmhouse and stayed with us all weekend. My sister and I are the two oldest who had to help a lot, and we have lots of memories of being together as a Métis family.

Michif Language Department Update

Community Workshop Series

BCMF Michif Language Department was pleased to facilitate a work series on La Laangaezh d'Michif pi Ma Faamii (The Michif Language and My Family) with our BCMF Métis Partner Communities:

- » Métis Association of Central Okanagan
- » Old Fort Métis Nation
- » Peace River Métis Community Association
- » Skeena River Métis Community Association
- » Greater Vancouver Métis Association
- » North Thompson Aboriginal Cultural Centre

Métis people and communities are connected to Métis Family groups, regions and shared histories. Through La Laangaezh d'Michif pi Ma Faamii workshop series Métis community partners and members shared in learning:

- » Michif-French languages background and the “critically endangered” status rating of all our Michif-French languages.
- » Connecting our Michif-French language and our Métis Families together in researching our family of origins and where our languages and our Métis people derive from.
- » Learning Michif-French language terms connected to family titles and ways to greet others and introduce yourself in the Michif-French phrases.

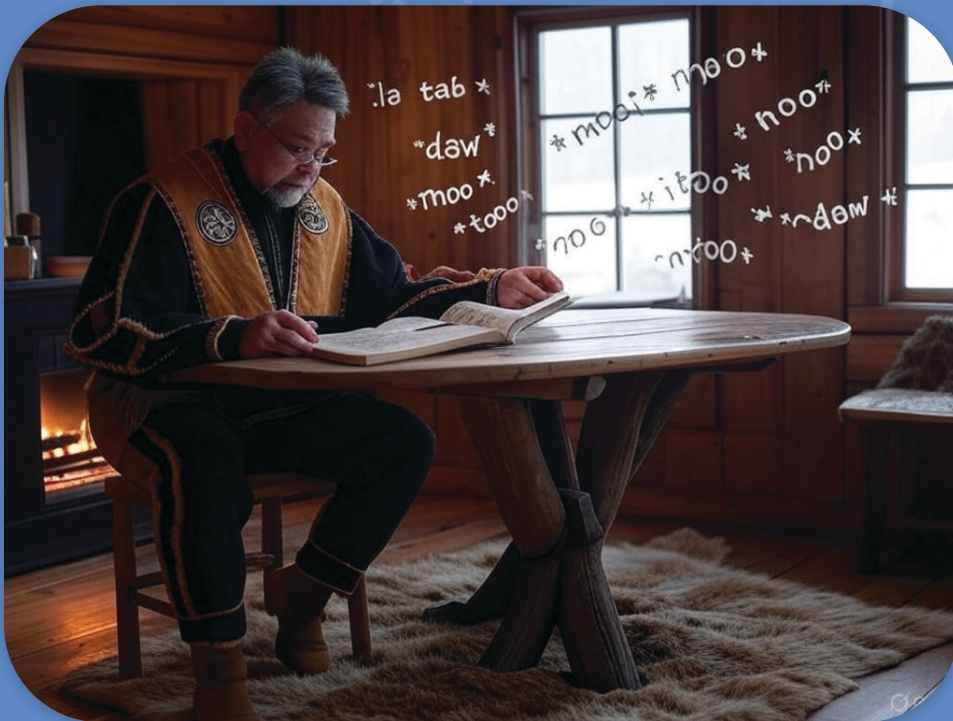
The workshop series were well attended and the community members demonstrated an enthusiastic connection while emerging their voices in embracing the practice of Michif-French Language during the workshop sessions.

Hidden Language Connections

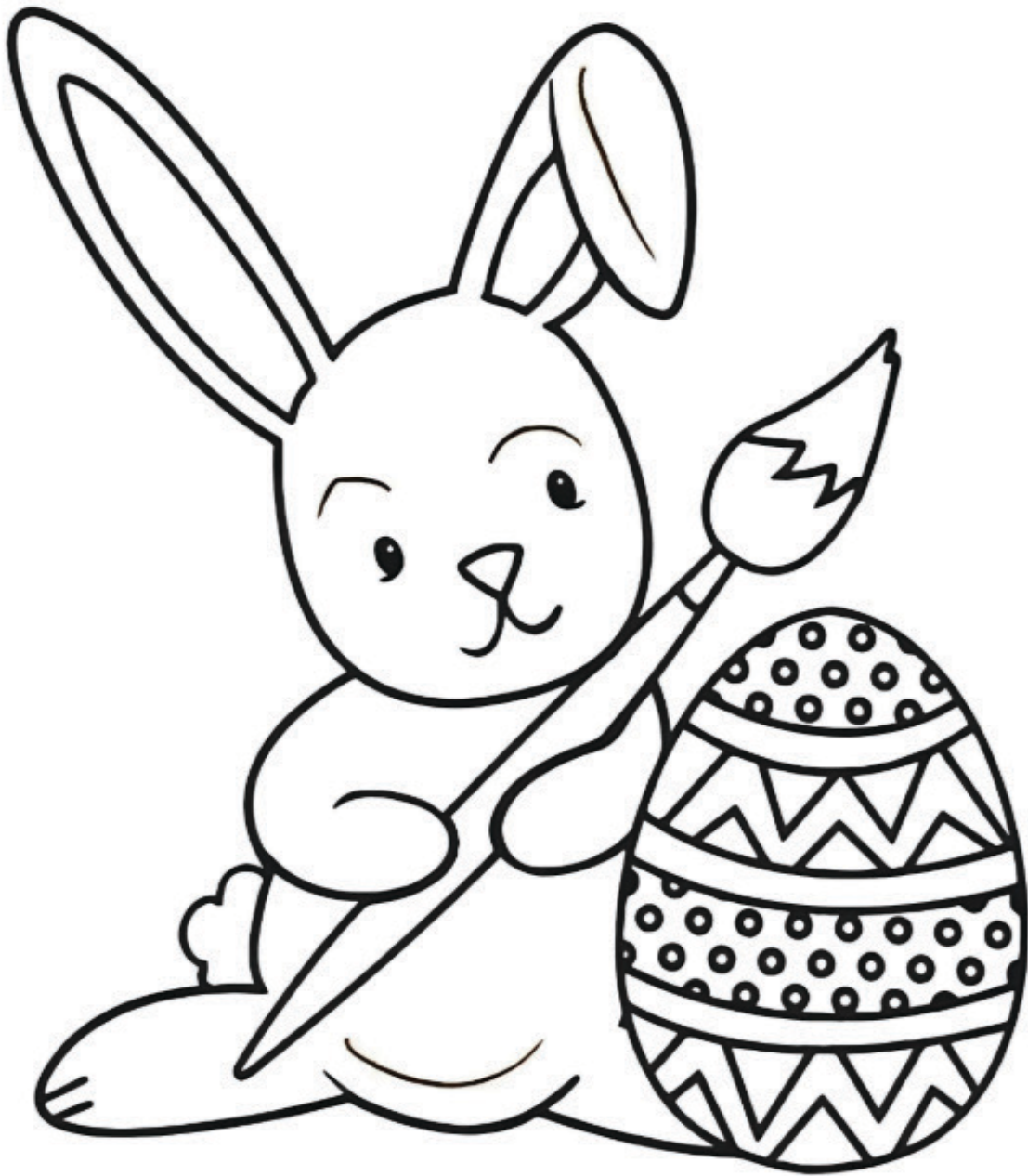
Welcome to our First Post on Hidden Language Connections!

BC Métis Federation engages in community-based research to explore the lived experiences of self-determining Métis across the Pacific Northwest. A key part of this journey is the repatriation of Métis languages, which are vital for self-determination.

Stay tuned as we explore hidden connections between languages like Michif-French and Chinook Jargon, share untold stories and lived experiences, and share exciting updates!



L'yayv



La chaase powr lii z'aef

Faamii



Paanyii

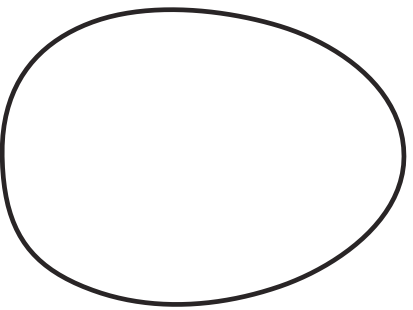
Lii z'aef

Aen aef

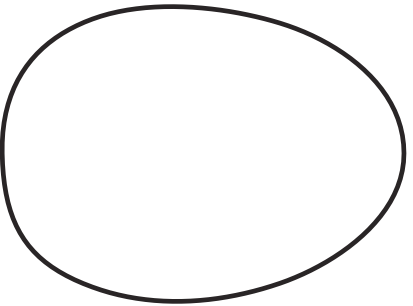
Li zhoor di Paak

Michif Translation	
Rabbit	L'yayv
The hunt for eggs	La chaase powr lii z'aef
Easter Day	Li zhoor di Paak
Family	Faamii
Basket	Paanyii
An egg	Aen aef
Eggs	Lii z'aef

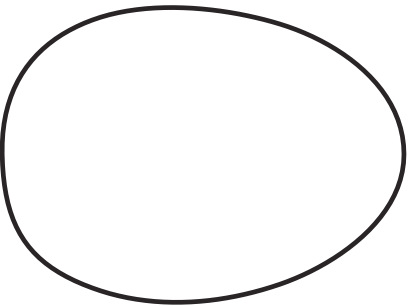
Lii'z'aef di Paak (Easter Eggs) : Lii koolleur (Colors)



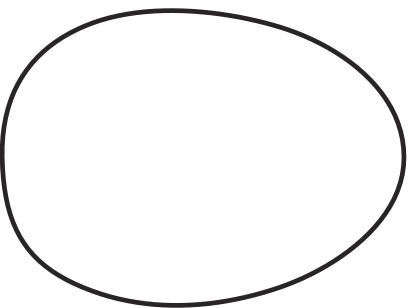
Roozh



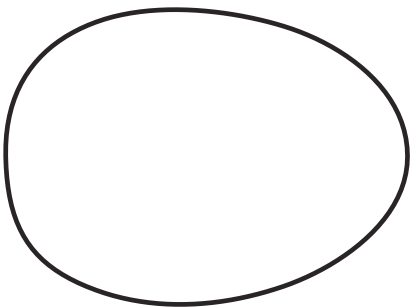
Arawnsh



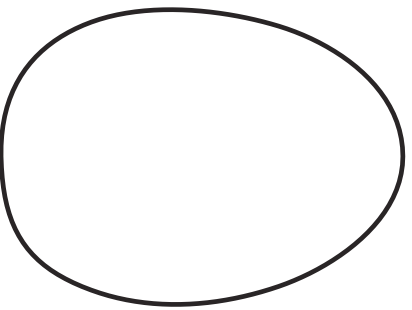
Zhounn



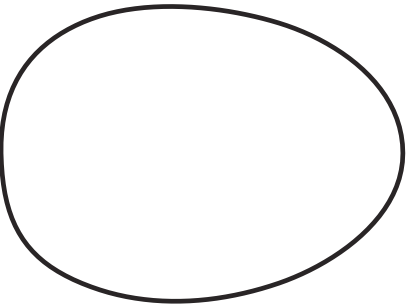
Vayr



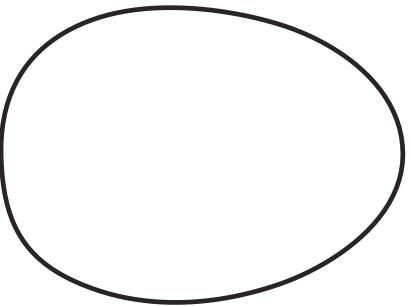
Bleu



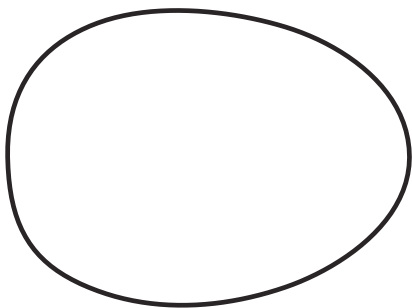
Vyalet



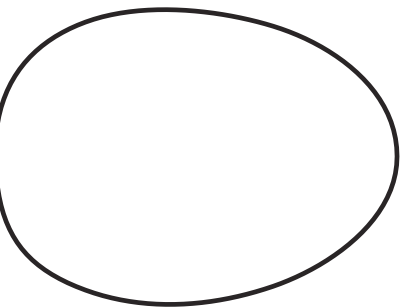
Nwayr



Blaan

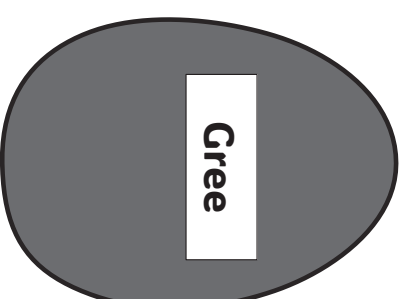
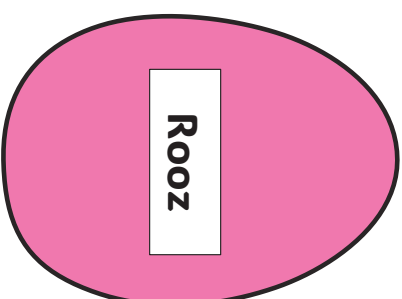
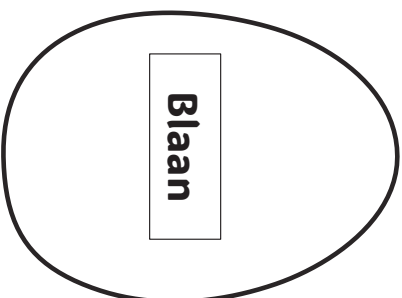
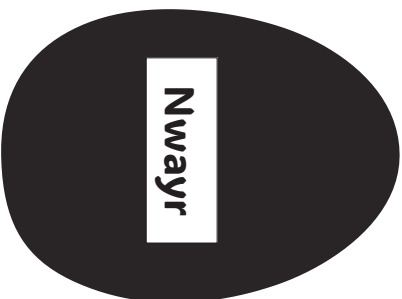
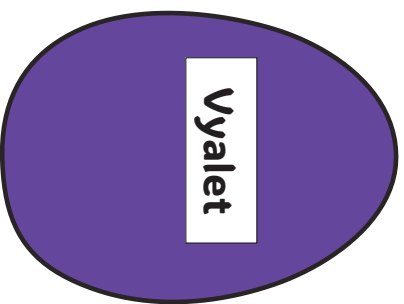
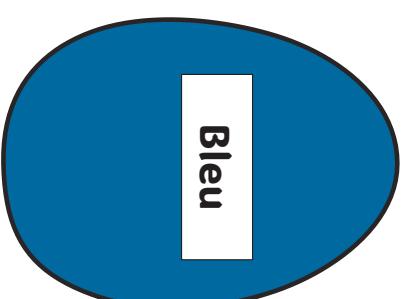
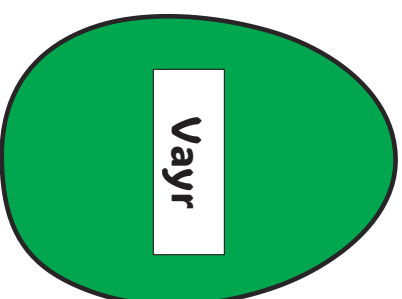
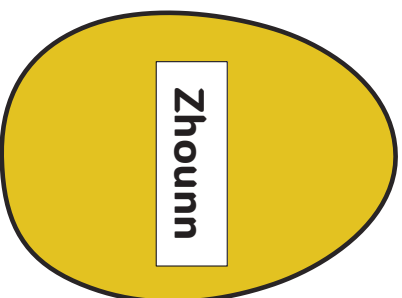
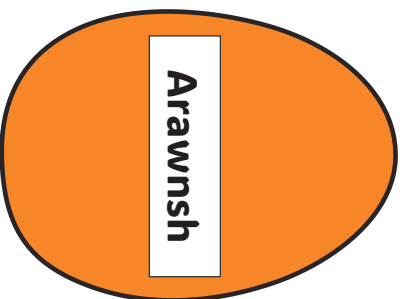
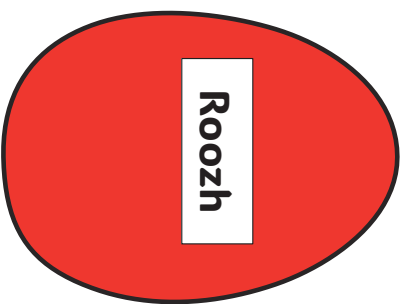


Roov



Gree

Lii z'aef di Paak (Easter Eggs) : Lii kooleur (Colors)



Name: _____



Spring

C	O	V	Y	A	L	E	T	U	B	B	R
G	L	I	I	K	O	O	L	E	U	R	F
A	R	A	W	N	S	H	B	L	E	U	A
D	S	L	I	I	Z	A	E	F	D	C	A
K	P	A	A	K	L	Y	A	Y	V	J	M
P	A	A	N	Y	I	I	R	O	O	Z	I
V	Q	R	N	W	A	Y	R	K	R	Y	I
X	Z	H	O	U	N	N	V	A	Y	R	O

Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden → and ↓ .

LIIKOOLEUR
LIIZAEF
PAANYII
ARAWNSH
ZHOUNN

VYALET
FAAMII
NWAYR
LYAYV
BLEU

ROOZ
VAYR
PAAK

SOLUTION

Spring

.	.	V	Y	A	L	E	T
.	L	I	I	K	O	O	L	E	U	R	F
A	R	A	W	N	S	H	B	L	E	U	A
.	.	L	I	I	Z	A	E	F	.	.	A
.	P	A	A	K	L	Y	A	Y	V	.	M
P	A	A	N	Y	I	I	R	O	O	Z	I
.	.	.	N	W	A	Y	R	.	.	.	I
.	Z	H	O	U	N	N	V	A	Y	R	.

Word directions and start points are formatted: (Direction, X, Y)

LIKOOLEUR (E,2,2)

LIIZAEF (E,3,4)

PAANYII (E,1,6)

ARAWNSH (E,1,3)

ZHOUNN (E,2,8)

VYALET (E,3,1)

FAAMII (S,12,2)

NWAYR (E,4,7)

LYAYV (E,6,5)

BLEU (E,8,3)

ROOZ (E,8,6)

VAYR (E,8,8)

PAAK (E,2,5)

PUZZLE Word Translations

Michif French Word Translation	
Colors	Lii kooleur
Eggs	Lii z'aef
Basket	Paanyii
Orange	Arawnsh
Yellow	Zhounn
Purple	Vyalet
Black	Nwayr
Blue	Bleu
Pink	Roos
Green	Vayr
Easter	Paak
Family	Faamii