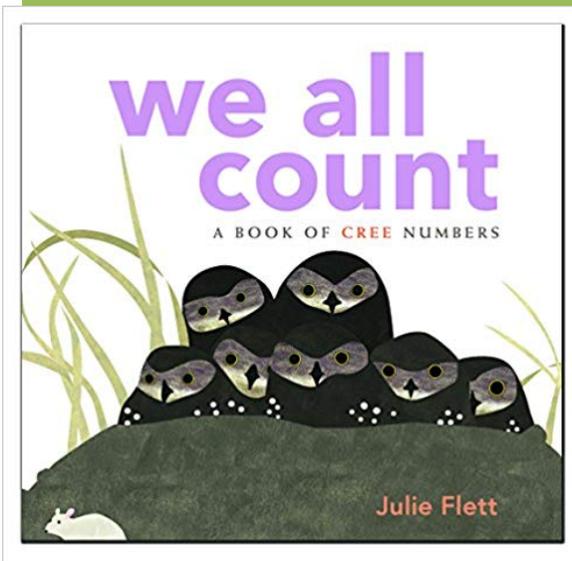


# *We All Count*

## *WITS Programs Lesson Plan*



**Author & Illustrator:** Julie Flett. Is a Vancouver-based Cree/Metis writer, artist, advocate, activist and mother, Ms. Flett is truly a woman of many talents. She incorporates photography, drawing, and painting into her work-and has an interest in indigenous textiles

Through her writing, Flett is constantly working to keep the Cree language alive, and approaches this through education. She is the winner of many book prizes, including the Governor General’s Award for Children’s Literature, the McNally Robinson Book for Young People Award, Manitoba Book Awards, and BC Book Prizes.

**Summary:** This is a lovely book that plays on the word “count” to bring us all into the sounds and scenes of Cree language and family. The illustrations are simple and stunning and will remind children of their own fun with their families while they are learning to count to ten in a Canadian language that has been here for centuries.

WITS Connection: Inclusivity. Seeking help.

**Curricular Connections:** Social Studies, Indigenous and Math Connections: learn to count in another language and learn about another Canadian culture.

### **PreReading Activities**

Start by reading the poem on the back cover FIRST: *“Whether in the country or the city creature or insect plant or animal a part of a big family or a small family we all live together and we all take care of one another we all count.”*

Ask what they think the book will be about – it will be a surprise!

### **Reading Activities**

Ask the children to repeat the pronunciations given for each number a couple of times. Can anyone say the numbers in Cree at the end of the book? Keep trying until the whole class together can count.

“Aunties” and “Uncles” and “Cousins” are words that are often used by children and adult to talk about their relatives, but in many languages including Cree these terms can also include close and respected adult friends. Name some adults in your life who you are close to or might think of as aunties and uncles. What kinds of things do these people do to help you and the others in your family?

### Post Reading Activities

1. Make a large chart with all of the numbers in English, French, and Cree on one side. What other languages do the children in your class speak at home or know about?

2. **There are many places where Cree is spoken in Canada. See a nice maps at <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/cree-syllabics>**

**Cree** /'kri:/ (also known as **Cree–Montagnais–Naskapi**) is a dialect continuum of Algonquian languages spoken by approximately 117,000 people across **Canada**, from the Northwest Territories to Alberta to Labrador. See a map of Canada showing where Cree is spoken at <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/cree-syllabics>

3. Check out all the animals. Do your children know about prairie dogs, burrowing owls, fox kits, cardinals, and fireflies? Find where these creatures are most abundant in Canada. Make posters for your class of the different animals in Canada.

4. There are many animals in this book. Fox babies are called KITS. What are their babies called? Draw a picture of your family doing something you like to do.

5. Draw a picture of your family doing something you like to do. What are the names of your family members and how are they related to you? Do you have some close family friends (who might be Aunties and Uncles?). Can you make space for them in your family drawing too.

6. COMPANION BOOKS: For more about “counting” and getting along, see also the lesson plans for WITS PICKS Books *Zero* and *One* by Kathryn Otoshi

