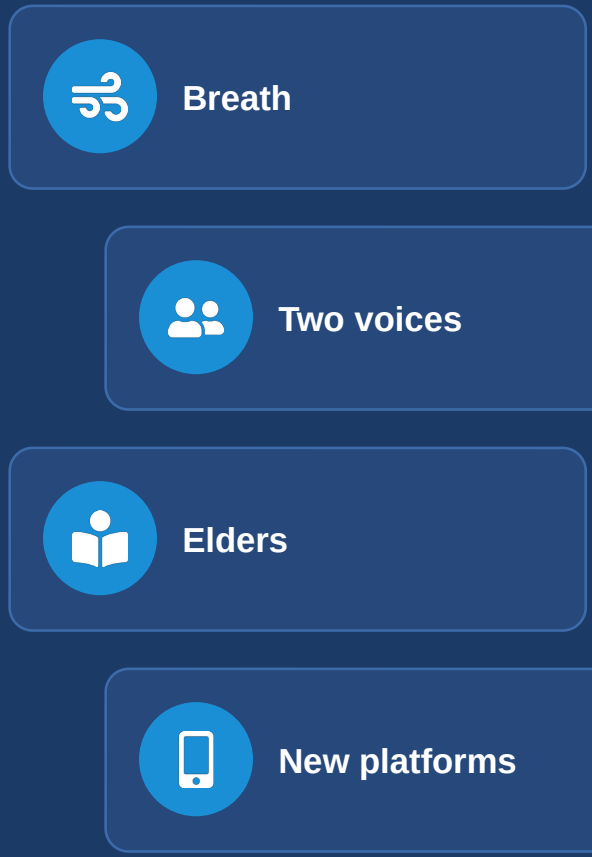
NBE3U Living Words, Lesson 8

Inuit Voices

Katajjaq, Elders' knowledge and new platforms



Today's goals

We are learning…

- About Inuit oral traditions and how they continue today.
- To interpret oral and visual cues in a performance or interview.

I can…

- Describe katajjaq and its purposes.
- Explain how Elders' knowledge has been recorded and protected.
- Interpret a performance or interview using oral and visual cues.
- Explain how new platforms help traditions continue.

Today's plan

Time	What we're doing	You will…
0–8 min	**Hook**	Predict
8–25 min	**Katajjaq**	Note
25–35 min	**Elders' knowledge**	Note
35–58 min	**Listen**	Analyse
58–75 min	**Forces**	Discuss

Warm-up



Imagine a game played with only your voice and your breath. What would make someone win? What would make it hard?

Sentence starters

“You'd win by…”

“It'd be hard because…”

“It might be played when…”

How it works

- Pairs: 2 minutes.

Big idea

Inuit oral traditions include katajjaq, a vocal game usually performed by two women face to face, and a vast body of knowledge held by Elders. In 2014, Quebec gave katajjaq heritage status. Today, Inuit performers carry these traditions to millions of listeners online, on their own terms.

Katajjaq

Face to face

Usually two women, standing close and facing each other.

A game of breath

Rhythmic patterns; the first to run out of breath, lose the rhythm or laugh loses.

While waiting

It began as entertainment while waiting for hunters to return.

Heritage, 2014

Quebec named it cultural heritage: a first for an intangible practice in Canada.

Why not try it?

Why shouldn't our class try throat singing for fun, even with good intentions?

Sentence starters

“It's a practice that…”

“Who teaches it…”

“Listening respectfully looks like…”

How it works

- Whole class: 3 minutes.

Knowledge kept by Elders



In Igloolik, Nunavut, the Inullariit Elders Society recorded a large collection of interviews with Elders, documenting Inuit knowledge for future generations. The work was honoured with a Northern Science Award in 1998.

Ask: Who should control recordings of Elders' knowledge? Why does it matter that this project was led by Elders?

Inuit throat singers



Teacher-chosen performance or interview

For example, Caroline and Shina Novalinga, or Tanya Tagaq (Polaris Music Prize, 2014)

From the artists' own channels or a trusted broadcaster

While you watch: Listen for rhythm, breath, laughter and language. Watch how the performers stand and respond to each other.

Listening analysis

On page 2:

1. Name the performers and the source.
2. Note oral cues and visual cues.
3. Write your interpretation with evidence.
4. What purpose does the performance serve today?

Disruption and continuation

Forces that disrupted

- Missions and residential schools.
- Relocation and settlement.
- Loss of fluent speakers.

Forces that help continue

- Elders' recording projects.
- Heritage recognition.
- Inuit artists online, on their own terms.

Is a TikTok video an oral text? Who controls it?

Talk it out



Social media spreads Inuit throat singing to millions. What are the benefits? What are the risks?

Sentence starters

“A benefit is…”

“A risk is…”

“The difference is who controls…”

How it works

- Groups: 5 minutes.

Journal entry

In your listening journal:

1. What did you hear that you didn't expect?
2. Compare one Métis and one Inuit tradition.
3. One force that helps traditions continue.
4. 80 to 100 words.

Check yourself

Be honest. This helps you choose what to work on next.

Success criteria	Not yet	Almost	Got it
I can describe katajjaq and its purposes.			
I can explain how Elders' knowledge has been recorded and protected.			
I can interpret a performance or interview using oral and visual cues.			
I can explain how new platforms help traditions continue.			

Exit ticket

1. How katajjaq is played.

2. One way Elders' knowledge is being kept.

3. One benefit and one risk of social media.

Next class: Reading a Speech.

Teacher reveal

Inuit voices: key points

Katajjaq: A vocal game, usually two women face to face; the first to run out of breath, lose the rhythm or laugh loses. Entertainment while waiting for hunters.

Heritage: Quebec designated throat singing cultural heritage in January 2014, the first intangible practice so recognized in Canada.

Elders' knowledge: The Inullariit Elders Society in Igloolik recorded Elders' knowledge, honoured in 1998.

Interpreting: Use oral cues (rhythm, breath, laughter, Inuktut) and visual cues (facing each other, setting, clothing).

Forces: Disruption: missions, schools, relocation, loss of language. Continuation: Elders' projects, heritage status, Inuit artists online reaching new audiences on their own terms.