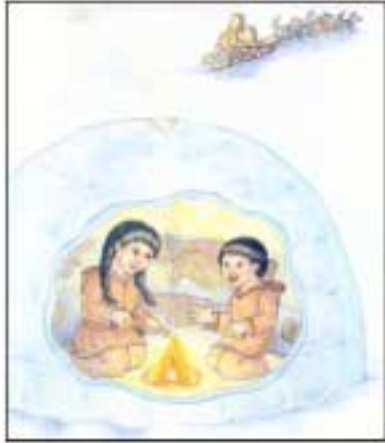


The fire owl – an Inuit folk tale

Step	Description	What the children do
1	The teacher explains that the story is about an animal which helps a family. The family is an Inuit family. (Inuit is the native expression for Eskimo). The chairs are put into a circle, or the teacher uses her typical procedure to create a storytelling atmosphere.	The children become attentive, and focus on the teacher as storyteller.
2	The teacher tells the story twice. (Attachement) <i>Words: ceiling, hole, fire, hunting</i> The present tense can be used if the teacher prefers to do so: a) first with story cards, b) the second time by making the children part of the story: Some children hold hands in a circle and mime the igloo, one child mimes the fire, some mime the family members, the thieves, the snow owl.	The children listen and use their imagination to form the story skeleton in their mind. They repeat the teacher's words in silent speech. When the story is told a second time, the children are involved physically because a dramatic approach is used.
3	Establishing comprehension of the story line, putting the scrambled picture cards in the right order (Attachement) . The story can be summarised in a few German sentences by two or three children first, depending on the level of the class.	All children work together to find the picture which matches the sentences of the story (the sentences should be read out in the right order).
4	Speaking, colouring	Each child gets one or two sentences of the story. While the class colours in the pictures, each child comes out to the teacher and practises the pronunciation of his/her sentences. To save time, a second person would be helpful, e. g. a language assistant,. If the class is large, two children might be given the same sentences. The children memorize their sentences, as if learning a poem. They produce connected speech.
5	Re-telling the story	The children retell the story by speaking the sentences which match the pictures that were given to them. To ease this process, they might be lined up in the order of the story.
6	Acting	The whole story may be acted out, the children dress up, and props are used.
7	Link to the German lesson: The teacher may ask the children to invent, for homework, a story (of half a page perhaps, with no upper limit). Themes: the animals they have talked about, fire, Inuit people.	The children's imagination is appealed to. There is a transfer from English to German. Narrative skills are trained.

The Fire Owl – An INUIT Story

Once upon a time there lived an Inuit family in the dark north. There was a mother, a father and two children, a boy and a girl. They lived in their igloo, which they had built out of snow blocks. In the middle of the igloo there was place on the floor for the fire. There was also an opening, a hole, in the ceiling through which the smoke could escape (get out).



Because it is so cold in the Arctic it is very important that there is always a fire in the igloo. One person always has to stay in the igloo and watch the fire.

One day, it was almost spring, the parents went away to go hunting. They needed some meat to eat, and the children stayed in the igloo and watched the fire.

The children were alone in the igloo, but the fire was hot and the igloo was nice and warm. The children played and were very happy.

Suddenly they heard a sound outside. It was the sound of heavy footsteps. Mother and father could not be back. "Who is this?" asked the little boy.

Four men came into the igloo and looked at the fire. "We have no fire in our igloo." They said. "We have come to get your fire!" Then they quickly fetched the fire and ran out of the igloo. They jumped on their dog sleds, and off they went.

When the parents came home from hunting it was very cold and dark in the igloo. The children were scared and sitting next to each other. When the father and the mother were inside the igloo they asked: "What happened to the fire?" The children told them about the four men and what had happened.

They were all sitting close together to keep themselves warm. "What can we do?" the mother asked. "We can't go and get the fire back," she said to her husband. "They are four men and you and me are only two."

Then they were quiet for some time, everyone was thinking.

Suddenly the father had an idea. He stood up and went out of the igloo and called the little snowy owl.

"Dear little owl", said the father, "will you help us to get our fire back?"

"Yes, I want to help you, but what can I do?"

"Nobody can hear you, when you fly, and you can also see very well at night." said the Inuit father. "Fly over to the igloo of these four bad men. They will not hear nor see you.

Then fly directly through the hole in the top of the igloo and bring the fire back to us."



“This is an excellent idea. I will try to do it.” said the owl and flew away.

The snowy owl flew through the icy night. She could see the light in the igloo from far away. Very carefully and silently she flew over the igloo and looked through the hole in the top. She saw the fire burning and the four men were sleeping on thick furs.

Light as a snowflake the little owl flew through the hole. She quietly picked up some of the fire and flew out again. Nobody had seen her.

The went up into the night sky and flew back to the Inuit family.



The Inuit family was standing outside the igloo and waited for the snowy owl. The girl was the first one to see the little owl. “Look!” she said. “Look, our fire is coming back. *The little owl brings the fire!*”

The family was very happy again and the dogs were very happy, too.
They all said “Thank you!” to the little owl.

Until today the Inuit are very happy when they see a snowy owl, because they know, that spring will come soon.

This old Inuit story was retold and adapted after:
Time Life, Lernen ist lustig, von fernen Ländern (1991)









The family is very happy again.

“I want to help you.” says the owl.

The parents go away.

The owl brings the fire.

Father and mother are in the igloo.

The children are alone in the igloo.

The dogs are happy, too.

It is very cold and dark in the igloo.

The fire is hot. The igloo is warm.

The dogs are sleeping.

Four men come into the igloo.

The men take the fire and run away.

The father calls the little owl.
