

The Spring Equinox



Focus Morpheme

Root	<i>equ</i>
Pronunciation	The root <i>equ</i> is usually pronounced /ē-kw/.

Etymology of *equ*

Origin	Latin
Meaning	the same; equal
Examples: equal unequal	<p>Look at the word equal. In this word, the root <i>equ</i> has the same meaning as the whole word: “the same or equal.”</p> <p>Look at the word unequal. With the prefix <i>un-</i>, meaning “not,” at the beginning, the word unequal means “not equal or not the same.”</p>

Vocabulary

- equal
- unequal
- equally
- equate
- equivalent
- equinox
- equator
- adequate

Activating Prior Knowledge

- Look at the Vocabulary list above. In what subject do you use many of the words? Explain what those words mean.
- Which words on this list are unfamiliar? Can you predict their meaning?

The Spring Equinox

Hiqinaariktuq hila. UpinrakRaq.

[*Hik-in-aa-gik-duq hil-a. Ub-in-gak-raq.*]

It is sunny outside. It is springtime.

Ice fishing

The Spring **equinox** is a time of change. For the Inuit of the Western Arctic—Inuvialuit [*In-uu-vee-A-loo-weet*—this change comes in two parts. One change is the return to longer days, which brings us warmth and light. It is a change of pace, from the dark and quiet cold winter days to the light, warmth, and abundance of spring! Second is a change in our diet. Migratory fish and birds return to their Arctic habitat in the spring. These animals are sources of food for Inuvialuit. The change of diet gives us a chance to hone other skills. During early spring, Inuvialuit travel to the fresh- and saltwater lakes to ice fish for both fresh- and saltwater lake trout. In this way, we have **adequate** food while awaiting the return of the waterfowl, such as ducks, geese, cranes, and swans.



Vocabulary

Connections

Some of the words on this card are written in Inuvialuktun [*In-uu-vee-A-look-tun*]. The pronunciations are shown after the words in square brackets. In the section headings, the English translations are written below the pronunciation guides.



Birds returning in spring

Skiituurarniaqtugut.
[Ski-duu-gag-niaq-du-gud.]
We are using snow machines.

Inuvialuit have six seasons. These six seasons include early spring and early fall times, in addition to the traditional four seasons. During springtime in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR), the land and water are still covered in snow and ice. The longest day of the year is around June 21. This date is the same for most locations north of the **equator**.



Snowmobiling

Kivgalungniarvik.
[Giv-ga-lung-niag-vik.]
It is the time for us to get muskrats.

Most animals are trapped in the fall, but muskrats are not trapped until early spring. Hunters and trappers understand that it is better to trap muskrats then because their winter coats are thick and plush. Muskrat fur is highly valued, as muskrat hats and mittens are both warm and waterproof.

Time to Talk

Each year, this area of the country has about 56 days with 24-hour sunlight, and about 30 days without sunlight.

- What might it be like to have sunlight at midnight?
- What might it be like without sunlight for a whole month? What would you like about it? What might be hard?

Did You Know?

Many people think a muskrat is **equivalent** in size to a beaver. Look at this chart. What do you think now?

	Muskrat	Beaver
Average Length	40 to 70 centimetres	74 to 100 cm
Average Weight	0.6 to 2 kilograms	11 to 32 kg

Word Study

In your Word Study notebook, add today's morpheme.

New Morpheme	Type of Morpheme	Origin	Meaning
<i>equ</i>	root	Latin	the same; equal

Word Meanings Through Pictures: Draw a picture for each word to show its meaning.

- **equal**
- **unequal**
- **equilateral** triangle
- **equator**

Writing Connections

Read this word: **equality**. The suffix *-ity* means “the state of.” The word **equality** then means “the state of being **equal**.” What does **equality** mean to you?

**Visual Credits**

Front cover, 2: Meeka E. Steen; 3: (top) Meeka E. Steen, (muskrat) Stan Tekiela Author/Naturalist/Wildlife Photographer/Getty, (beaver) Robert Adami/Shutterstock; back cover: Stan Tekiela Author/Naturalist/Wildlife Photographer/Getty

