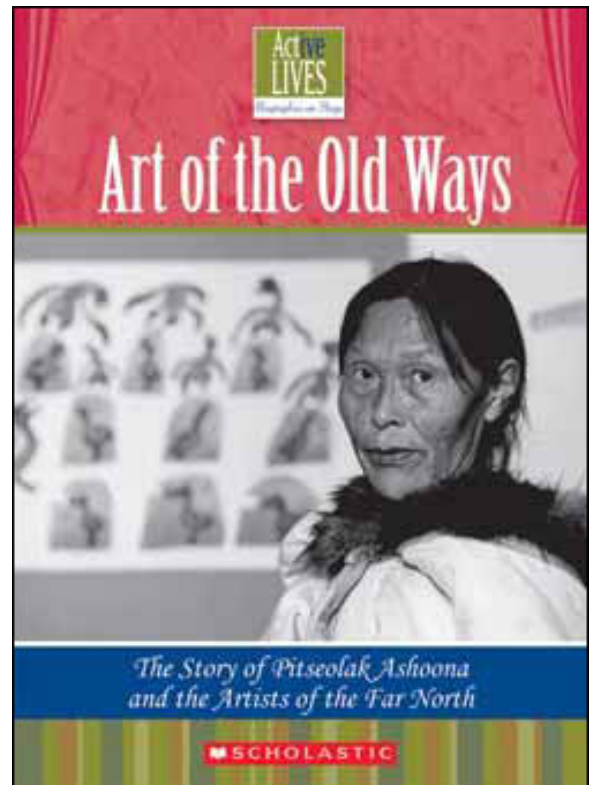


**Book Title:** *Art of the Old Ways: The Story of Pitseolak Ashoona and the Artists of the Far North*

**Authors:** Vanessa York

**Artwork/Illustrations:** Samuel Sakaria

**Annotation:** Cape Dorset is a community of many artistic talents. The story is centered on the life of one Inuit women's journey from a traditional Inuit life, struggling to raise a family by herself, to that of becoming one of Canada's most famous artists: drawing, sculpting and painting the "Old Ways." Just as the story seems to come to an end, the reader can participate in a play script based on the life of Pitseolak Ashoona. The story also offers a description of the printmaking process. The authors have been meticulous at ensuring that people in the photographs are identified and their activities described. This is much better than using stock photos.



**Concepts at a Glance:**

🇺🇸 Resilience, Identity, Culture, Traditional Environmental Knowledge, Trade Relations

**Can be used as part of text sets on First Nations, Métis and Inuit artists, Inuit people, sculpture,**

**Links to Explore:**

- Google **Pitseolak Ashoona** to examine her art and representation of the "Old Ways."

**Projects, Ideas and Activities:**

1. Who are the Inuit? Find out where they live in Canada and information on their way of life; compare it to your own.
2. Search internet websites to find more information on the setting of the story.
3. Find out more about a First Nation, Métis or Inuit community nearby. Compare their way of life to that of Pitseolak Ashoona.
4. Discuss and explore why *Eskimo* and other terms used to describe First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples are not acceptable today.
5. Discuss and present to classmates the appropriateness of various materials to the construction of traditional First Nation, Métis and Inuit boats, kayaks, and canoes, in particular:
  - a. the degree to which the material is waterproof (not porous)
  - b. the ability to form waterproof joints between parts
  - c. the stiffness or rigidity of the material
6. Create an illustration that represents a childhood story. Replicate the illustration using a variety of print making methods.
7. Use the play at the back for a Readers Theatre performance.

## Art of the Old Ways- Curricular Links

### Social Studies General Outcomes:

#### (1) 1.1 My World: Home, School, and Community -1.1.2-

✚ Value the groups and communities to which they belong.

#### (2) A Community in the Past- 2.2.1

✚ Appreciate how stories of the past connect individuals and communities to the present.

#### (4) The Stories, Histories and peoples of Alberta -4.2.1

✚ Appreciate how an understanding of Alberta's history, peoples and stories contributes to their own sense of belonging and identity.

#### (5) The Geography of Canada- 5.1

✚ Appreciate how the land sustains communities and the diverse ways that people have of living with the land.

**Program Foundations:** Citizenship and Identity, Aboriginal perspectives.

**Strands:** Culture and Community, time, Continuity and Change.

### Art Level Two: Composition

**Component 3-**Appreciation (A): Contextual information (geographical, historical, biographical, and cultural) may be needed to understand works of art.

### Art Level Two: Expression

**Component 10-**Media and Techniques (C): Further explore print-making materials and their uses and effects.

### English Language Arts

#### 1.2 Clarify and Explore

✚ (5) Use talk, notes, personal writing and representing to explore relationships among own ideas and experiences, those of others and those encountered in oral, print and other media texts.

#### 2.2 Respond to Texts

##### Experience various texts

✚ (5) Experience oral, print and other media texts from a variety of cultural traditions and genres, such as historical fiction, myths, biographies, poetry, news reports and guest speakers.

##### Construct meaning from texts

✚ (5) Compare characters and situations portrayed in oral, print and other media texts to those encountered in the classroom and community.

✚ (5) Describe and discuss the influence of setting on the characters and events.

##### Respect Others and Strengthen Community

✚ (5) Discuss personal understanding of the lives of people or characters in various communities, cultural traditions, places and times portrayed in oral, print and other media.

✚ (7) Discuss how ideas, people, experiences and cultural traditions are portrayed in various oral, print and other media texts.

### Science

✚ **Grade 2: Topic B:** Buoyancy and Boats