

# Skw'exá:m te Halq'eméylem Counting in Halq'eméylem

## Skw'exyá:m (skweh-hyam) Counting Numbers



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Number words emphasize interrelationships between language, culture and quantitative reasoning. Throughout history and across the globe, we see a great variety of number systems with different bases, with or without positional notation. Halq'eméylem language reveals a number system unlike any other: Sto:lo people use different number words depending on what is being counted. People, animals, trees, rocks – they each are counted using different words for numbers.

In this booklet, we explore counting numbers. On the following pages, you will find numbers from 1 to 12. Luckily, the richness of Halq'eméylem numerical vocabulary is balanced out by the simplicity of the overall structure as the entire number system is strictly decimal. One only needs to learn the words for numbers from 1 to 10 and multiples of 10 in order to compose any other number up to 100.

Equipped with this booklet and the fact that “and” is “qas te”, we have:

16 = 10 and 6 = ó:pel qas te isá:le  
29 = 20 and 9 = ts'kw'éx qas te tú:xw

Now it's your turn to count.

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**Kw'xat tset cha xwela te ó:pel**  
**We are going to count to ten.**

Léts'e

means "one".

We pronounce it:

lets-ah

1

Cheam Range, Chilliwack, BC

Isá:le

means “two”.

We pronounce it:

ee-saa-lah

2

Mt. Baker, Washington



Lhí:xw

means “three”.

We pronounce it:

lhee-hoo

3

Jones Lake, Chilliwack, BC

Xe'ó:thel

means "four".

We pronounce it:

ha-AH-thel

4

Kawkawa Lake, Hope, BC



Lheq'á:tse

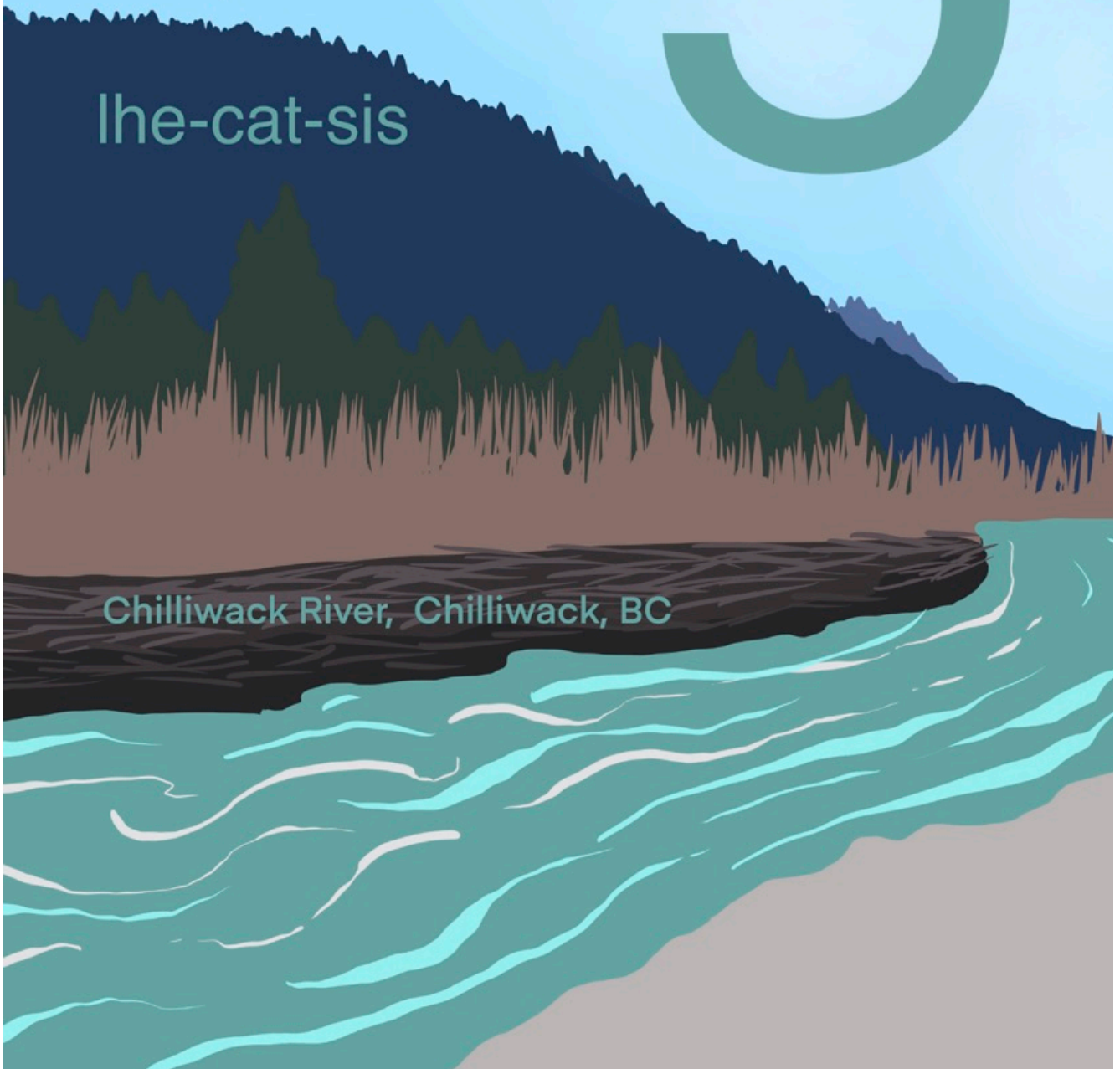
means "five".

We pronounce it:

lhe-cat-sis

5

Chilliwack River, Chilliwack, BC



T'xém

means “six”.

We pronounce it:

t-hem

6

Mt. Cheam Peak, Chilliwack, BC



Th'ó:kws

means “seven”.  
We pronounce it:

th-ah-kwis

7

Chilliwack Lake, Chilliwack, BC

Tqá:tsa

means “eight”.  
We pronounce it:

te-caat-sah

8

Sumas Mountain, Abbotsford, BC

Tú:xw

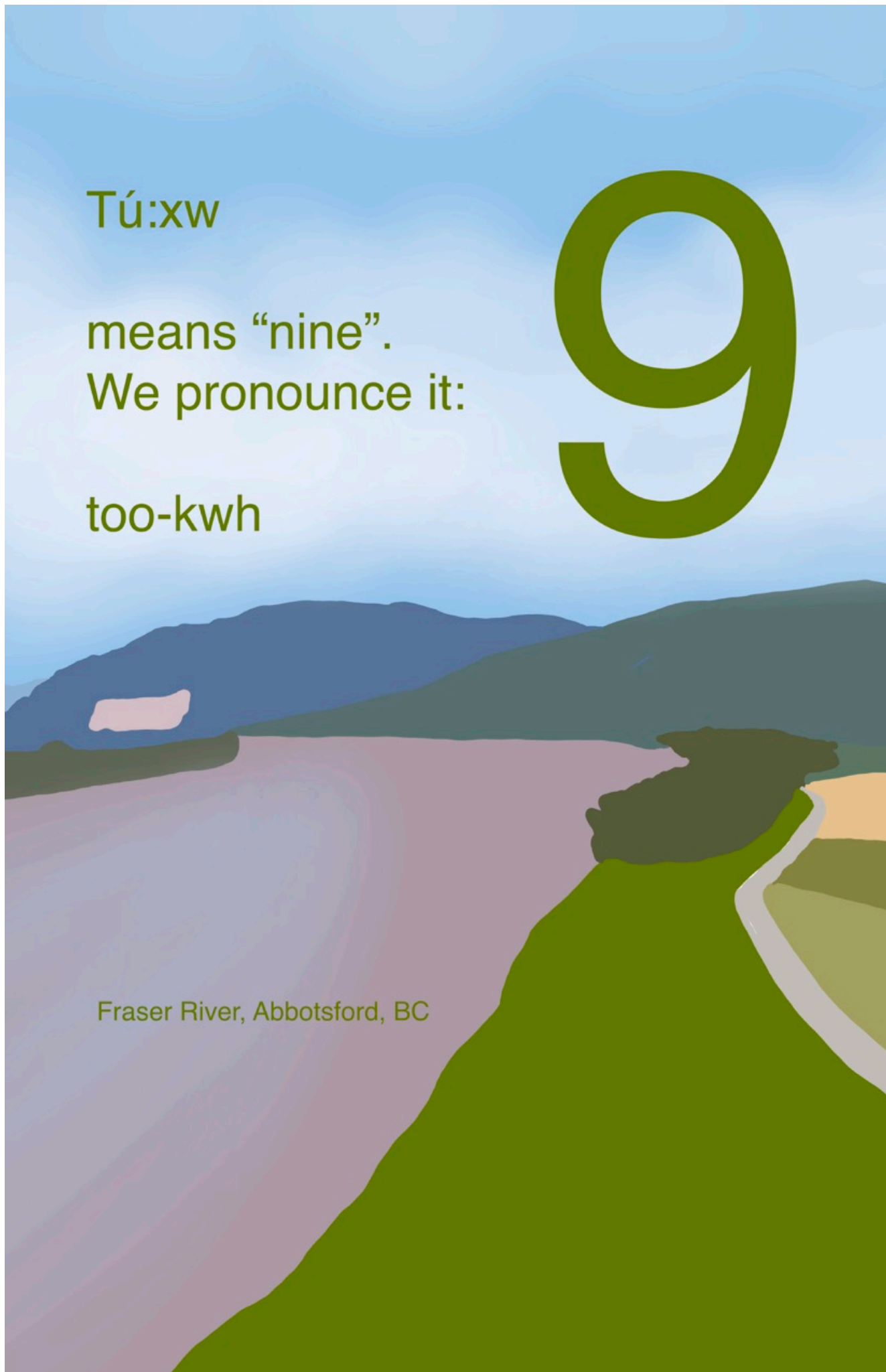
means “nine”.

We pronounce it:

too-kwh

9

Fraser River, Abbotsford, BC



# 10

Ó:pel

means “ten”.  
We pronounce it:

ah-pul



Harrison River, Harrison Mills, BC



The background is a stylized illustration of a landscape. At the top, a bright blue sky transitions into a dark grey silhouette of a mountain range. Below this, a lighter grey area represents a body of water or a valley. In the foreground, there are dark, jagged silhouettes of trees or rocks, with a single, small, bright green tree standing out. The bottom of the image shows a light grey, textured area representing a beach or a field.

# 11

Ó:pel qas te léts'e

Means "eleven".  
We pronounce it:

Ah-pul cass-tah lets-ah

Vedder Mountain, Chilliwack, B.C

Ó:pel qas te isá:le

Means “twelve”.

We pronounce it:

Ah-pul cass-tah ee-saa-lah

12

Fraser River, Matsqui, B.C

## Multiples of 10

Twenty = tskw ex (tsk-weh)

Thirty = lhi:xwelsxa (lhew-helt-sia)

Forty = xethelsxa (ha-thul-sia)

Fifty = lhqatselsxa (lah-cat-sel-sia)

Sixty = t'xhemelsxa (tah-hemlel-sia)

Seventy = thókwelsxa (thu-qwel-sia)

Eighty = teqatselsxa (te-cat-sell-sia)

Ninety = tú:xw = tuxwelsxa (tuu-well-sia)

One hundred = la:ts'ewets (laatsha-wits)

Vedder River, B.C



Jonny Shaw is Stó:lō (Chéam First Nation). He grew up in Chilliwack, BC. Jonny is a self-taught artist. His Grandmother is one of the last fluent speakers of the Halq'eméylem language. Jonny teaches beginners Halq'eméylem.

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