

~ Homework: Questions about “Home” ~

The goal of this exercise is to unlearn/relearn the history and current struggles of Indigenous people in the place you grew up and/or currently call home and to begin thinking about our place and role in these struggles of colonization and resistance. For those of us who are white, it is about changing the way we think about and relate to the land that we live on as settlers.

In researching these questions below, you can think about lands you spent some part of childhood in, family lands, or where you presently live and organize. While researching, be wary of what you find on the interwebs--cross reference, look deeper, think if you know anyone you could ask, reach out to people in your community who might know more. This is about unlearning/relearning, and also about the conversations we spark when we ask these questions. Check out this map as a starter: <https://native-land.ca/>

1. *Who is/are the Indigenous nation(s) that have always lived in the place you call home?
2. What did historical colonization look like on that land? What does current colonization look like on that land? What has been the impact to indigenous people? The land and ecosystem?
3. Have there been any treaties relating to that land? How were they signed and how were they broken?
4. Were there any Indian boarding schools (forced residential schools) or missions here? When did they close?
5. When and how were Indigenous people killed, forcibly relocated or moved? Is this still happening? How?
6. Have indigenous people been forced to try to pass as white and/or assimilate into another culture in order to survive?
7. Did you know if any of the people around you when you were growing up were indigenous?
8. What did you/do you learn about Indigenous peoples in school?
9. Were you told stories in your family about indigenous people/ancestors? If so, were they true and what purpose do they serve?

10. What are local Indigenous people in your community or region organizing around/on?
11. Do Indigenous people in your area have stewardship/ownership/free and full access to their land?
12. Do Indigenous people in your area have access to stable, well-paying employment opportunities?
13. Do you or people you organize with have relationships with Indigenous communities or organizers? Are you interlinking your work with their work?
14. ** What watershed is connected to the place that you call home?

*Questions 1, 4, 5 and 8 are adapted from a hand out created by Qwul'sih'yah'maht, Robina Thomas, Lyackson of the Coast Salish Nation, Director, Indigenous Academic & Community Engagement, First Peoples House, University of Victoria. Robina also recommends the following readings in relation to this hand out:

- Maracle, Lee. (1993). An Infinite Number of Pathways to the Centre of the Circle. In Janice Williamson, *Conversations with Seventeen Canadian Women Writers*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, pp. 168-178.
- Memmi, Albert. (2000). Appendix C: The Relativity of Privilege. In *Racism*. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, pp. 197-203.

**Questions 1 and 14 are adapted from a suggestion by Corrina Gould, Chochenyo Ohlone organizer/activist from the Confederated Villages of Lisjan working to protect sacred sites in Ohlone ancestral land/ the Bay Area.