

~ Homework: Questions about “Home” ~

This worksheet was inspired by a hand out created by Qwul'sih'yah'maht, Robina Thomas (Lyackson of the Coast Salish Nation). It has been developed with input from Corrina Gould (Chochenyo Ohlone from the Confederated Villages of Lisjan), Johnella LaRose (Shoshone-Bannock), Nick Tilsen (Oglala-Lakota), Annie Morgan Banks and Chanelle Gallant.

The goal of this exercise is for non-native people to learn and reflect on the history and current struggles of Indigenous people, and to begin thinking about our role in colonization and decolonization. It is about changing the way we think about and relate to the land that we call home and to the people whose home this land is.

In researching the questions below, you can think about lands you spent some part of your childhood in, family lands, or where you presently live. While researching, be wary of your sources -- cross reference, look deeper, think if you know anyone you could ask whose knowledge you trust, reach out to people in your community who might know more. Sometimes Indigenous nations have a website and/or an office and can be contacted directly. If you are talking with Indigenous people, ask for consent beforehand, offer a gift of thanks, and think through ways you can reciprocate the time, energy and emotional labor that you are asking from people to speak about their own history of colonization and genocide. We encourage you to build strong, reciprocal relationships with Indigenous people in your area, and depending on the context, asking these questions may or may not be a good way to start or deepen a relationship. This is about unlearning/relearning, and also about the conversations we spark when we ask these questions. You can use the resource [Reclaiming Native Truth](#), an extensive research project led by Native people dispelling myths and misconceptions, and [check out this map](#) as a starter.

After you do the research please take the time to draw the place that you researched. Include Indigenous nations' territories, Indigenous place names, sacred sites, where Indigenous people are currently organizing, and the streams, creeks or rivers in your watershed. Take the time to let your hands understand what can be hard for our heads to grasp.

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?
3. What does current colonization look like on that land? What has been the impact to Indigenous people? The land and ecosystem?

4. Have there been any treaties relating to that land? Under what conditions were the treaties signed, according to the signatory Indigenous nations? How are these treaties being broken? Where would you find out what treaty responsibilities cover the lands that you live on (if those lands are under treaty)?
5. Were there any Indian boarding schools (forced residential schools, sometimes called 'industrial schools') or missions here? When did they close?
6. When and how were Indigenous people killed, forcibly relocated or moved? How is this still happening there? I.e. displacement through land theft, high rates of incarceration, police violence, missing or murdered Indigenous women, suicide, or other ways.
7. In your area, do indigenous people try to pass as white and/or assimilate into another culture in order to survive? Have they in the past?
8. What did you/do you learn about Indigenous peoples in school?
9. Are you told stories in your family about indigenous people/ancestors? If so, are 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 and water?
12. What watershed is connected to the place that you call home?
13. Do Indigenous people in your area have access to stable, well-paying employment?
14. Do you or people you organize with have relationships with Indigenous communities or organizers? Are you connecting your work with their work?
15. What are Indigenous organizers calling for - their visions or demands? What would achieving those visions mean for the place you call home? How can you work towards supporting those visions or demands?

Share your research with other people in your life. According to the research done with [Reclaiming Native Truth](#), 40% of Americans believe that Indigenous people no longer exist in the United States.