

Native Americans' Perceptions of Nature: Analyze, Evaluate, Construct

Compiled by the Center for Urban Education

Sources include: The United Association of Higaonon tribes, <http://www.unahi.org/>

CCSS R 8. Integration of Knowledge and Ideas Delineate and **evaluate the argument and specific claims** in a text, including the **validity of the reasoning** as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.

CCSSW1 Write **arguments** to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

The following quotations include statements by Native Americans from different tribes and times.

Our fathers had plenty of deer and skins, our plains were full of deer, also our woods, and of turkeys, and our coves full of fish and fowl. But these English having gotten our land, they with scythes cut down the grass, and with axes fell the trees, their cows and horses eat the grass, and their hogs spoil our clam banks, and we shall all be starved.

Speech by a Naragansett leader in 1642

Honor the Earth, our Mother. Honor all with whom we share the Earth: four-leggeds, two-leggeds, winged ones, swimmers, crawlers, plant and rock. Walk in balance and beauty.

Native American Elder

Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect.

Chief Seattle, 1854

When all the trees have been cut down; when all the animals have been hunted; when all the waters are polluted; when all the air is unsafe to breathe; only then will you discover you cannot eat money.

Cree Prophecy

I do not think the measure of a civilization is how tall its buildings of concrete are, But rather how well its people have learned to relate to their environment and fellow man.

Sun Bear of the Chippewa Tribe

ANALYZE

CCSS Anchor Reading Standard 2: Ideas and Information Determine **central ideas or themes** of a text and analyze their development; **summarize the key supporting details and ideas**.

What is the position they all share? What claim about Native Americans' relationship to nature could they all support?

EVALUATE

Which statement do you think provides the strongest support for the position? Why?

COMMUNICATE

What is YOUR position on people's relationship to nature? Outline your position, listing examples to support it. Then write to communicate that position. You can write a speech, poem, paragraph, or construct an illustration and caption.