TREC TOGETHER RISING AS AN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY

TREC DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION RESOURCE

Indigenous Lands Activity

This activity invites you to have a team discussion about the history of the lands you inhabit, the historical and present day contributions of the Indigenous peoples' in those territories, and the implications for our work as folks engaged in conservation. Consider this activity as an entry point to a much larger conversation for your team to have about colonialism and Indigenous histories - and the relationship between the two - the racist and exclusionary history of conservation, and the relationship between the Indigenous communities and the work you do.

Activity Type

- Pre-Work
- Reading/Video
- Large and small group discussion

Activity Time

- 90 minutes (3 hrs including Pre-work)

This activity is meant to be a starting point for organizations who are new to this topic to start to gain a foundation of knowledge and understanding. It can also be a moment to pause and regroup for organizations who are already interrogating their relationship to Indigenous lands. In both cases, the intention is that this resource will support an organizational commitment to ongoing learning and provide an opportunity to discuss the implications for your work as an organization.

Recommended Pre-work (90 minutes)

1. Using the Native-Land.ca website, have participants enter their home address to find the names of the territories and languages of the peoples who have cared for and honored the land that they reside on.

2. Take time to research the history of the territories and the Indigenous peoples' that have cared for the land. Many tribes have a website dedicated to sharing their history, current initiatives, and resources. Use the following prompts to guide your research:

   a. What is the history of this territory? What are the impacts of colonialism here?
   b. What is your relationship to this territory? How did you come to be here?
   c. How are the Indigenous peoples represented and engaged in this territory today? What initiatives are they working on? How are they advancing decolonization?

3. Now return to the Native Land website. Enter your organization's office address. You can also consider the areas where your organization provides programming if it is in a different community than where your office is located.

4. Return to question #2, and respond to the prompts.

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Main Activity (90 min)

1. Split into 3 groups. Assign one article or video per group:
    - Read Article: Indigenous Resistance (7 min)
    - Read Article: 'A Continuation of Colonialism' (10 min)
    - Watch Video: 2018 #GuardiansoftheForest Campaign (8 min 34 sec)

2. While in small groups, respond to the following debrief prompts. Choose one person to share your responses with the larger group.
    - What were your initial impressions?
    - What surprised you? What did you learn?
    - What questions did it raise for you?

3. Return to the full group. After each group shares their debrief responses, discuss the following prompts:
    - What is one takeaway from today that you want to apply to your individual work?
    - What is one takeaway from today that we can apply to our collective work as an organization?
    - What questions do you still have? What do you need to learn more about?

Additional Resources

- Cultural Survival, A non-profit that advocates for Indigenous Peoples' rights and supports Indigenous communities with several articles and resources for deeper learning.
- Decolonize: Returning to Our Ways of Being and Knowing Cultural Survival Presentation (120 min)
- Colonialism and the History of Conservation, TREC Webinar (90 minutes)
- US Conservation and Colonialism Timeline, TREC resource
- New Directions in Indigenous Land Management & Conservation, TREC Webinar (60 min)
- Indigenous people are the world's biggest conservationists, but they rarely get credit for it Vox Article (10 min read)
- There is No Such Thing as Pristine Nature New Yorker Article (5 min read)

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