

GREENEST

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Due on 10/27 at 6am PT. We will award up to 100 bonus points based on your creating a vibrant and mobilizing presentation.

Think

Keep believing. Keep marching. Keep building. Keep raising your voice. Every generation has the opportunity to remake the world. Mandela said, 'Young people are capable when aroused of bringing down the towers of oppression and raising the banners of freedom.'" ~ excerpted from the 44th President of the United States, Barack Obama, speech at the 2018 Nelson Mandela Annual Lecture

Challenge

Think about the issue that you honed in on during the previous challenge. For this challenge, we want you to go deeper.

Your task:

- **Prepare a class session on the social justice topic of your choice.**
 - Colonialism of Ecological Conservationism
- **Create an outline of your presentation**
 - *see below*
- **Raise different perspectives and then seek to find common ground for a group discussion. What might be the start of a solution to address this challenge?**
 - **Important Question for group discussion:** How does one strike a balance between seeking Environmental Justice for the planet and remedying Indigenous Injustices?

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- My opinion: To get Indigenous peoples directly involved and at the forefront of the environmental movement.
- **How can you as students learn together and from one another to rethink how we build community through social action and engagement?**
 - By engaging in discussions and bringing together a number of differing approaches (Indigenous, environmental, neutral) to the issue, I think we can learn together about what could be a potential approach in solving this rampant social issue.
- **Finally, if you are so inclined, use music, poetry, video or posters, etc. – art as a form of political expression – to introduce or conclude your presentation. This kind of creative expression has drawn people together for centuries to pay attention and change the way.**

Deliverables

- **Set a date before October 27th to host this session (get any permissions that you need)**
 - 25 October, 7:00 p.m. at EVO Residence Kitchen 525.
- **Write up a research agenda with articles, videos, documentaries, etc.**
 - Sources and Resources:
 - A powerpoint from a friend of mine who works as a liaison for Indigenous students at the University of Toronto. This same friend recommended many artists and art websites to me to use throughout my presentation.
 - Personal interest and research over many years: Much of my thoughts and emotions surrounding this issue comes from personal interest.
- **Include your teaching agenda**

TIME ALLOTTED	TOPIC(S) COVERED
1 minute	Land Acknowledgement
2 minutes	Society's perspective of environmentalism vs. Indigenous environmentalism
3 minutes	Introduction to the presentation
3 minutes	Definition of Colonialism
3 minutes	Description of Colonialism and engaging with audience
3 minutes	Talking about the potential trade-offs between choosing between Environmental Justice or Social Injustice as a main topic of focus: Discussion and Brainstorm Period
EXTRA: 3 minutes	Video
EXTRA:	Q & A period

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- **It should be a maximum of 15 minutes, but may prove to be the start of a working group that digs deeper and presents solutions to your school, community or organizations working on the topic.**
 - Environmental Rez Council
 - SSMU Environment
 - Rez Life and Rez Project
- **Share a summary of the conversation. Document your lecture with picture and video if possible.**
 - My presentation was very well received by my peers and friends. They had been very interested since the time I had written my Justice reflection a few weeks ago, and so they were glad to hear a more formal, in-depth presentation. They, too, know the Indigenous couple near my campus about which I wrote, and so I think this topic touched us close to home, in a way. It was interesting to hear all the different opinions surrounding the ways to approach this issue. Although some people had some variety in their thoughts on the social injustice I taught them about, most of us agreed that environmental progress was very important to keep up, and that social progress and environmental progress must go hand-in-hand in an advanced country like Canada. We thought that it would be a good idea for First-Year Residences at our university to talk about this sort of intersectionality at Rez Project (a mandatory orientation speaking on a number of social issues which often crop up on university campuses.).



BELOW IS THE POWERPOINT PRESENTATION I PREPARED AND USED:

Land Acknowledgement

We are currently located on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples, including the *Haudenosaunee* and *Anishinabeg* nations. Tonight, we want to honour, recognise, and respect these nations as the traditional stewards of the lands and waters on which we meet today.



What comes to mind when you think about environmentalism?





Did you at all consider First Nations' kinship with nature, the central tenet of their spirituality? No? That's is why colonialism of environmentalism is problematic.



Colonialism of Indigenous Ecological Conservationism

How to actively resist colonialism in the
form it takes within the western
environmental movement.

What is colonialism?

“Colonialism is the policy or practice of acquiring full or partial political control over another country, occupying it with settlers, and exploiting it economically.” (Google)

Colonialism can also be used to refer to social power and privilege, when used to usurp or undermine the value of another group’s traditions and cultures.

Colonialism is very much a problem regarding the Canadian First Nations community.

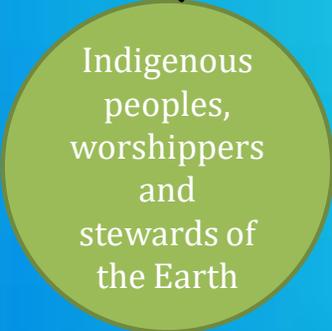
What am I talking about? When did colonialism begin?



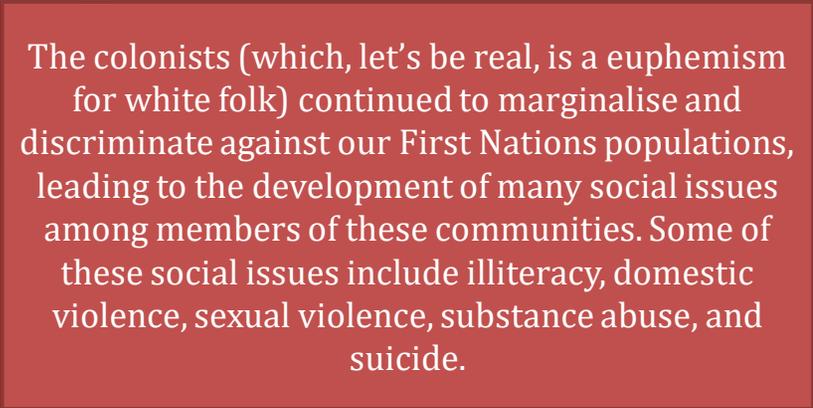
Indigenous
peoples,
worshippers
and
stewards of
the Earth

Colonists from Europe arrive to Canada, commit a genocide against many Indigenous tribes, take over the land of the Aboriginal peoples, exploit the resources and ruin the ecosystem to build up colonies and settlements, and then continue to mistreat the displaced First Nations peoples.

It continues:



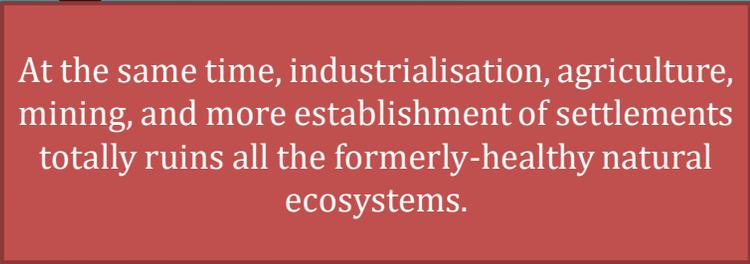
Indigenous peoples, worshippers and stewards of the Earth



The colonists (which, let's be real, is a euphemism for white folk) continued to marginalise and discriminate against our First Nations populations, leading to the development of many social issues among members of these communities. Some of these social issues include illiteracy, domestic violence, sexual violence, substance abuse, and suicide.



Nature



At the same time, industrialisation, agriculture, mining, and more establishment of settlements totally ruins all the formerly-healthy natural ecosystems.

**At this point, the environment is completely degraded,
and our planet is well on its way to climate
catastrophe.**

~~Indigenous
peoples
worshippers
and
stewards of
the Earth~~

White folk, after having continued to neglect the First Nations populations of Canada for centuries as they degraded the natural environment around them due to unsustainable farming and industrial methods, not to mention a definite lack of respect for nature and ecology.

~~Nature~~

Nature is dying. Climate change is looming on the horizon. We start to panic. What can we do to stave off this natural disaster?

“Aha!” say some forward-thinking leaders. “We’ve had a wonderful idea!

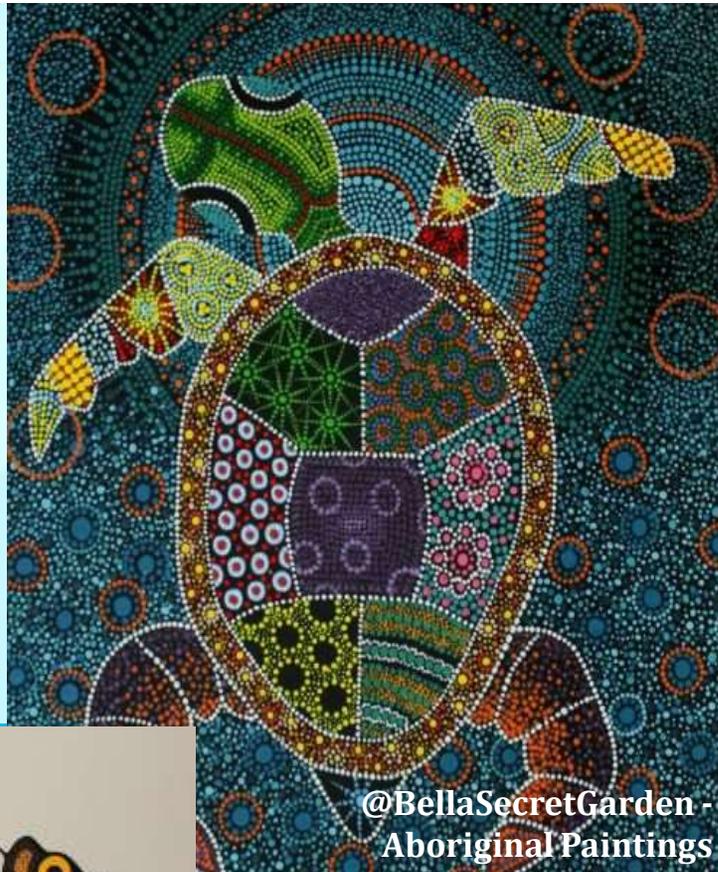
“Let’s be revolutionary Planet Pioneers, and become more environmentally conscientious to restore the Earth to its healthy state!”



→ And so was born the modern Western environmental movement, in the form of a fad which holds no regard to the respect for nature which First Nations culture had held for tens of thousands of years before our arrival and displacement of them into reservations.



Ritchie Sinclair - Stardreamer



@BellaSecretGarden -
Aboriginal Paintings



Aboriginal Art Canada
website



Kigita.ca



W' Dae B' Wae Creative Art

For Indigenous populations, culture, religion, art, society, and way of life have always been inextricably united with Nature.

Canadian Indigenous Population Statistics:

- ~1.4 million Aboriginal people in Canada
- Half of Aboriginal children live with both parents
- On-reserve First Nations people and Inuit most likely to live in crowded homes and homes requiring major repairs
- About half First Nations people have postsecondary qualifications
- First Nations people, Métis and Inuit in all age groups have higher rates of daily smoking than do their non-Aboriginal counterparts.

**As you can see from statistics from StatsCan,
Indigenous populations face many social
issues. Do they suffer from a Social Injustice?
Alas, yes.**

Environmental Justice, or Social Injustice?

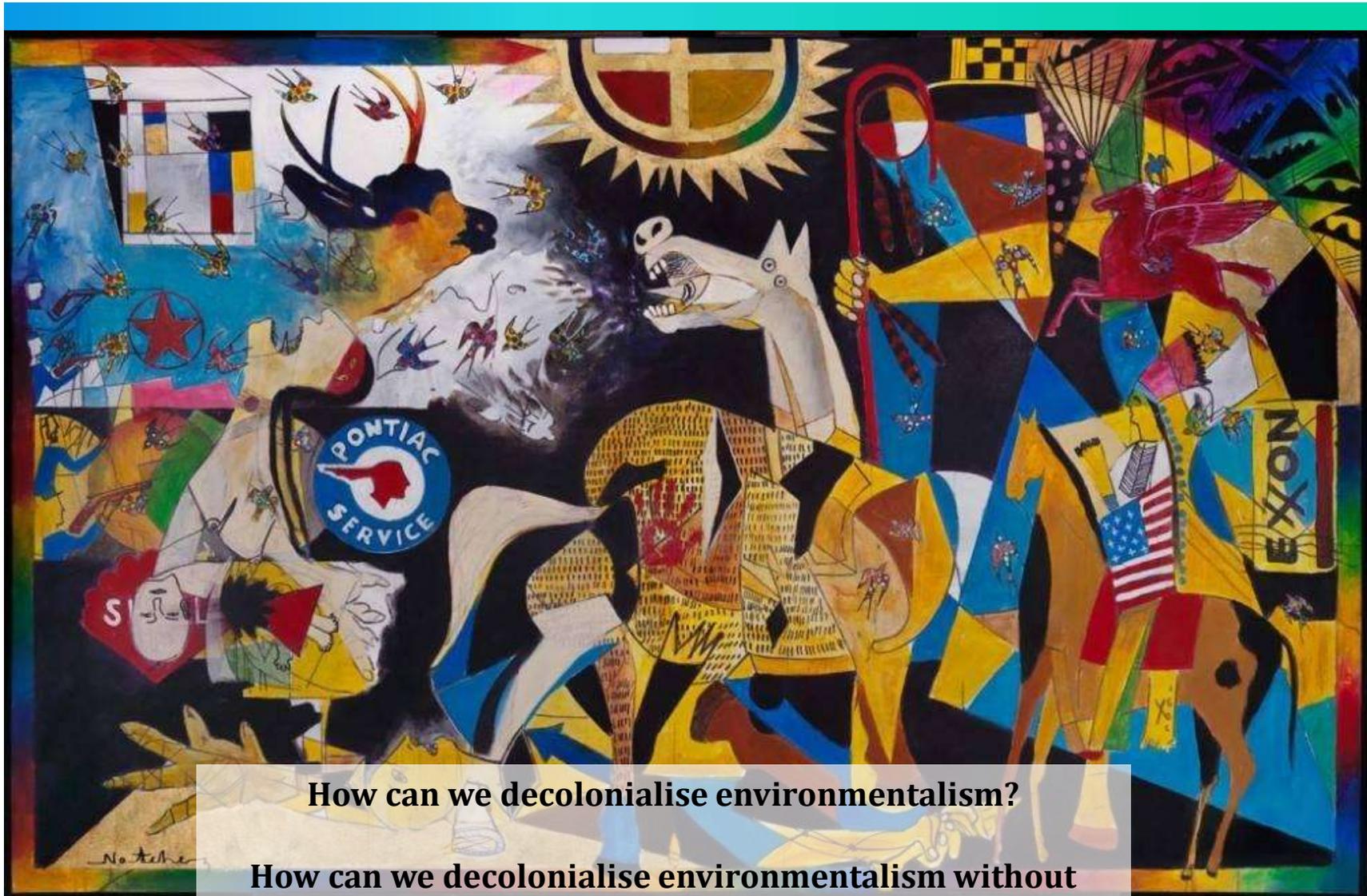
What do we choose?

In the current discussion surrounding climate change, environmental conscientiousness, and preservation of biodiversity, it's important that we don't lose momentum in the progress we've made in society and government.

However, how can we continue to advocate for sustainability and not override First Nations' role of stewardship for the planet?

Should we choose to turn our attention to Environmental Justice, or towards the Social Injustice?

Discuss and Brainstorm:



How can we decolonialise environmentalism?

How can we decolonialise environmentalism without stopping individual environmental efforts altogether?

**“Aboriginal people, not
environmentalists, are our best
bet for protecting the planet”**

~David Suzuki

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0qQQ2YquhD4>

First Nations: At One With Nature <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0qQQ2YquhD4>