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Day 13 greener

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Reflection: Learning from Indigenous Ecological Wisdom

For this challenge, I chose to learn from the **Zuni people** of the **American Southwest**, who have practiced **rainwater harvesting and sustainable dryland farming** for centuries. Their method, known as “**waffle gardening**,” uses small, bordered plots that capture and hold rainwater, allowing crops to thrive even in dry climates.

I was deeply inspired by how this ancient system works **with nature, not against it** — using simple designs and deep observation of the land. The Zuni farmers build respect into their farming, planting according to natural rhythms, conserving water, and nurturing soil health.

This reminded me of **traditional Bangladeshi farming wisdom**, like **raised-bed vegetable gardens** in flood-prone areas and **floating farms** in the haor wetlands, which also use nature’s cycles to adapt and survive. Both cultures teach that resilience and sustainability come from listening to the Earth, not controlling it.

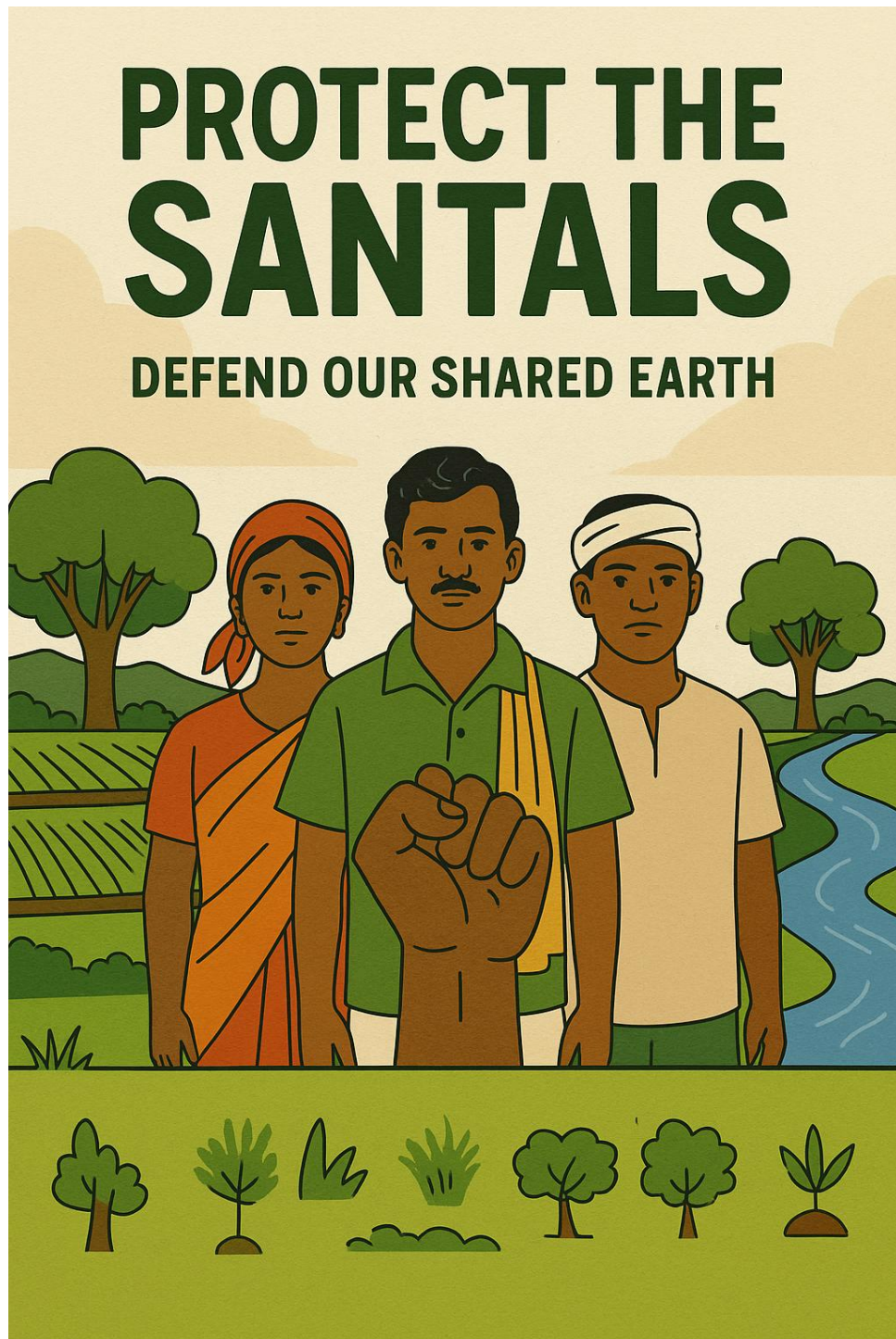
These Indigenous methods show that **modern climate solutions can succeed only if they respect local knowledge and community leadership**. Combining traditional wisdom with modern science can help us restore balance to our planet — one sustainable harvest at a time.

Reflection: The Santals of Bangladesh – Guardians of Land and Life

In Bangladesh, the **Santal (Saotal)** Indigenous community has lived close to the land for generations, practicing sustainable farming, forest care, and deep respect for nature. Yet today, their ancestral lands are under threat from **deforestation, industrial expansion, and land grabbing**. Many Santal families have been evicted or displaced as large-scale projects and brickfields replace fertile fields and forests. This is not only a human rights issue but also an environmental one — as forests disappear, local biodiversity and soil health suffer.

Despite these challenges, the Santals continue to **organize and resist peacefully**. They form community groups to defend their land rights, promote **traditional agroecology**, and partner with environmental activists and NGOs to raise awareness. Through cultural festivals, storytelling, and local protests, they remind everyone that the land is not a commodity — it is **life itself**.

Their courage teaches me that **Indigenous leadership is about resilience, unity, and love for the Earth.** The Santals show that protecting land means protecting culture, climate, and community. Their struggle matters to all of us because climate justice cannot exist without **Indigenous justice.** Every tree saved, every voice defended, protects our shared future.



Call to Action:

Support the Santals by amplifying their stories — share their voices on social media, sign petitions for Indigenous land protection, and demand policies that respect Indigenous sovereignty in Bangladesh and beyond.

Ancient Wisdom for a Modern Climate



Zuni farmers in
New Mexico use
these earth squares
to save water and
grow crops in dry lands



Floating farms in
Bangladesh —
another way people
live in harmony
with water



Traditional wisdom + modern adaptation
= climate resilience

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Instagram link: https://www.instagram.com/x_nature360/