



Stewardship from the Amah Mutsun Perspective

Time needed: 70 minutes

Purpose

Guiding Question: What does environmental stewardship mean to members of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band?

This activity introduces students to the current stewardship work of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band. It asks students to critically engage with thinking about what stewardship and care mean from the tribe's perspective. Students will witness the tribe partnering with local environmental organizations and state agencies. They will be asked to identify how and why these partnerships have formed and what different perspectives each partner brings to the work.

Standards Alignment *(for more details see Standard Alignment document):*

- CCSS.ELALiteracy.RI.9-10.3
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.9-10.4
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.9-10.6
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.9-10.1.a
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.9-10.6
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.9-10.2
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.4
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.6
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.11-12.4
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.9
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.4
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.9-10.4
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.9-10.8

Materials

- Film "[Here and Now](#)" by the Bay Area Open Space Council (18 minutes). "Here and Now weaves together social justice, land conservation, human history, and scientific knowledge into a cohesive and moving story about what's possible by working together. We learn about four innovative partnerships between Native Americans and land conservation organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area."
- Here and Now Worksheet (below)
- Article "[Rekindling Old Ways: The Amah Mutsun and the Recovery of Traditional Ecological Knowledge](#)" by Mary Ellen Hannibal. April 2016.
- [Description of Mission and Values](#) on the Amah Mutsun Land Trust website

Directions

1. Describe to students that for thousands of years the Amah Mutsun stewarded, or took care of, the land of Juristac, caring for and utilizing the plants, animals, and water. Today the tribe is actively working to regain access to tribal lands, to be able to continue this stewardship work. Their ancestors depended on the environment to live, and it was their sacred responsibility to care for nature. Today, the Amah Mutsun are reclaiming and relearning traditional stewardship practices.
2. Ask students to watch the film [Here and Now](#). During the film students can use the Here and Now worksheet (below) to answer questions. Ask students to review the worksheet before the film begins.
3. After finishing the film, students should read the Bay Nature article "[Rekindling Old Ways: The Amah Mutsun and the Recovery of Traditional Ecological Knowledge](#)" by Mary Ellen Hannibal.
4. Students should also be introduced to the Amah Mutsun Land Trust [website](#).
5. Ask students to critically reflect on what stewardship has meant to the Amah Mutsun through the development of a reflective essay answering a selection of the following questions:
 - How do the Amah Mutsun define stewardship in the film and in the article?
 - What is the connection between spirituality and stewardship?
 - What are examples of their work and how do they demonstrate this definition?
 - What obstacles have the Amah Mutsun faced in practicing their traditional values?
 - What is your relationship with environmental stewardship?
 - Does your family discuss environmental stewardship? If so, how is it understood or discussed?
 - Is environmental stewardship connected to cultural, spiritual, or emotional practices or histories in your family or community?
 - Which of the speakers or stories in the film or article particularly resonated with you? Why?
 - To what extent do you think that governmental and environmental organizations should support the stewardship work of the Amah Mutsun?

Materials:

Here and Now Film Analysis Worksheet

1. What direct quotes from the film were most impactful for you on the subjects of stewardship and care for nature? (list at least two)
2. Identify what conservation organizations are partnering with the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band to expand their stewardship opportunities. What can you say about how and why these partnerships have formed? What different perspectives are each of the partners bringing to the work? (Name at least two partner organizations and answer the questions for each partner)
3. How has the landscape of Quiroste Valley changed since the time before colonization when the Quiroste tribe was more actively stewarding the land?
4. What is the significance of Mount Umunhum for the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band?
5. What advice does Chairman Lopez give to land owners and managers around minute 14:50 in the film? What is your opinion of this advice?
6. What do you think the relationship is between the Tribe's spirituality and environmental stewardship?