

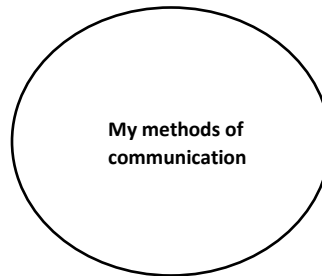
Name: _____

Date: _____

Social Studies 8

Land, Culture and Communication: How does the environment impact the lives of peoples in Japan and North America?

1: To begin, you are going to brainstorm some of the ways in which you communicate with your family, friends, peers and the world around you. Starting with the circle below, branch out with as many ways as you can think of. If there are any connections between the ways of communicating that you can think of, please sketch in the connections.



Refer to the two Youtube/Vimeo clips detailing some of the backgrounds and histories of the Ainu and Dene peoples.

United Nations, the Ainu peoples: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fKZOmRNarj8>

Dene Language and the Tale of the Raven: <https://vimeo.com/231130506>

As you watch both clips, record ideas or topics you saw in each video, record any thoughts that you had while watching, and record about what you would like to know more about in each video.

See	Think	Wonder

Consider why both languages and cultures were endangered? How are the stories and cultures being preserved for the Ainu and Dene Peoples? How are stories vital for preserving a culture's identity?

2. Take 30 seconds to a minute to brainstorm about the following prompt:

How does the land and environment around me impact my life?

For many Indigenous peoples, identity is rooted in the natural world. The Ainu of Japan not only revere nature, but see it as the source of many elements of their culture.

“Our culture and language are inspired by nature and so is our art.”

- **Kayano Shigeru, first Ainu member of the Diet (Parliament) of Japan**

The Dene of Canada also see a relationship between the environment and people. They believe that the land is so powerful that it can impact the identity of the people who live on it.

“One of my Elders told me a situation. He said we can get rid of the Dene people in Denendeh (traditional Dene lands), we can all die off for some reason, but if there was another human being that came stumbling along and came to Denendeh, the environment would turn him into a Dene person. It’s the environment and the land that make us Dene people.”

- **Roy Fabian, Hay River, Northwest Territories. Excerpt from the report of the Canadian Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples**

In the chart below, detail some of the main ideas about land, culture, and environment from each quotation:

Ainu	Dene

What effect do you think the Ainu and Dene way of thinking would have on how they treated people who were newcomers to their lands?

To what extent are both the Ainu and the Dene using stories and songs to preserve their language?