

# Bell Work



# CULTURAL CONTACT AND WORLD VIEWS

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Social Studies 10: Chapter 6

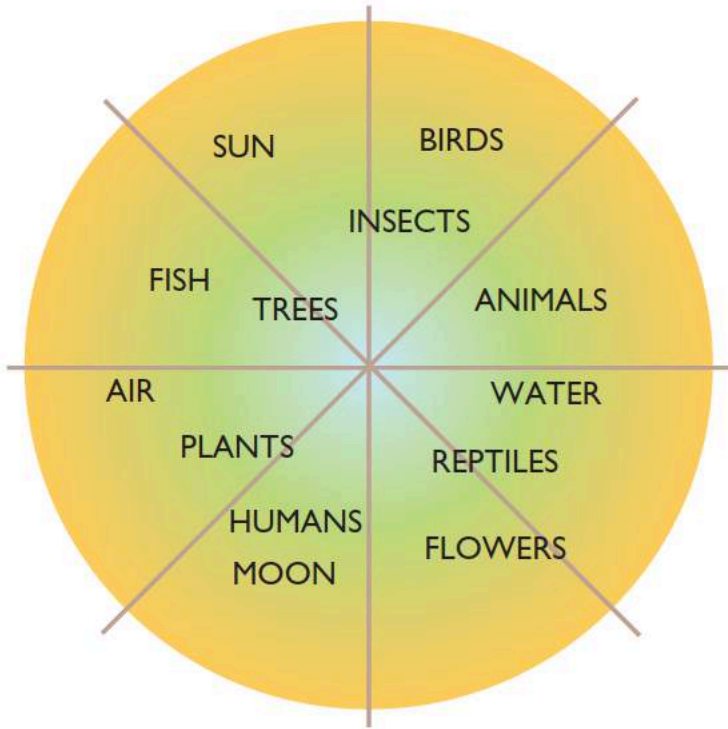
# Exposure to different cultures and worldviews

- How many of you have travelled? How many have ever travelled to a place that was unfamiliar.... How different were the languages, customs, beliefs, and traditions than your own? How did you feel? Now you can research about the place you're going to but what do you think happened hundreds of years ago before modern communication? How might have different cultures reacted when they met people who were very different from themselves?

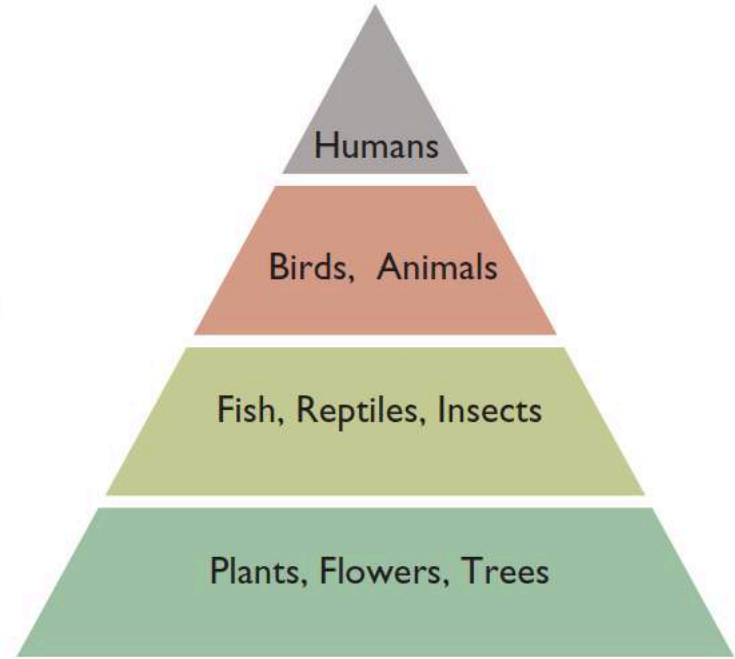


# Worldviews

- Everyone has a world view—that is, a way of interpreting the present, understanding the past, and imagining the future. Your world view reveals your attitudes, beliefs, and values. At the time of contact, Aboriginal peoples and Europeans had very different world views.
- **Cultural Contact:** The interaction of two or more *independent* cultures.
- What's the keyword in this definition? Why do you think that word is important?



**Aboriginal World View**



**European World View**

The Aboriginal world view is a web of life in which all living things are in harmony with one another and all are equal partners. The European world view, at the time of first contact, was a pyramid in which humans were at the top dominating all other things beneath them.

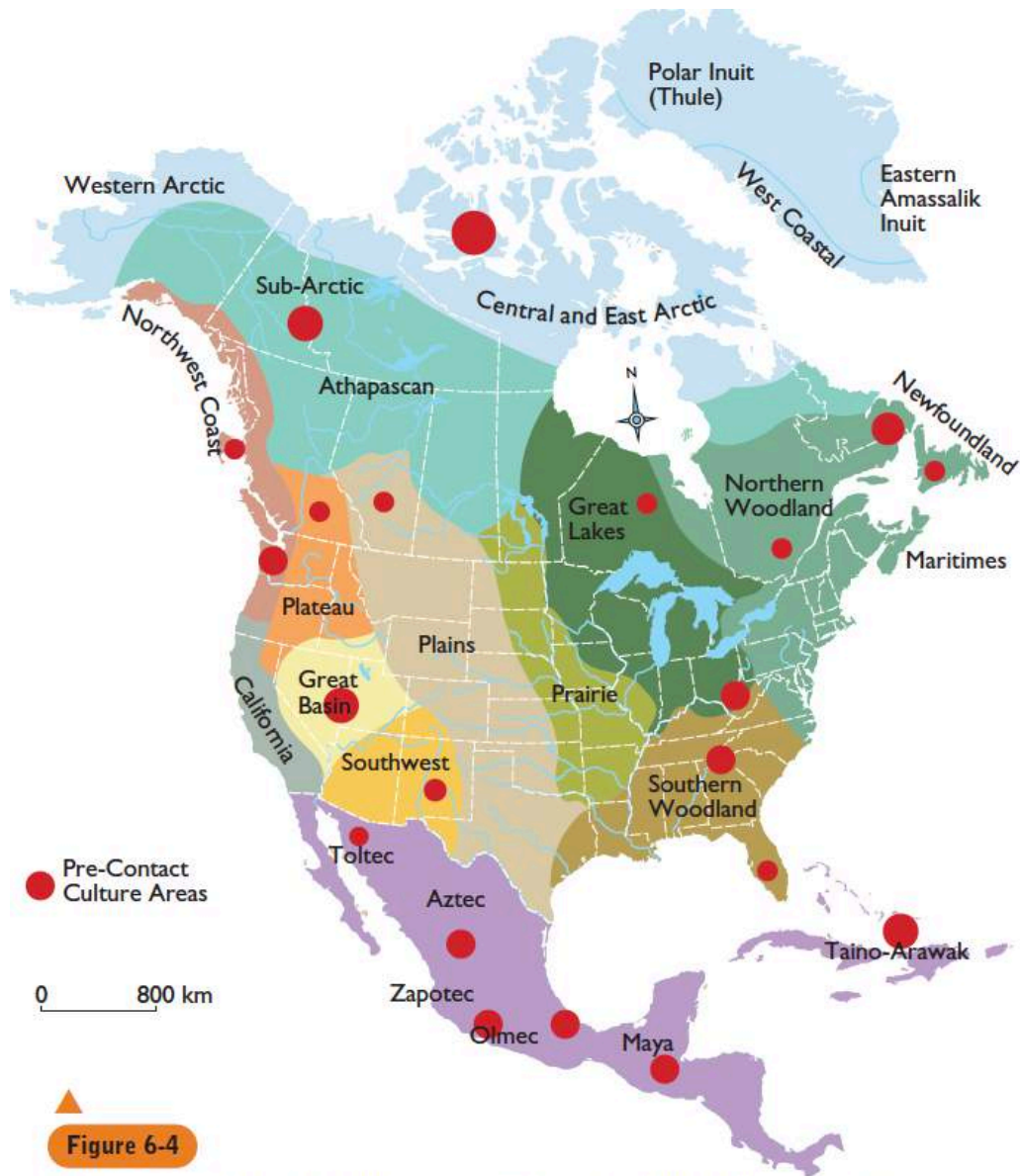
**What impact do you think these different world views may have had following contact?**



# Indigenous Groups

- At the time of early contact, Indigenous peoples were part of a complex network of independent nations living across the Americas.
- They spoke many different languages and had many different systems of governance. They held a variety of spiritual beliefs and had established long-standing alliances and rivalries.
- Although each nation was unique, they shared similar philosophies and world views in which they lived in harmony with nature. They were part of their natural environment, and respected it as they relied upon it. The land was there for everyone to share.





**Figure 6-4**

This map shows the major cultural areas of more than 500 Indigenous nations in North America before contact with Europeans. Compare this map with a map of the physical features of North America. What does this suggest about Indigenous peoples' relationship with their environment?



# European Ambitions

- At the time of contact, the most powerful nations of Europe were competing with one another for economic and military supremacy. Their ambitions prompted them to seek power and wealth beyond their own horizons. As they did, they found lands that were previously unknown to them, and they claimed ownership of these lands for their monarchs. They also set out to spread the Christian faith and European values to all parts of the world. **What would be the consequences when these two cultures met?**





# Examples of Cultural Contact from Around the World

- North America – Canada – The Beothuk People
- Australia's Indigenous Peoples
- The Scramble for Africa





How did the film make you **feel**?

**Why** did it make you feel this way?

Does it make you **wonder** anything?

Does it make you consider what it must be like  
on **the other side** of this situation?

## Discussion Question

Although modern, how similar do you think this scenario would be to original 'first contact' situations?



# Cultural Contact: Europeans and First Nations Peoples

- Europeans arrived in North America in the 1500's and came in contact with the First Nations Peoples
- As time went on, contact became more frequent...



# Beothuk People (bay-AH-thuk)

- A group of First Nations warriors who lived on the coasts of Newfoundland who **vanished** after contact with the Europeans
- Limited first contact... entered into a system of “**silent bartering**”
- Europeans slowly started taking over more land and the Beothuk’s **traditional food supplies slowly started diminishing**
- To obtain the goods they needed, the Beothuk began raiding the European’s villages... the Europeans retaliated and attacked and killed Beothuk

Starvations, firearms, diseases and a decline in natural resources leads to the death of almost all Beothuk...

**By 1829, there were no Beothuk left.**

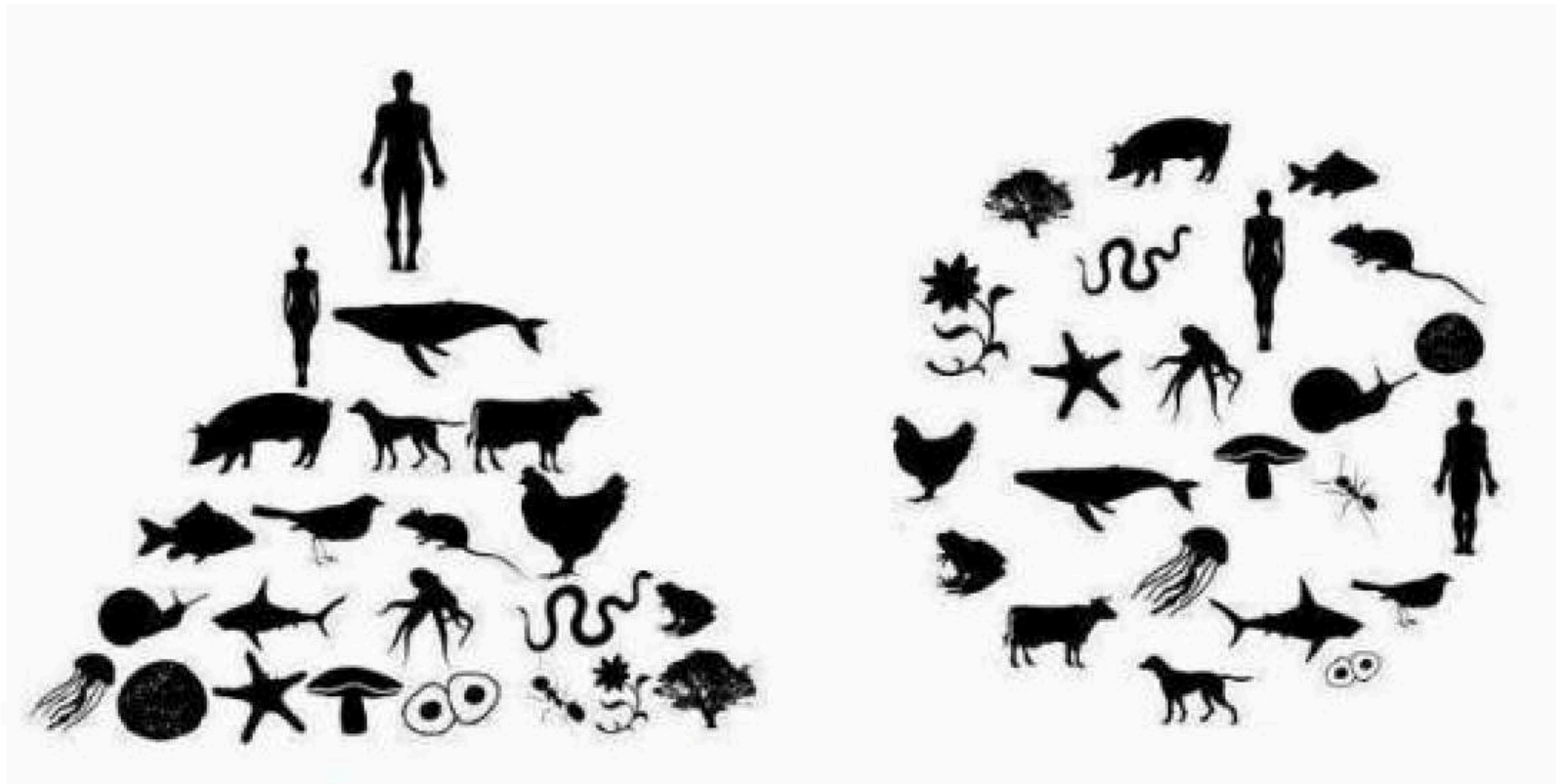
## Discussion Question

Do you think the Beothuk and Europeans could have lived together?



**World View:** A philosophy of life  
and way of seeing the world

# World Views



# Exit Slips

## Your World View

Do you have a distinct world view? What do you think is a fundamental part of your world view?

## I'm wondering...

Is there something you're wondering about after our film and discussion today about cultural contact and world views? Or something you want to know more about?