



NATIVE AMERICANS

Protectors of Nature

By Class 4-219 at C.S. 154

The Harriet Tubman Learning Center



BEHIND THE BOOK/NEW YORK





NATIVE AMERICANS Protectors of Nature



By Class 4-219 at C.S. 154

The Harriet Tubman Learning Center



BEHIND THE BOOK/NEW YORK



Behind the Book's mission is to develop engaged readers and writers in underserved NYC public schools by designing and delivering programs that are multi-disciplinary, culturally responsive, and promote deeper connections to books and their authors.



Visit us at www.behindthebook.org

© 2022 Behind the Book
Behind the Book
216 West 135th Street
New York, NY 10030

We would like to thank two of our generous funders: The Guru Krupa Foundation, whose contribution made this program possible, and The Korein Foundation, who supported the creation and publication of this class book.

In the interest of honoring student voice, Behind the Book presents students' work as received from the teacher.

VISITING AUTHOR: Carole Lindstrom

TEACHER: Yvonne LaRoche

PRINCIPAL: Elizabeth Jarrett

VOLUNTEERS:

Jodi Brockington
Adet Gernay
Eric Lenkowitz
Ann Levine
Brad Rodney
Nomi Schwartz
Jo Umans

TWITTER VOLUNTEERS:

Liz Burr
Tianzhi Chen
Jisha Dymond
Jessica Erlikh
Ivelyn Gomez
Lily He
Alex Osberg
Karl Robillard
Shubha Swamy
Bhavita Trivedi
Karen Walsh

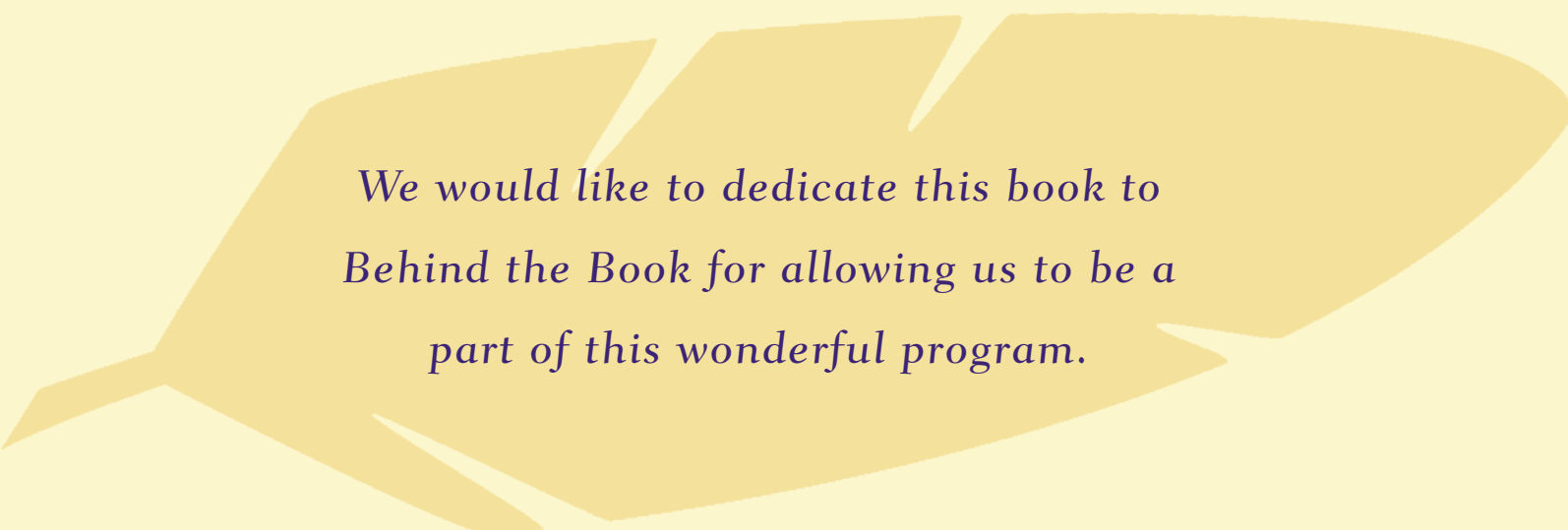
Program Coordinator: Myra Hernández

Teaching Artist: Maria Tapia

Book Design Coordinator: Adriana Moreno

Book Designer: Maryellen Tseng

Printing: PDC Graphics; coordinated by Melissa Tessein



*We would like to dedicate this book to
Behind the Book for allowing us to be a
part of this wonderful program.*

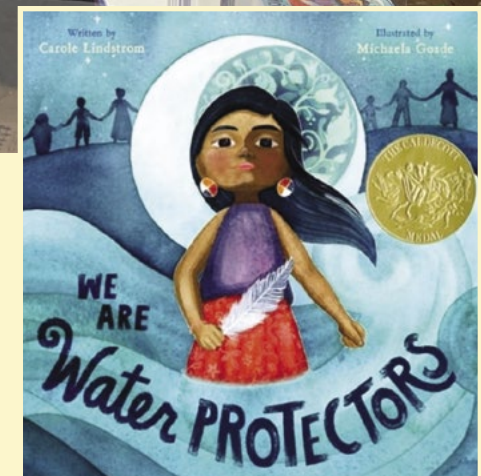
ABOUT THE PROGRAM

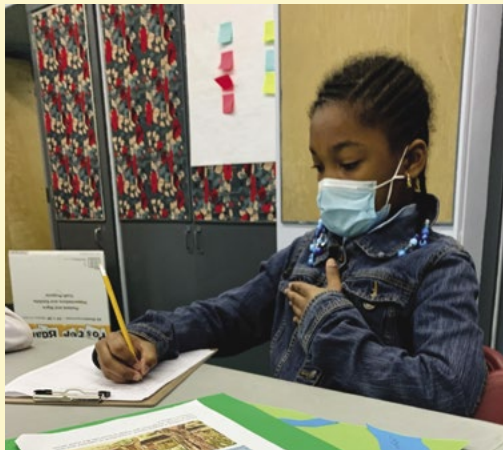
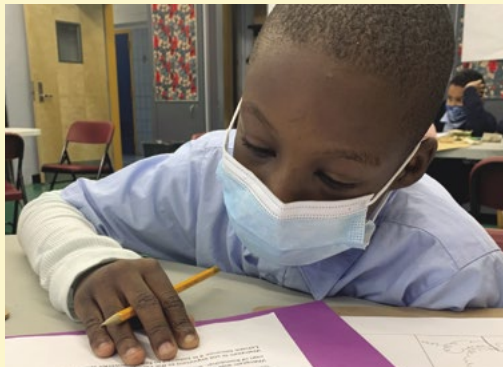


What is our relationship to the land and why does it matter?

This is the essential question the students of Class 4-219 set out to answer as they read, *We Are Water Protectors* by Carole Lindstrom, an award winning picture book written in response to the Dakota Access Pipeline protests.

The students read the story of an Ojibwe girl who fights against an oil pipeline in an effort to protect the water supply of her people. Carole virtually visited the class and shared what the meaning of stewardship means to Indigenous people and how her book was inspired by the many Indigenous-led movements across North America.

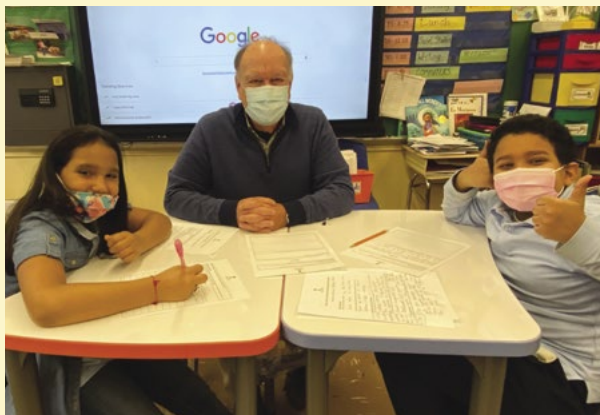
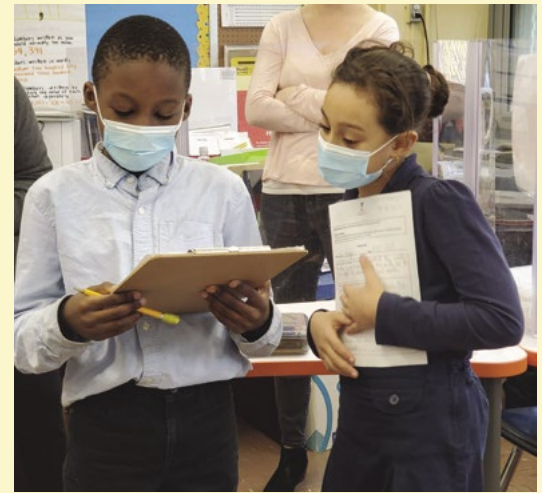




To learn more about Native peoples' relationship with the land, the students went back in time to the 17th century to conduct research on the Lenape of New York and how they lived long ago. Through their research, students learned that the Lenape historically depended on the land for food, shelter, and clothing. This dependence resulted in a deep knowledge and connection with the land that continues to influence Lenape culture and identity. Students then researched Indigenous-led responses to environmental challenges today.

Working with volunteers, the students wrote informative essays on what they learned about Native stewardship and what we can do to care for and protect our Earth.

A Behind the Book Teaching Artist led the class in exploring Native protest art and textiles to learn more about Native culture, values, and symbolism. The students then created their own fabric shields inspired by Native textile arts. We hope this student book inspires you to learn more about Native peoples across North America and join them in their efforts to protect and care for our precious Earth!



CONTENTS

Abdoulaye	6
Angie	8
Asaad	10
Brielle	12
Dafny	14
Deyalise	16
Hayden	18
Jessmarie	20
Leland	22



Lujain	24
Melanie	26
Othman	28
Phillip	30
Shalimar	32
Yara	34
Youssef	36
Yusnelly	38
Zamir	40



Abdoulaye

A Steward is a protector
of earth. I learn that the men hunt for
the food. The Lempe people made the
home from trees it is called the
wigwam. They made clothes out of
bird feathers and animal skin.
Native Americans thought the land was
important so they took care of it.
Native Americans today take care of the water
by protesting against the Black Snake.
To care for the earth I can use less paper
to help save the trees.
It is important to be a steward
because we live on Earth.

Angie

A steward is a person who takes care of the earth and nature. Native Americans lived in New York many years ago. One fact is that many years ago Native American woman had to take care of children, homes, cook, and plant. Another fact is that native Americans would use young trees to make a home called a wigwam. In addition native Americans would also use tree trunks to make canoes. People would also use resources they found in nature for medicine and would also use them to heal themselves. The native Americans relationship with the earth is very special because they love earth and it gives them lots of things. They also use nature wisely without being wasteful. The native Americans are caring for earth

today by protecting water, nature, and animals from the oil pipe. They are also replanting so there is more nature. To care for the earth we can stop cutting down trees and try to plant more nature and stop littering near animals territories or anywhere. Also if we cut down trees use it wisely. It is important to be a steward because if we don't care for earth then important things in nature like trees, coral reefs, plants, flowers, and more can be destroyed if we don't take care of the earth.





Asaad

A steward is a person who takes care of the earth and the point is to help the earth, like picking up trash, protesting for cleaner water and protecting the trees and plants.

The native americans who called New York home many years ago were called the Lenape. One fact was The women would take care of the kids and farm crops and cook the crops for food. The men went hunting for animals like deer and turkey. They also fished for fish. Another fact was they used plants to heal their wounds and when they are sick. Also the Lenape used the wampum and it was very smooth since it was a shell. They used it as money and jewelry.

The Native American's relationship with the earth is that they love the water and want to have cleaner water. They help clean the earth and they are stewards of the earth.

The native Americans are caring about the earth by protesting for the people to stop littering in the water and stop putting oil pipes in the water so they have cleaner water to drink.

What we can do to care about the earth is by stop using gas power cars and instead run or walk and take care of the plants.

It is important to be a steward because earth is the only place we have so far. So if we don't stop not caring for our earth we will damage the planet earth.

Brielle

To be a steward, it means to care for earth, protecting the environment and nature.

Native Americans called New York their home a long time ago. Women and men had different roles. Such as taking care of the household work for women, and for men they would go hunting and fishing. Another fun fact about Native Americans is they do not waste animal skin or bones.

In addition, Native Americans had to use nature they never had technology back then. They never had a supermarket so men would hunt for food.

Back then they thought women couldn't do what men could do so women stayed at home doing with household work. When the men went to go hunt and fish for food.

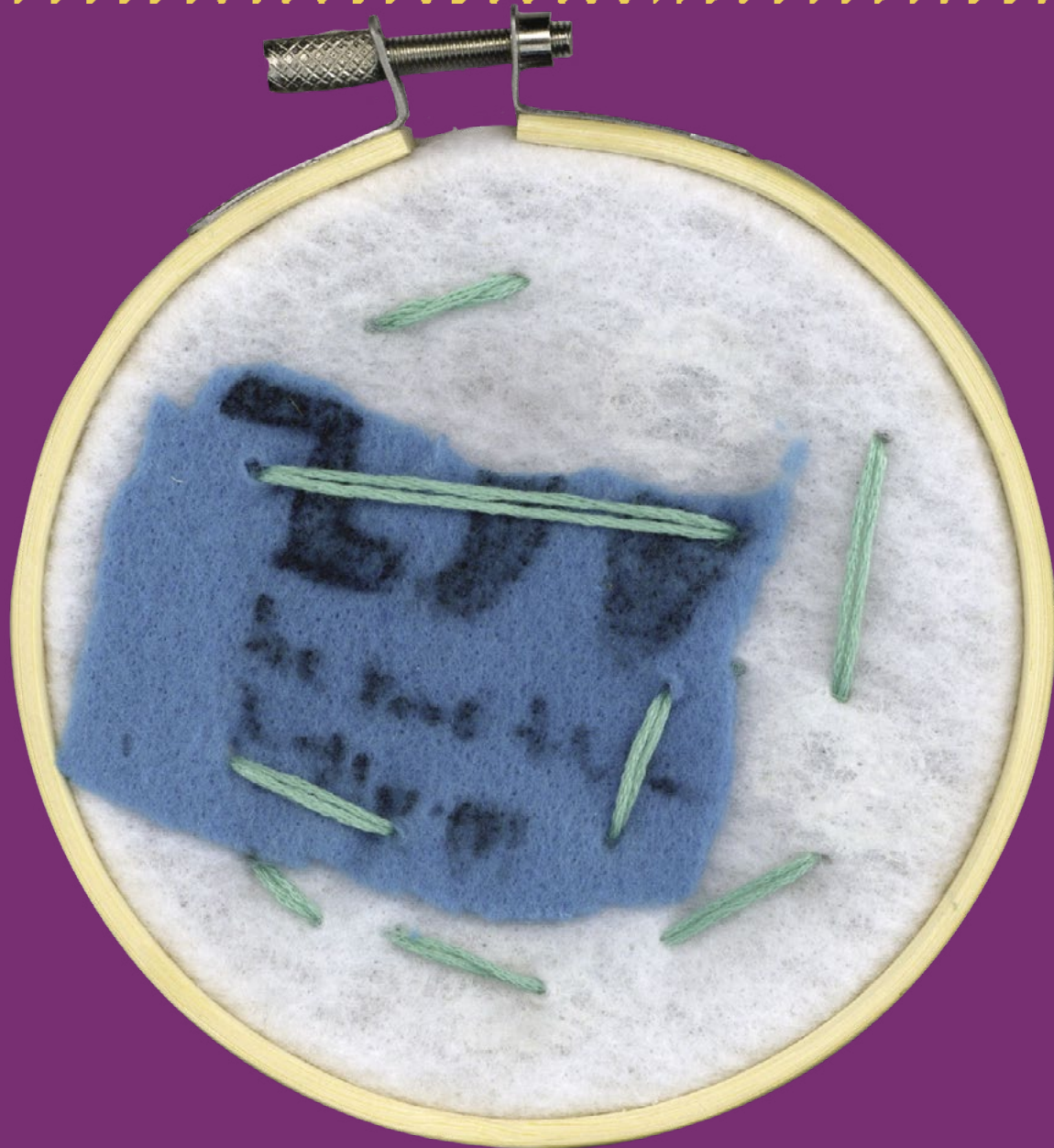
Native Americans respect the earth because they need things in nature for their own survival and so the things in nature don't die.

Native Americans today are taking care of planet earth today by making sure everything in nature doesn't die.

For example they replant the seeds.

To take care of the planet earth I can replant the seeds of plants or trees and give them everything they need. And trying not to kill them myself. I can raise awareness about animals from going extinct.

It's important to be a steward for the planet earth is because it's important to care for the earth and nature.





Dafny

En inglés la palabra "steward" se significa a las personas que cuidan al medio ambiente. También cuidan a la Naturaleza.

En el pasado las personas indígenas de Nueva York se llamaban el Lenape. Las mujeres indígenas vivían en la casa y hacían la comida. Los hombres salían a cazar animales. Las mujeres hacían ropa llamada Capa hecho de piel de venado y plumas de pava. Las personas Indígenas colectaban conchas del mar llamada Wampum. Las personas indígenas utilizaban el Wampum para crear sus collares y aretes. Los hombres hacían canoas de tallos de arbol para ir de paseo. La Relación de las Personas Indígenas con la naturaleza era muy fuerte porque la naturaleza les dio de comer, de beber, y materiales para hacer canoas, casa y joyería.

Hoy las personas Indígenas siguen tratando de salvar la Naturaleza como en Standing Rock.

sus personas quieren proteger la agua de la culebra negra. es un tipo de gasolina. No lanzar líquidos y desechos contaminados porque puede dañar. Es importante cuidar la naturaleza porque, sin ella nosotros nos podemos extinguir fácil y rápido.

Deyalise

What it means to be a steward is someone who cares about Earth, the trees, water, plants and who clean the trash. They will protest for what they need and who cares about others.

The Native Americans who lived in New York many years ago wore deerskin capes. The men hunted deers, turkey, and they use knives made out of rocks and they use those knives to remove fish bones. They also used plants to heal them selves. Native Americans traveled using canoes. The canoes are made out of tree bark.

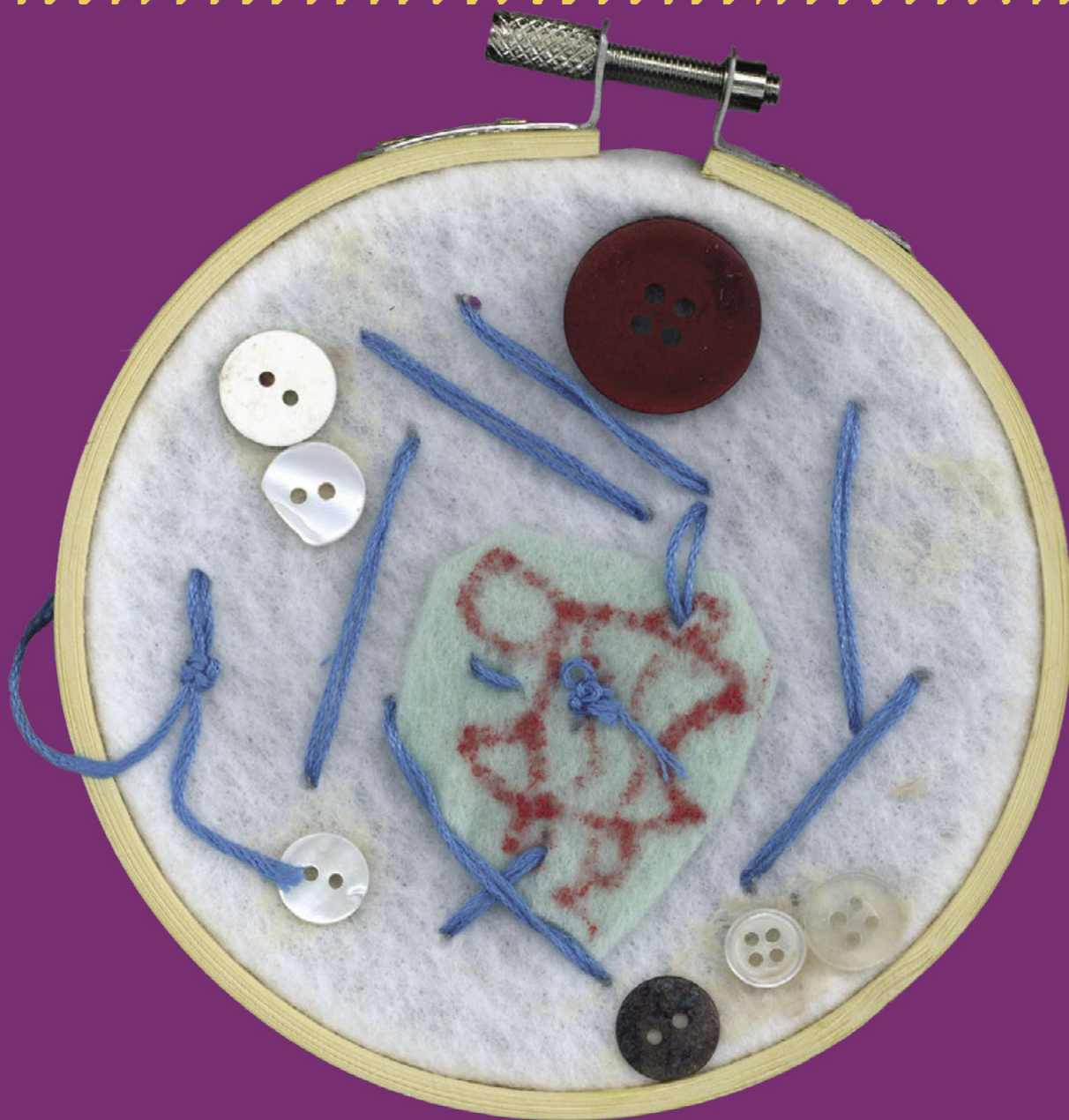
Native Americans relationship with Earth is keep Earth clean and love Earth. They want to have clean water and stop people from littering.

Native Americans are caring by trying to pick up trash, and try to plant more trees for more oxygen to breathe. They also protect the water by keeping the oil out.

What we can do to care for the Earth is help pick up trash so that it doesn't go to the ocean and harm the animals. We can also plant more trees for more oxygen.

It is important to be a steward because they help the environment and so humans can continue living on earth.





Hayden

To be a steward means to protect the earth we live on and to care for it as if we can't, we won't be here in the future.

Native americans lived here long ago. For example, women had to cook, care for the babies and build wigwams. And men had to hunt and get food. Also, everyone had to be a steward and plant trees to protect earth and make sure the water is clean. So, they used nature wisely and used its resources to survive. As a result, they lived off of nature and had to hunt to get food. They also made canoes and wigwams from things out of nature.

Native americans relationship with the earth was how they cared for the earth because they rely on it. For example, they took care of water. They also planted trees. And they did that also because they need water and trees.

Native americans today are caring for the earth by having to fight against the black snake. Also the black snake is the delaware access pipeline. They also plant

trees and make sure the water is clean today so. To care for the earth we can plant trees, recycle, clean up trash and more! we can make sure water is healthy and take care of gardens to make plants sustainable.

It is important to be a steward of the earth because we need the earth to live and we are its caretakers and if we were not caring for the planet we live on, earth wouldn't be as healthy.

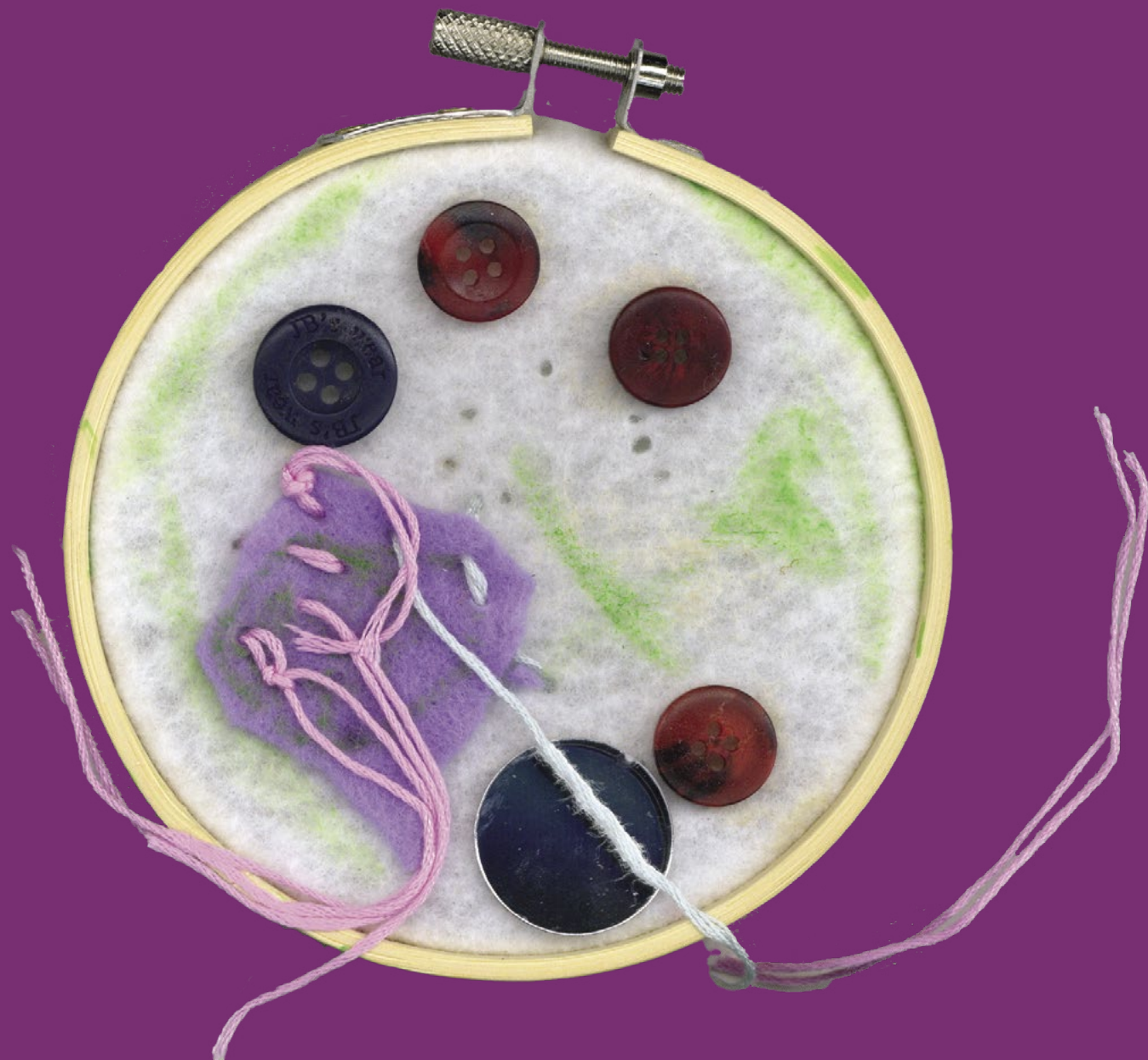
Jessmarie

A steward is a person who protects people, the land, and the community.

Long ago Native Americans used to live in New York. They used trees to make really cool items like baskets. Native Americans also made clothes out of skin from deer. Another interesting fact is the women's job is to take care of kids, cook, and garden. The men's job is to hunt for food and protect their family. Native Americans' relationship with the earth is they protect the water, trees, and in return they get food to eat and water to drink and make a home, Native Americans.

Today care for the earth. They are trying to defeat a pipe line called the black snake and it's full of oil. To care for the earth I can pick up the trash and help turn the water off and protect the trees.

To be a steward. It is important because animals can get stuck in plastic and can die and that's why it's important to be a steward to be a steward we need to protect the water, and trees because if not water will run out and trees will be cut down.





Leland

* A steward is a person who takes care of the earth and a stewardship is someone who has the job of taking care of the earth.

Native Americans lived in New York many years ago the Lenape men hunted animals like deer to get food for the family. When the Lenape men are hunting the Lenape women were planting corn, squash and beans. The Lenape used to hunt for animals to make clothing. They also used plants to heal that's why they were special.

They care about the earth because they need water and if the black snake happens to destroy the water they will die from dehydration. The black snake is a pipeline that goes through the water.

One way Native Americans are taking care of the earth is by replanting black ash trees so they regrow. The black ash trees are important because they are used for making baskets and that's a part of their heritage.

To take care of the earth we can not litter because that's making the earth dirty. We can also not cut down trees so the animals are not gone and we lose oxygen when we cut it down.

It is important to be a steward because if we don't protect the earth humans and animals will lose their homes.

Lujain

What it means to be a steward is to protect the earth by using natural resources to survive.

The Native Americans lived in New York a long time ago. One fact is Native Americans used trunk's from trees to make canoes. Another fact is the Lenape used young trees to make homes called "Wigwam". In addition, the women used capes made out of feathers. Finally, All women were the ones who took care of cooking, planting, and taking care of the children.

The relationship between the Native Americans and the earth is that they never wasted anything. They made sure nature was in good condition.

Today, Native Americans are caring for the earth.

For example, the book We are Water Protectors by Carole Lindstrom talks about how the "black snake" affected their land. The "black snake" is a pipeline. The Native Americans protested to make sure the pipeline does not reach their water.

To care for the earth, we need to pick up trash from the floor to keep it from going into the ocean. If it does, animals will go extinct because of that. For example, we need to start saving trees by not wasting paper.

It is important to be a steward of the earth because we only have 1 earth. Also we have other people in the future that need the earth.





Melanie

A steward is a person who protects the important things like trees, water and the animals.

Native Americans lived in new York long ago. Women have to cook, plant and take care of their babies. The men have to kill animals and fish so they could eat.

Another fact about Native Americans is that they lived in wigwams homes made out of trees. The men dressed up in bear skin and mask to heal the sick ones.

The Native Americans have to protect the earth so they could have all the resources they need. They are also ^{not} going to cut all the trees because they need trees to breathe.

Native Americans are working hard to

keep mother nature alive. For example by keeping the water clean we have to stop the oil going into the water. To protect the earth I need to help the sick animals and help them feel better. I am also protecting the water from being oiled.

It's important to be a steward of the earth. It gives us all we need like food, clothes, shelter, so we need to take care of earth.

Othman

A steward is someone who takes care of the earth. The thing I learn is that men hunted and fished. The women planted corn, squash, and beans. The Lenape people make clothes out of deer skins. The Lenape people also used the canoe to travel. Native Americans help the earth and thought it was their home. Today Native Americans are taking care of the earth. They are protesting against the black snake, the black snake is a pipeline to help the earth. We can pick up trash

and we can tell other people to help us. It is important to be a steward. They help the earth so it does not die.





Phillip

To be a steward means to protect and take care of things that matter like the earth.

Native Americans called New York home many years ago and native of Americans homes are called wigwags. They wore moccasins.

Native Americans have a relationship with the earth.

Native American men hunted and fished while women farmed and took care of children.

Native Americans think that the earth is very important and they believe this because if they don't they have nowhere

to live.

Native Americans are caring for the earth by picking up trash and not littering. And today, they stop bad chemicals from going in the water by starting protests so people can not put chemicals in the water.

To protect the earth we need to find alternative sources because we will run out of natural resources.

It is important to be a steward of the earth because of what it produces for humans so that we can live.

Shalimar

A steward protects all the natural things on earth.

Many years ago native Americans used to live in new york. Native

Americans took care of their kids. The women cook for their families.

The men hunted for food and fished.

Native Americans made capes out of turkey feathers and deer skin.

They made wampums which were

white shell beads. They also lived in wigwams, their homes. They also made

canoes out of trunks.

Native Americans protect nature

if nobody protects nature everything

will die. For example, if trees die

we will die too because we will

not have oxygen.

Native Americans are coming together. They are going to destroy the black snake which is a pipeline that carries oil.

To care for the earth we can plant more trees. We can also support animals that are endangered.

It is important to be a steward to protect the earth. If they do not protect the earth, the earth would be in danger and we won't have a home.





Yara

Being a steward means taking care of the earth by taking care of trees and other natural resources.

There are so many interesting facts about Native Americans from long ago. One fact is the Lenape would get a tattoo of a certain symbol that represents their culture. Another fact is that men used to fish in lakes while women did housework. The Lenape used wampum beads to use as necklaces or jewelry. In addition the Lenape used feathers to make capes to use as decoration and to keep them warm.

The Native Americans relationship with the earth is being a steward. Native Americans borrowed from the earth without destroying it.

Today Native Americans are caring for the earth by protecting black ash trees from the jewel beetle. It's important to protect black ash trees because Native Americans make baskets out of them and it's part of their culture.

What we can do for the earth is stop the jewel beetle from killing black ash trees and we can use less water. We can stop pollution by protesting.

It's important to be a steward of the earth so we don't kill the earth. We only have one earth.

Youssef

A Steward is a Person who Protects the earth. Long time ago native americans took care of and lived in new York. They made clothes out of animal skin and also made baskets out of black oak trees. The man's role was to find food and hunt for food and go fishing and the women cook the food took care of the kids and planted beans, corn and squash. They lived in homes named wigwags.

Native american's felt like they needed to take care of the earth. They need to take care because they need water and food to live. Native americans today are protesting the black snake. The black snake is a pipeline that carries oil. What we can do is go to the water and protect it. We should also protect the grass, plants, homes and soil. It is important to be a steward of the earth so the earth can be cleaner.





Yusnelly

A Steward is someone who helps the earth. Native Americans used trees to make baskets and they used trees to make canoes. They made dresses and capes out of feathers. The women cooked food and they took care of the babies. The men killed animals to go to different places. Native Americans take care of the earth. They clean the earth, picking up the trash. They also protect the water. We can help the home less, and pick up trash off the ground. It is important to be a steward of the Earth because the Earth will get infected if we don't take care of it.

Zamir

1 What does it mean to be a steward is a person who protects water and trees.

2 Native Americans who called New York home many years ago was called the Lenape and then Skott in wigwams. another fact is medicine man would sleep in bear skin and wear a mask for special ceremonies. In addition women had to take care of their kids and take care of farms. on the other hand men had a job and it was to go hunting and fishing.

3 The Native Americans help protect earth by taking care of the water and trees because so trees don't get chopped down and there would be a watch for animals and humans and all of the earth. Native Americans today are trying take care of the land by protecting and educating people. If they don't there will be no home for future generations. In addition we can pick up trash and reuse stuff to make new things. It's important to be a steward because we can protect earth for future generations of people and animals.



ABOUT THE VISITING AUTHOR

Carole Lindstrom is a *New York Times* Bestselling Author and 2021 Caldecott Award winning author of literature for young people. She is Anishinaabe/Métis and an enrolled citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band of Ojibwe. She was born and raised in Nebraska and currently makes her home in Maryland.

Carole has been a voracious reader and library geek ever since she was growing up in Nebraska. On weekends you could usually find her at the library lost in the book stacks or holed up in her bedroom with a good book. *We Are Water Protectors* is a picture book inspired by Standing Rock, and all Indigenous Peoples fighting for clean water.



ABOUT THE STUDENT AUTHORS

We, the students of Class 4-219, are incredible learners who have faced many challenges but work to overcome them by working hard and trying our best. We are also very interested in protecting our planet Earth for future generations.



ABOUT **BEHIND THE BOOK**

Behind the Book brings authors and their books into classrooms to build literacy skills and foster a community of lifelong readers and writers. Working with classes from Pre-K through 12th grade, our series of workshops is designed to bring books to life and inspire students to reach their full potential. Behind the Book is embedded in the class curriculum, nurtures critical thinking, creativity, and self-confidence in New York City public school students. All programs meet the Next Generation Learning Standards.



Next Generation Learning Standards Addressed

4R1: Locate and refer to relevant details and evidence when explaining what a text says explicitly/implicitly and make logical inferences. (RI&RL)

4R2: Determine a theme or central idea of text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize a text. (RI&RL)

4R3: In literary texts, describe a character, setting, or event, drawing on specific details in the text. t. (RL)

4W2: Write informative/explanatory texts to explore a topic and convey ideas and information relevant to the subject.

4W2a: Introduce a topic clearly and organize related information in paragraphs and sections.

4W2b: Develop ideas on a topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, or other relevant information; include text features when useful for aiding comprehension.

BtB empowers the next generation of readers
and writers by nurturing critical thinking,
creativity, and self-confidence in our students.

www.behindthebook.org

