

Colonization Road Film Discussion Questions

1. In the book "Seven Fallen Feathers (2017)", Talaga included an excerpt of Former Prime Minister Stephen Harper's apology for residential schools in behalf of the federal government, however, in the movie, "Colonization Road" (2016), a video clip of former Prime Minister Stephen Harper was shown and he said "We have no history of colonization." How do you think this affect the relationship of the Canadian government with the Indigenous peoples? How do you Harper's speech encourage racism?
2. The Public Lands Act 1853 gave legal authority for land to be given to European settlers upon the conditions that they build a house and clear the land for farming (Foster, 2021). How is The Public Lands Act interconnected with colonization roads? What role did the roads play in colonization? How did the Colonization Roads become a symbol of oppression for Indigenous peoples?
3. In the movie, Colonization Road (2016), Cylor Cotton, a historian and policy analyst, "You and I, that we're supposed to live together in this place for as long as the waters run" What is the significance of water to the lives of Indigenous peoples? What are the roles of the Treaties in Truth and Reconciliation?
4. In the movie "Colonization Road" (2016), Al Hunter, writer, and former chief of Rainy River First Nations, "We want to be who we are; we want our culture to be strong, we want them to know that the past, the present, and the future are actually alive." As educators, how can we promote respect towards the culture and self identity of our indigenous students?
5. Wampum are tubular purple and white beads made from shells with indigenous peoples' hands. In the movie "Colonization Road" (2016) Pam Palmater, a lawyer and professor at Ryerson University-Toronto explained the concept of wampum belt which are: we'll work together; we'll share this place but I will steer my boat and you will steer yours and never will we try to interfere with one another. As an educator, how can you apply this concept in the educational system? How can you promote this concept in your own classroom?

REVISED QUESTIONS

1. In the book "Seven Fallen Feathers (2017)", Talaga included an excerpt of Former Prime Minister Stephen Harper's apology for residential schools in behalf of the federal government, however, in the movie, "Colonization Road" (2016), a video clip of former Prime Minister Stephen Harper was shown and he said "We have no history of colonization." How do you think this affect the relationship of the Canadian government with the Indigenous peoples? **How do you think Harper's resistance and denial to the history of colonialism perpetuate the discrimination against the Indigenous peoples?**
2. The Public Lands Act 1853 gave legal authority for land to be given to European settlers upon the conditions that they build a house and clear the land for farming (Foster, 2021). How is The Public Lands Act interconnected with colonization roads? What role did the roads play in colonization? **How did the Colonization Roads become a symbol of oppression for Indigenous peoples?**
3. In the movie, Colonization Road (2016), Cylor Cotton, a historian and policy analyst, "You and I, that we're supposed to live together in this place for as long as the waters run" What is the significance of water to the lives of Indigenous peoples? What are the roles of the Treaties in Truth and Reconciliation? **Do you agree that the water situation of Indigenous peoples in the reserve reflect failure to adhere to the Treaty? Why or why not?**
4. In the movie "Colonization Road" (2016), Al Hunter, writer, and former chief of Rainy River First Nations, "We want to be who we are; we want our culture to be strong, we want them to know that the past, the present, and the future are actually alive." As educators, how can we promote respect towards the culture and self identity of our indigenous students? **How can we encourage our students to be involved and learn Indigenous culture and tradition?**
5. Wampum are tubular purple and white beads made from shells with indigenous peoples' hands. In the movie "Colonization Road" (2016) Pam Palmater, a lawyer and professor at Ryerson University-Toronto explained the concept of wampum belt which are: we'll work together; we'll share this place but I will steer my boat and you will steer yours and never will we try to interfere with one another. As an educator, how can you apply this concept in the educational system? How can you promote this concept in your own classroom? **How can we partner in Indigenous chief or elders to build a respectful relationship with indigenous peoples?**

References

Foster T. (2021) Displacements and dispossessions resulting from The Public Lands Act of 1853. Retrieved June 01, 2023 from <https://blogs.ubc.ca/buildingempire/2021/02/16/ontarios-colonial-roads-networks-1853-1910/>

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