

Writing and Discussion Prompts

The Connections that Bind Us: The Colonial world of the Northeast by Melody Walker Brook

What problems surface as a result of modern classifications of indigenous people? Does it obscure the historical picture?

Describe the sphere of interaction and what it entailed during the colonial period.

How did contact between indigenous and European nations affect the cultures of each group? What is the difference between syncretism and assimilation?

What methods did the French use to forge closer alliances with indigenous allies?

What were some of the protocols involved in alliance-making and nurturance of those relationships?

Describe the fluidity of the Northeastern community.

What was the importance of gift-giving? Is gift-giving an important custom in other cultures? In yours?

What was the original highway system of the Northeast?

Describe what it means to be a living culture. What makes a culture "living?" Contextualize this concept within your own culture or nation. How has life changed from your grandparents generation to your own?

What was the middle ground? Can a frontier exist when the continent was already populated by people?

How were adopted members of indigenous nations treated? Utilize James Smith's account to illuminate colonial period adoptions. Based upon his experience, describe the mindset of indigenous people with regard to race, blood quantum, and other identifies?

What is a person in the indigenous worldview? How might this way of thinking benefit the world today?

Think about your own identity. What does it mean to be you? What do you think best defines personhood from your own perspective? What communities do you belong to and what are your responsibilities to them, if any?