



## Educational Activity



Invasive Species Council of BC

**INDIGENOUS RESOURCE SERIES**

2019

# Past, Present, Future

## TIME

3 – 3.5 hours

## AGE

12 – 18 years

## PURPOSE

Through this activity, youth will interview Elders or older members of their community to explore and document the changes within their territories and communities and reflect on how invasives species have contributed to these changes. Youth will also discover ways they can take actions to prevent the spread of invasive species and help protect their communities.

## MATERIALS

- » Paper (three pieces)
- » Drawing materials (markers, pencil crayons, pencils)
- » Flip chart
- » Flip chart markers
- » Interview Activity Sheet (included)
- » Optional: Interview an Elder to really bring it to a more personal level!

## Three Periods:

1. Indoor to prepare for interview — 1.5 hour
2. Interview session — 30 minutes — 1 hour
3. Outdoors — 1 Hour

## PROCEDURE

### Part 1: Preparing for the Interview

- » Have youth develop a list of questions to ask the Elder. See “*Interview Activity Sheet*”
- » Invite an Elder or Elders to come speak the group about the changes in the territory and environment over their lifetime, and to share how things were in the time of our ancestors.
- » Observe protocols and have an appropriate gift of thanks for the Elder(s) participating.
- » Book a place that is comfortable for Elders and youth to engage, ensuring accessibility

### Part 2: Interview

- » Using questions developed on the Interview Activity Sheet, sit down with the Elder and interview them.
- » Remember to be mindful and respectful and allow the Elder to share their knowledge as they see fit.

- » Don't forget to express your gratitude for their participation by thanking them and providing a gift (if appropriate).

### Part 3: Visualization

1. Choose a scenic location that is either outdoors or looks out onto nature.
2. Ask the group to draw what the territory around the community may have looked like 150 years ago. Have the group write on the opposite side of the paper, in note form, to select key points on how the area might have looked.
3. Ask the group to share what they think the area would have looked like and record notes.
4. Ask the group to draw what the territory around the community looks like now. Write on the opposite side of the paper the key points about the changes and differences. Recommend that there is specific focus on species-what was there before but isn't today, and what is there today but was not there before.
5. Ask the group to share the key differences and write them down on the flip chart.
6. Divide the group into two groups. Have one group draw what the territory could look like in 150 years if invasive species and other environmental issues are ignored and have the other group draw what the territory could look like in 150 years if invasive species and other environmental issues are addressed. Again, have them write key points on the back of their sheet.
7. Ask the group to share each of their findings.
8. Discuss and write down ideas of how we can address invasive species and environmental issues to ensure that our territories can have a healthy future.

## INTERVIEW ACTIVITY SHEET

*In this activity youth will be developing questions to ask an Elder or other community members about cultural, traditional, and historical values attributed to the territory. Youth will also be asking questions about changes in the territory and environment over time.*

### Materials

- » Paper
- » Pens/ Pencils

### Procedure

1. Write down anything you would like to know as it relates to this activity. E.g. In terms of environment, how are things different now than they were when you were a child? How have practices changed since you were a child? What were important country foods and have you seen any changes in their availability?
2. Practice your interview with a partner. This will help you to ask the right questions to get the answers you are looking for, will help you to identify any need for changes, and will allow you to make sure that all questions are clear.
3. Schedule your interview time and location.
4. While interviewing, take notes in point form. Allow the interviewee to speak about what they know and share their thoughts and knowledge without interruption.
5. Thank the interviewee for their time.
6. When the interview has finished take time to organize your interview notes.