

Native Stories

The Keepers of the Earth

Pacific, maintain, buy, father, care, place, brothers, mistreat

The native people of North America speak of their relationship to the Earth in terms of family. The Earth is not something to _____ and sell, something to use and _____. It is quite simply, the source of our lives-our Mother. And the rest of Creation, all around us, shares in that family relationship.

The Okanagan people of the _____ Northwest speak of the Earth as Mother, the Sun as _____ and the animals as our _____ and sisters. They believed that their role on this Earth was to _____ natural balance, to take _____ of our Mother, to be keepers of the Earth. Life was seen as a great circle; each person had a _____ on that circle and was related to everyone and everything.

1. Write one or more synonyms of the following:

mistreat :

keeper:

related:

maintain:

2. How do you understand the phrase “The Earth is the source of our lives-our Mother”?

3. How do you understand your role as the keeper of Mother Earth?

4. Do you think that natural balance is at risk today?