

Cultural Literacy Training for Library Staff



SEALASKA
HERITAGE



Settle in, get coffee,
greet each other.
“It's good that you have come.”

Suggestion: No pens, paper, or phones.

Read to understand, and not to finish the slide. Be human together, communicate, or look out at nature as you ponder the questions.

“In the embodied, direct, oral and visual style of learning common to most indigenous cultures, there is no writing it down. Instead, you pay keen attention, listen closely and deeply, emulate the wisest and most experienced among you, learn by doing, and take what you learn so deeply into yourself that it becomes part of your identity.”

*Stop Talking: Indigenous Ways of Teaching and Learning
and Difficult Dialogues in Higher Education*

Contents of Training

“Filling Up”: Your Personal Cultural Lens

Who are you as you approach this training?

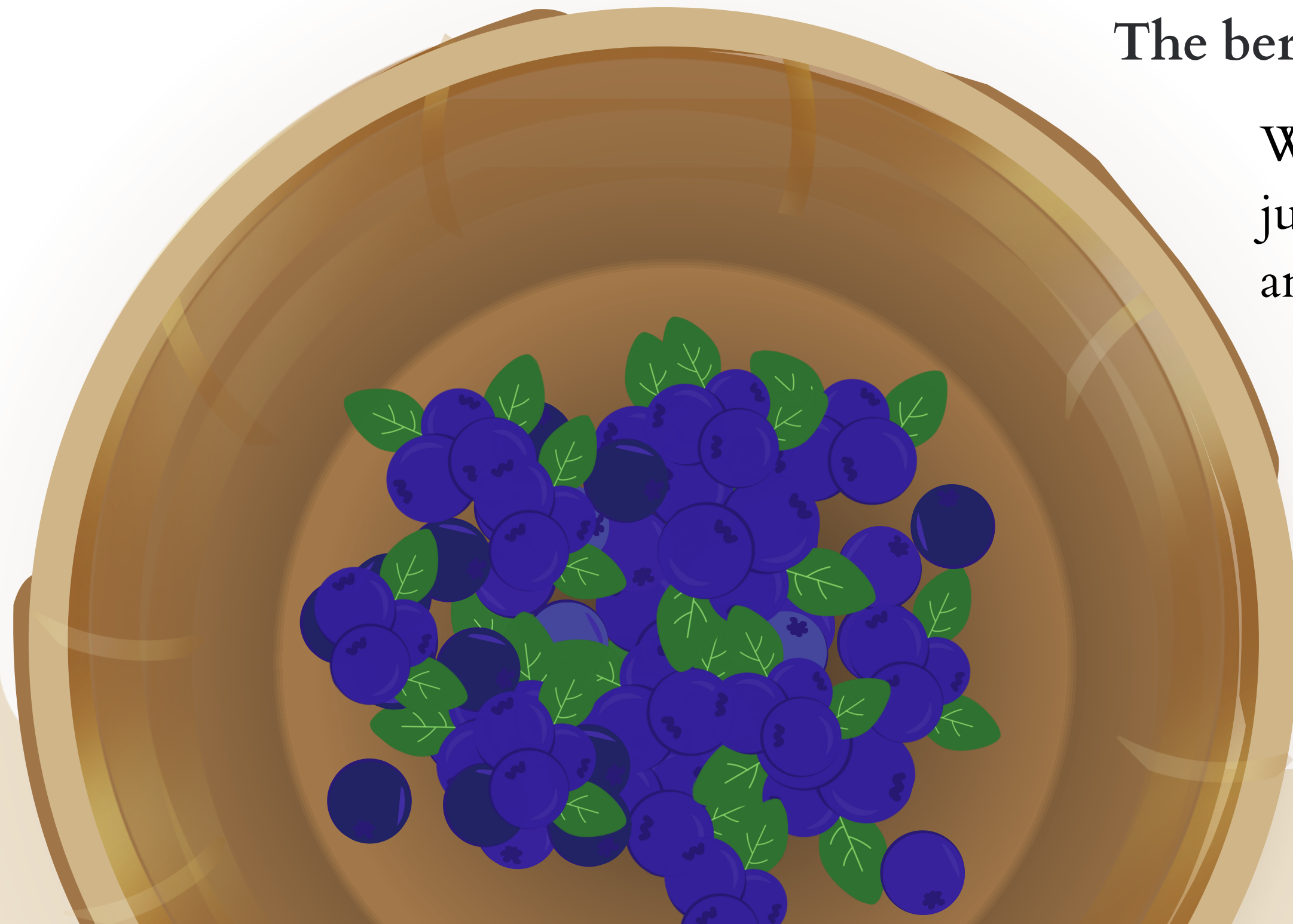
Culturally Responsive Practices

Learn from Tlingit, Haida, Tsimshian and other cultures on culturally responsive storytelling and gathering spaces.

Library Toolkit for Self-Assessment

Understand your library’s culturally responsiveness rating.

Filling Up



The berries are part of a healthy whole.

We gather blueberries to nurture not just ourselves, but also the connections and cultures between us.

The basket fills for everyone.

By sharing knowledge and support, we nurture the whole community.

Filling Up



Count and Collect

Each “yes” on the following questions is a blueberry you can harvest for yourself and your community.

In culturally responsive practices, it is important to “gather” ones’ own experiences before beginning to understand those of others.

Who are you as you approach this training? How full is your basket, and why?

Filling Up

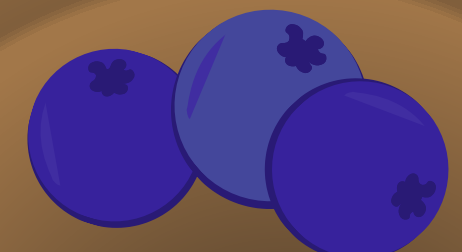


Community

Do you see your culture and background represented in your community? Where and how?

Do your celebrations and traditions reflect values and heritage of you and your community?

Are you impacted positively by the representation of you and your community? How or why not?



Filling Up

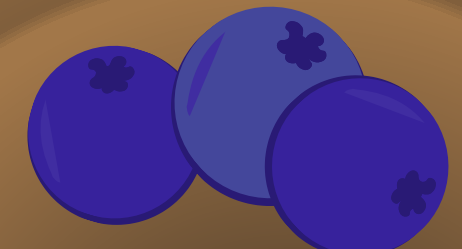


Education

Did your background and culture inform your education? Why or why not?

Did your school life connect with your home life? Why or why not?

Has your culture or historical background been preserved? In what ways?



Filling Up

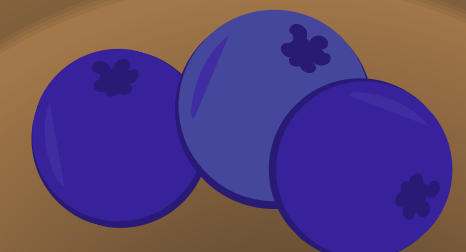


Governance

Are you affected positively by the governmental entities that guide your personal choices? Who are those entities?

Do the organizations that influence your laws and practices adequately support your community?

Is the whole of your community served well by its laws and practices? Who seems best served? Who might be least served?



Filling Up

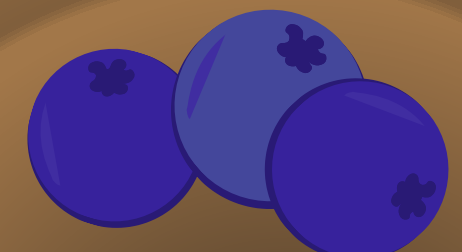


Identity & Representation

Do you hear stories that carry parts of your identity? Where do you go to find these stories?

Has the land where you are from influenced your identity? (How you lived there, activities, etc.) Can you still connect with your culture through the land now?

Do you see decolonization in your spaces? Where and how?





Fill Up Every Basket

Can everyone in your community answer “yes” to the questions?

Continue on to learn why culturally responsive work is needed, and how to achieve results.

Culturally Responsive Practices

“There are positive outcomes when we connect and engage with all learners.”

- Understand background knowledge. Ask questions.
- Make others feel valued, seen, and heard.
- Improve both academic and social growth.
- Consider how one’s cultural lens impacts teaching, connecting, and knowledge-sharing.

“Culturally Responsive Teaching in the School Library,”
Knowledge Quest, American Association of School Libraries

In the previous section, you explored your personal cultural lens. Now, take note of each resource on the next three slides. Consider what makes it “culturally responsive” and what lessons can be applied to your library space.



Culturally Responsive Practices

Watch...

What is Baby Raven Reads?

Our Cultural Landscape: Culturally Responsive Teaching

Skip to section 11:10 (You May Hold The Key) - Stop at 15:28

Reflect...

*How can others learn best in
your library?*



Culturally Responsive Practices

Read...

Everyone is welcome

Culturally Responsive Guidelines for Alaska Public Libraries

“Stop Talking, Indigenous Ways of Teaching and Learning and Difficult Dialogues in Higher Education”
(page 3 to 4, and 56 to 57, 159 to 162)

Reflect...

How are libraries uniquely geared towards implementing culturally responsive practices?



Culturally Responsive Practices

Read...

STEPS Blog: Indigenous Placemaking in Public Libraries

Project Ready

Reflect...

*What roles do trust and joy have
in racial equity work in library
spaces?*



Culturally Responsive Practices

Watch The Art of Gathering, then **plan a gathering within your library space.**

What makes it culturally responsive and how is it specific to the people and place?

Who should be brought in to support a successful gathering, and how did you invite them in?

What is your role and relationship to the event?





Take a break.