

A Thousand Suns - Video Questions

This video highlights critical differences between modern Western areas of knowledge and indigenous knowledge systems. As you watch the video complete the following T chart based on what the characteristics of each approach to knowledge.

Characteristics of modern Western Knowledge (include supporting examples from the video)	Characteristics of indigenous knowledge (include supporting examples from the video)

1. Based on the information in this video, how would you define Indigenous Knowledge? What characteristics make IK distinct from other AoKs?

Questions 2-4 have been adapted from *A Thousand Suns* Studyguide (Accessed on 9.27.16 at <https://www.globalonenessproject.org/sites/default/files/education/resources/a-thousand-suns-discussion-guide.pdf>)

2. Kapo Kansa, a Gamoan elder featured in the film said, "It is not permitted among Gamos to take out whatever he likes from the ground. There is a limit. You are taking grasses, which you need. You don't destroy others. You are taking trees for your consumption. Not to destroy others. You want to pass a resource for the coming generation." What do you think of this statement? What are some of the Gamo views on sharing and ownership? How do these views compare to the views of the Western world? How might these views affect knowledge?
3. In what ways does being closer to the land contribute to the Gamo culture? In the first three minutes of the film, an Ethiopian elder said, "I can't see any land or fields. There is nothing. These people just live on concrete surfaces." How might his observation, and perplexity, be an insight into the modern world's connection with nature and the land we live on? Is there a place in the modern world for believing that the earth is sacred?
4. Critics of the Green Revolution in Africa feel that economic development models are being imposed and indigenous peoples are forced to assimilate unsustainable Western consumerist paradigms of development, disrupting 10,000 year old traditions of land use. Do you agree? Why or why not? If yes, what do you see as alternatives?
5. What potential examples does this video provide for the fall PE topic we have chosen?

"Humans are pattern-seeking animals and we are adept at finding patterns whether they exist or not" (adapted from Michael Shermer). Discuss knowledge questions raised by this idea in two areas of knowledge.