Imagine how your life would change if no new resources were brought to your town for a year - or longer. How would people survive?

In small groups, brainstorm ideas for using natural or existing resources from your own environment for daily life. Natural materials such as stones, wood, natural foods, and animals may be available, as well as geographic or meteorological resources such as wind, water, sand/gravel and hills. Man-made materials could be re-purposed or reused. What ideas can your group develop that would maximize the use of existing or natural resources to benefit your community? Share your ideas with the class.

Alaska Native dances are a way to tell stories and preserve a way of life. Knowledge of hunting, fishing and other subsistence activities are passed on through the motions and song of dance. Dance fans are generally made of woven grass and tufts or caribou hair or feathers. Have you seen Native dancing? Do you think it looks easy or difficult? How does it differ from other types of dancing you have seen? Do you know of other dances that also tell stories?

In small groups, talk about something in your culture or background that is important to communicate or teach to others. Maybe it is a tradition like Halloween, a celebration like the last day of the school year, or the daily ritual of getting up to catch the school bus. Work together to come up with motions that would tell the story. Present your cultural “dance” and see if your classmates can guess the story you are telling.

For more information or resources, visit: dayinourbay.org bbnc.net
Quotes and concepts

As a whole class or in smaller groups, read the full quotes found in the Day in Our Bay booklet. Discuss the questions.

“Every time you have fresh king salmon ... there’s a connection with your ancestry.”
- Pete Andrew Jr., p. 13

What Alaska Native cultural values is Alex exhibiting through this quote?
As a young person, what do you hope to do in your community “someday”?

“Some day I hope to hunt bigger game for the people who can’t.”
- Alex Nielsen, p. 15

What does Petla mean by these words? The Day In Our Bay documentary opens and closes with Petla’s music. Do you think it is effective? Why or why not? Choose something in your environment that you are created from. Explain your choice.

“I am created from my land. I am created from my rivers.”
- Petla Noden, p. 7

Discuss the concept of Yuuyaraq (YOO-yuh-guq).
Using the Day in Our Bay booklet and the documentary, create a list of ways that Alaska Natives take care of things/people, and how they are taken care of in turn.
Is there a concept in your own culture that is similar? Give examples.

“Why are the rivers important to the way of life in Bristol Bay?”
- Tim Wonhola Sr., p. 5

What is sourdock and where is it found?

“We learn how to take care of things and they, in turn, take care of us. The way of life, they call it – Yuuyaraq.”

What else can be put in akutaq?

“Why does Diana have her children help?”

Scientific research on salmon in Bristol Bay has shown that it is genetically the same as salmon available in Bristol Bay thousands of years ago. Why is this powerful for the cultures of Bristol Bay? Is there anything you and your ancestors share? (Language, clothing, artifacts, traditions, homeland, foods)

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Why do you think this is important to Everett and to other residents of Bristol Bay? What challenges do you think might affect the people’s ability to subsist in the region? Is there something in your own way of life that was passed down to you through your parents and grandparents?

“Where does Aurora George get grasses?”

Where does Aurora George get grasses?

- Why are the rivers important to the way of life in Bristol Bay?
- How do Bristol Bay residents use the rivers?
- Are there rivers where you live? How are they important in your community?

- Why does Diana have her children help?
- What do your parents teach you? Is there a special food you help prepare?

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“Every time you have fresh king salmon ... there’s a connection with your ancestry.”
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Have you ever imagined a connection with your ancestors through the simple act of eating a meal? Scientific research on salmon in Bristol Bay has shown that it is genetically the same as salmon available in Bristol Bay thousands of years ago. Why is this powerful for the cultures of Bristol Bay? Is there anything you and your ancestors share? (Language, clothing, artifacts, traditions, homeland, foods)

The short clips below are between 2 and 5 minutes each. Have students watch each clip and then answer the questions below. For an at-home lesson, ask students to visit the Day in Our Bay YouTube channel, watch another short, and report on it.

The River

- Why are the rivers important to the way of life in Bristol Bay?
- How do Bristol Bay residents use the rivers?
- Are there rivers where you live? How are they important in your community?

Basket weaving

- Where does Aurora George get grasses?
- How long does it take to make one basket?
- How did she learn to make baskets?
- What does she do with the baskets?
- Do you have baskets in your home? Imagine who made the baskets and how they did it.

Steam house

- What natural resources are needed for steam houses? Are they easy to find?
- Olia Sutton says she uses steam houses for healing and the process of grieving. How does this differ from your own culture’s traditions for healing? For the grieving process?

Akutaq

- What is sourdock and where is it found?
- What else can be put in akutaq?
- Why does Diana have her children help?
- What do your parents teach you? Is there a special food you help prepare?