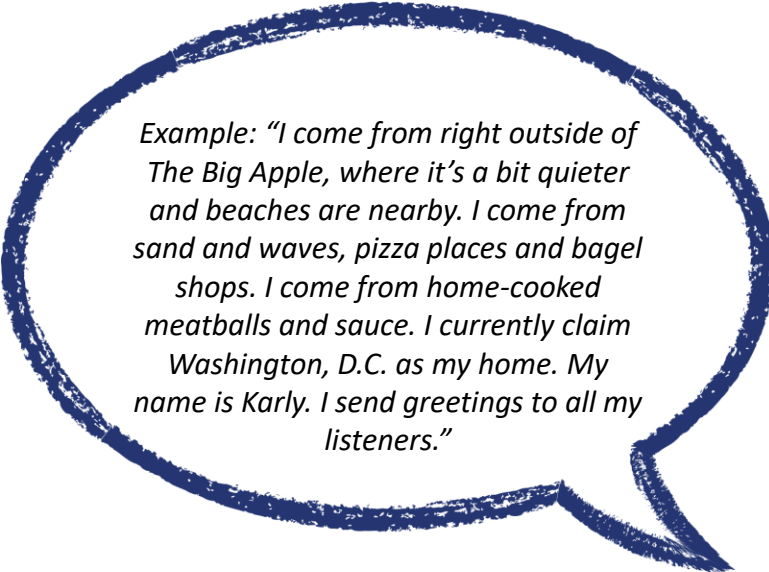


From What Waters Do You Come?

This activity is drawn from the Māori practice of Whakapapa (fakapapa) or genealogy that places oneself in the wider context of land and kin. The questions below are used to explain your place in the world and your place in a tribe or family:



Example: "I come from right outside of The Big Apple, where it's a bit quieter and beaches are nearby. I come from sand and waves, pizza places and bagel shops. I come from home-cooked meatballs and sauce. I currently claim Washington, D.C. as my home. My name is Karly. I send greetings to all my listeners."

- Where do you come from?
- What are significant places and landscapes to you?
- Who are your ancestors?
- Where do you live now?
- What is your name?
- End by sending greetings to your listeners.

Activity:

1. Pass out an index card to each student and tell them to write their name on the blank side.
2. On the lined side, have students answer each question. Have the questions visible for them (i.e., on chart paper, on a white board). If students are struggling to think in this way, encourage them to use the sentence stem "I come from..."
3. After enough time has passed for students to write, direct them to stand in a circle and designate a volunteer to share first.
4. Give the student who is sharing first an object and have students pass it around the circle to indicate who is speaking throughout the activity.
5. Tell students that they can "pass" if they are not comfortable sharing.
6. Close: The practice of Whakapapa is about connections with one another. Ask, "What connections did you find throughout this activity?"

Note: Any aspect of the facilitation of this activity can be modified depending on your audience. Additionally, it can be done with any age group, including adults in professional learning contexts.

