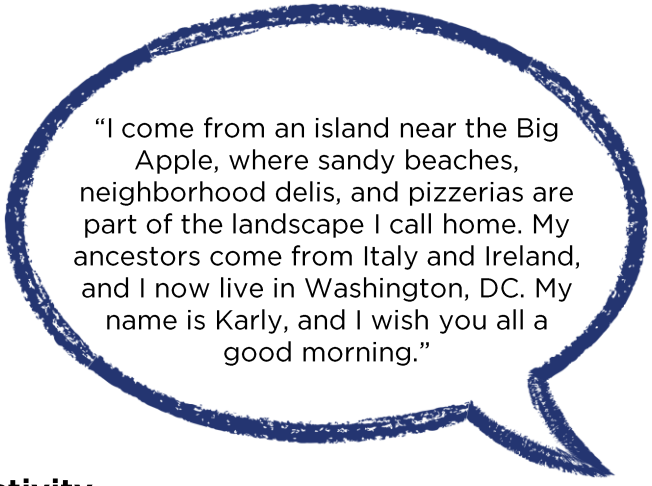
From What Waters Do You Come?

Reading Is Fundamental
until every child reads

This activity is inspired by the Māori concept of ***whakapapa***, which emphasizes connections to ancestry, family, people, and place. Through reflection and storytelling, participants are invited to explore the people, places, and experiences that shape their identities and sense of belonging.



Reflection Questions:

- Where do you come from?
- What places, landscapes, or traditions are meaningful to you?
- Who are your ancestors, or what people and communities have shaped your story?
- Where do you call home today?
- What is your name?
- Close by offering a greeting to your listeners.

Activity

- **Reflect:** Give each participant an index card and invite them to write their name on one side.
- **Write:** On the other side, ask participants to respond to the reflection questions. Display the questions for reference and encourage participants to begin with the sentence stem "I come from..." if helpful.
- **Gather:** Invite participants to form a circle and ask for a volunteer to share first.
- **Share:** Provide a talking object to indicate whose turn it is to speak. Pass the object around the circle as participants share their reflections.
- **Honor choice:** Remind participants that sharing is voluntary and they may pass on any question or choose not to share.
- **Reflect together:** Close by inviting participants to consider the connections they noticed across the group.

Closing Reflection: What connections did you notice as we shared our stories? Consider following up with:

- What similarities or shared experiences stood out to you?
- What did you learn about someone else's story?
- How might understanding one another's backgrounds help us build stronger connections?

Facilitator Note: This activity can be adapted for different ages, group sizes, and settings, including classrooms and adult professional learning. Participants should have the flexibility to define family, ancestry, and belonging in ways that are meaningful to them.

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