



Foreign Language Virtual Learning

# Resiliency among the Salmon People

May 15, 2020



## 6th Grade Foreign Cultures

### Lesson: May 15, 2020

#### **Objective/Learning Target:**

I can evaluate the claims, evidence, and reasoning that the complex interactions in ecosystems maintain relatively consistent numbers and types of organisms in stable conditions, but changing conditions may result in a new ecosystem.



Warm Up: In your family, are older relatives such as grandparents or great-grandparents an important source of support and guidance? Do other family members look to older relatives for advice?



For this unit, we are going to look at native Alaskans and how villages are surviving in a changing world. We will watch a film about a Yup'ik fisherman from Alaska who embodies both a respect for tradition and an understanding that change is inevitable.

Do you have a grandparent or older acquaintance who is trying to preserve a family or cultural tradition while simultaneously engaging in modern everyday life?



Note as you watch the [film](#) how the grandfather Ray Waska views and experiences change. You should observe how he passes on tradition and wisdom to his grandchildren without keeping them from living in the modern world.



Use this [slideshow](#) to answer the questions and prompts. Share with your teacher when you are done!

1. Is there a tradition in your family that is lost or dying? What are the reasons for its disappearing, and what, if anything, could you do to bring it back?
2. Ray Waska teaches his grandchildren through his words and actions not only about fishing, but about living. What lessons about life have you learned from elders in your family or community?
3. How have the Yup'ik changed and what will they need to do to continue to survive?



Let's delve deeper into the consequences of the changes these people are experiencing. Use 4 to 5 sentences to explain your position.

As the film portrays, some cultural traditions are intimately tied to local ecosystems, and are threatened when the ecosystem itself shifts. Are cultural changes like the ones depicted in the film inevitable consequences of "progress," or should we actively work to preserve these cultural traditions?



## Additional Resources

Rowan Jacobsen, "[Fast Fish, Loose Fish: Who Will Own Alaska's Disappearing Salmon?](#)" *Harpers*, May 2009.