

STEP THROUGH THE STORY

REWOVEN FAIRY TALES

THE NAME THE EARTH REMEMBERED

What the Earth Remembers

How do we witness a history without making it about ourselves?

The fairy tale was only the beginning.

A Careful Beginning

This resource does not ask you to role-play removal, boarding-school trauma, or Indigenous identity. Instead, it asks you to practice historical listening: names, land, language, sources, and the responsibility to learn from Indigenous people speaking for their own communities.

Pause when you need to. Research with respect. When possible, begin with Indigenous-created sources.

1. Name the Place

Choose the Indigenous homelands of the place where you live, study, or are visiting. Record the Nation or Nations connected to that land using a tribal, museum, university, or other Indigenous-led source.

Place I am learning about

Nation(s) / community name(s)

Source created by or with the community

2. Names Matter

Find one historical person whose Indigenous name, family connection, or identity was altered, hidden, or misrecorded by an institution. Record only what reliable sources support.

Name

What the record says

What remains unknown
Do not fill gaps with guesses.

3. Listen for Survival, Not Only Harm

Find an Indigenous-created source - oral history, museum page, tribal archive, interview, language program, artwork, poem, or educational resource - that shows continuity, reclamation, survival, or renewal.

Source

What is being carried forward?

Language, song, family knowledge, ceremony, land relationship, art, education, something else.

4. The Earth as Record

Choose one landscape feature - river, mountain, trail, plant, shoreline, valley, or gathering place. Research what historical memory is attached to it. Use sources that identify whose memory you are reading.

The place

What happened or was remembered here?

Whose account is this?

5. A Witness Statement

Finish the resource by writing what responsible witnessing means to you after your research. Keep the focus on what you learned, what you still do not know, and whose voices should lead the telling.

I learned...

I still need to listen for...

One source I will share because it centers Indigenous voices

The goal is not to speak for. The goal is to learn how to listen, remember, and make room.