

## Mapping



### Activity Purpose

Use this activity to focus your attention on your relationship with the waters around you. Indigenous peoples have always used observations, reflections, and stories to understand our water relatives past and present, and build relationships toward a positive future. During this activity, you will make a map of all the places water lives around you and consider where it comes from, where it travels to, and what other relatives it comes in contact with.



### Activity Overview

Make a map of all the places where water is or could be around your home. Make your map anyway you want! Drawn by hand, painted, printed, made 3-d with cardboard and objects, etc.

On the map, include symbols to indicate where water lives, where it comes from, where it's going, who it encounters along its journey, and any other observations you've made.

### Roles, Relations, Responsibilities & Gifts

- ◇ How does knowing about how water lives help us be good relatives? Who else is a good relative to water?
- ◇ Imagine how water lived in these places in the past and future what might be different?
- ◇ What risks are impacting water's well-being? How can we work to minimize these risks? (think about dams, oil pipelines and other pollutants, human redirection of waterflow, corporate ownership of water, expanded housing developments, or other local issues)
- ◇ What role does water around us play in our lives? What role do we play in water's life?



## Learning Across Generations & with Other Families

- ◇ Take time to hear the ideas from everyone in your family. What do you learn from each other? What are the different perspectives the youngest and oldest children bring?
- ◇ Take time to talk with relatives, friends, and elders about your map. What do they know, remember, or imagine about that place? What stories do they have about visiting with water in other places?
- ◇ Share your map with family and friends. Ask them to share one in return.

## Supporting Learning & Wellbeing

- ◇ Consider water as a relative to support children's sense of security. How do they feel when you are near the water and what relationships have been developed?
- ◇ Ask your family what memories they've made with water. How do you interact positively with water and other relatives?
- ◇ While walking with your family, look for places with water. How might these observations relate to your map?
- ◇ Are there places where water lives that isn't immediately obvious? (groundwater, clouds/precipitation etc.)



## Making Connections with Stories

- ◇ Share stories of other places and waters you have visited as a family.
- ◇ Imagine stories about water in different places.
- ◇ Tell or listen to stories and songs from your community about water.
- ◇ [Nibi Song \(Anishinaabe\)](#)
- ◇ Get creative and make a story about the movement of water near you. You might make water a character in this story. (See the Water Storydrawing activity)

## Making Relations with Lands & Waters

- ◇ Look back at the map and consider what is represented in the places surrounding water. What do you notice? Add anything to the picture from your memories or imagination.
- ◇ What gifts can we offer the water? What gifts does the water offer us?
- ◇ How did our ancestors (or those from another tribe) interact with the water in this place? What roles, relations and responsibilities did they have with water then and how are they similar to ours today?

## Decolonization, Resurgence & Good Relations

Consider social movements around water sovereignty (#NoDAPL, #WaterIsLife, #ShutDownLine5). Discuss ways that relationships with water work to secure positive Indigenous futures.

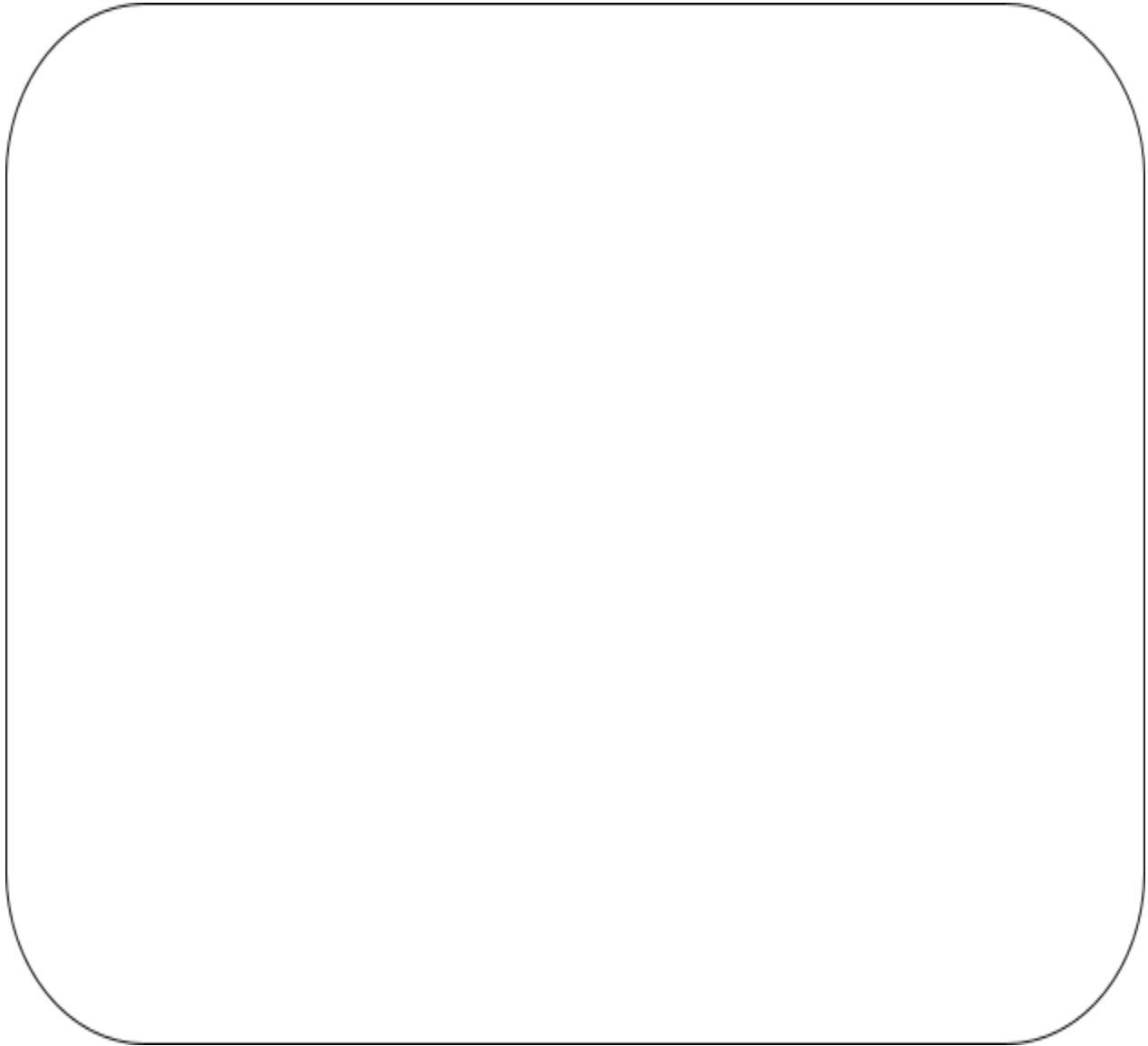
Discuss who has access to water and who doesn't. How has climate change and corporate influence changed relationships with water? What efforts of activism can we take to secure healthy waters?

Talk as a family about ways to take care of water everyday. Consider visiting the water to offer gifts and build strong relationships.

## Mapping

Using observations, reflections, and stories you can work to understand our water relatives and build relationships toward a positive future. During this activity, you will make a map of all the places water lives around you. Use this template to draw or paint your map. Or make your map in other ways (a digital map on the computer, a 3-d map with cardboard and other objects)

### *Water Map*



Home



Water



Plant Relatives



Animal Relatives



Other relatives

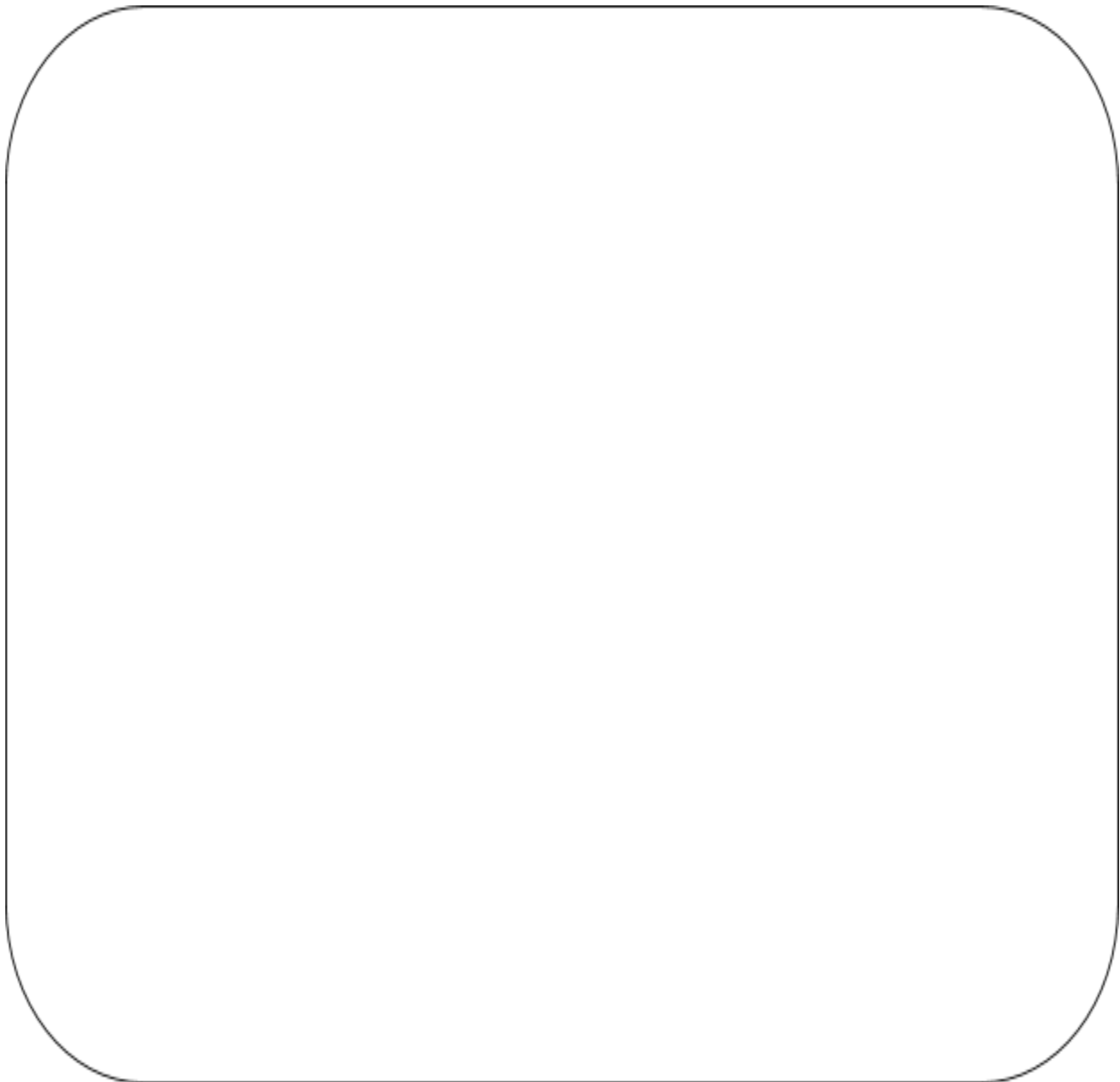


Guiding Questions: Where does the water come from? Where is it going? What other relatives does water connect with?

## Mapping

Reflect on your present day map and make a map of the same place 100 years ago. Think about how the water and other relatives have changed or remained the same. Imagine what your ancestors would have noticed and included in their map.

*Water Map*



Home



Water



Plant Relatives



Animal Relatives



Other relatives

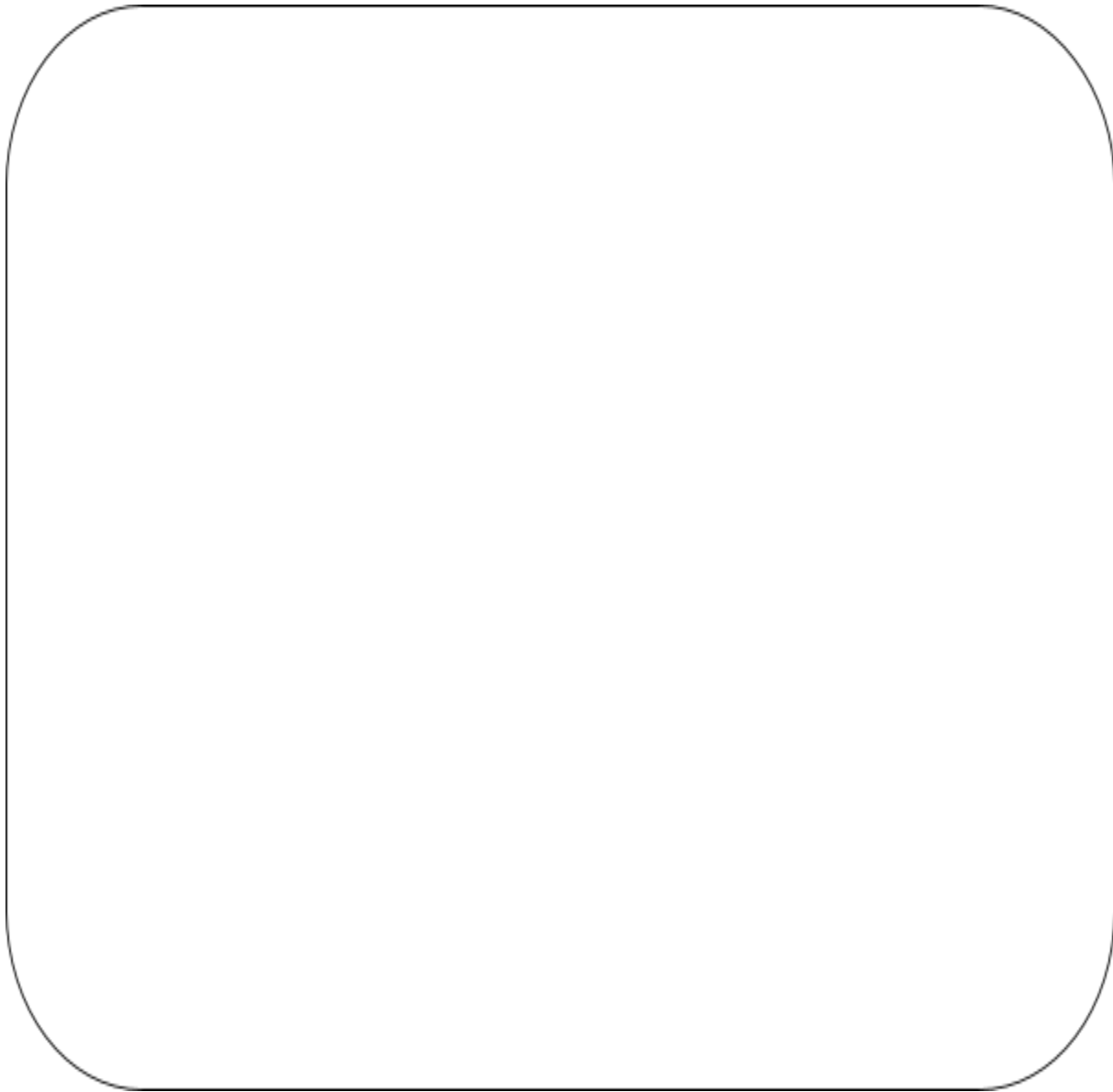


Guiding Questions: Where does the water come from? Where is it going? What other relatives does water connect with?

## Mapping

Reflect on your present day map and make a map of the same place 100 years into the future. Think about how the water and other relatives will have changed or remained the same. Imagine what future generations will notice and include in their map.

### *Water Map*



Home



Water



Plant Relatives



Animal Relatives



Other relatives



Guiding Questions: Where does the water come from? Where is it going? What other relatives does water connect with?