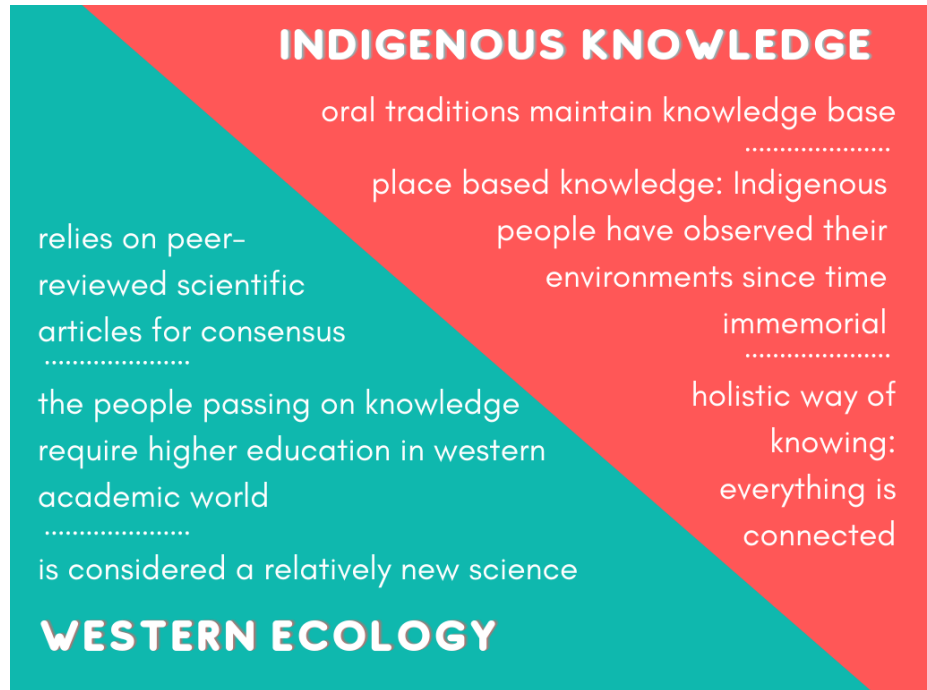




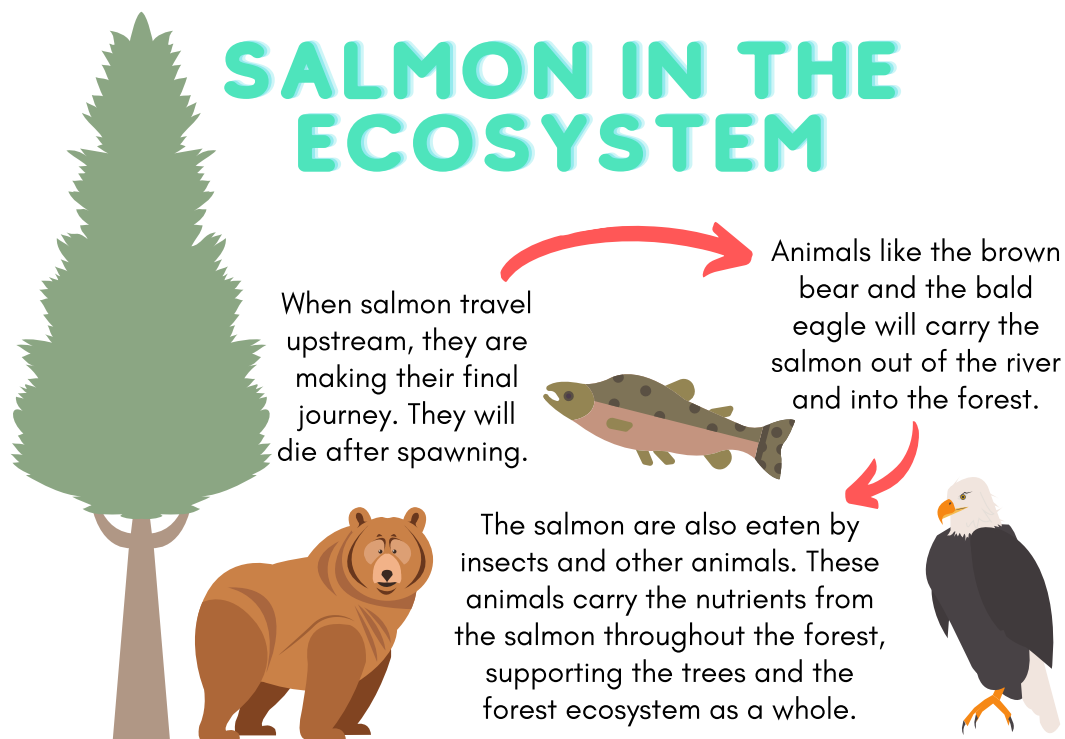
# SCIENCE BITE: ECOLOGY

**Ecology** is the study of interactions between plants, animals (including humans!) and the world around them.

Both Indigenous leaders and Western scholars have called attention to the similarities between traditional knowledge that is passed down through generations, and the academic ecology we are taught in mainstream classrooms. These sciences support each other and both are important to learning more about our world.



Check out the salmon graphic for a local ecological connection between fish, the forest, and other animals right here in Sitka. As stewards of the land, Alaska Natives have always known about this connection and it has also been studied and supported by western ecology.



**Your turn!** Head outside to observe your environment and find connections between the plants, animals, rocks, and the weather of your home. Perhaps you'll notice how humans impact the forests with trails, or how animals spread seeds in their scat.

Fill in this worksheet to record your observations!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Place you are observing: \_\_\_\_\_

Time of observations: \_\_\_\_\_

What is the weather like?

What kind of habitat are you in right now? Is there water? Are there a lot of rocks?

What kinds of plants are you seeing?

What animals are around you? Is there evidence of animals passing through the area (footprints, scat, feathers, etc.)?

What interactions between the weather, the land, the plants, and the animals do you see in this area?

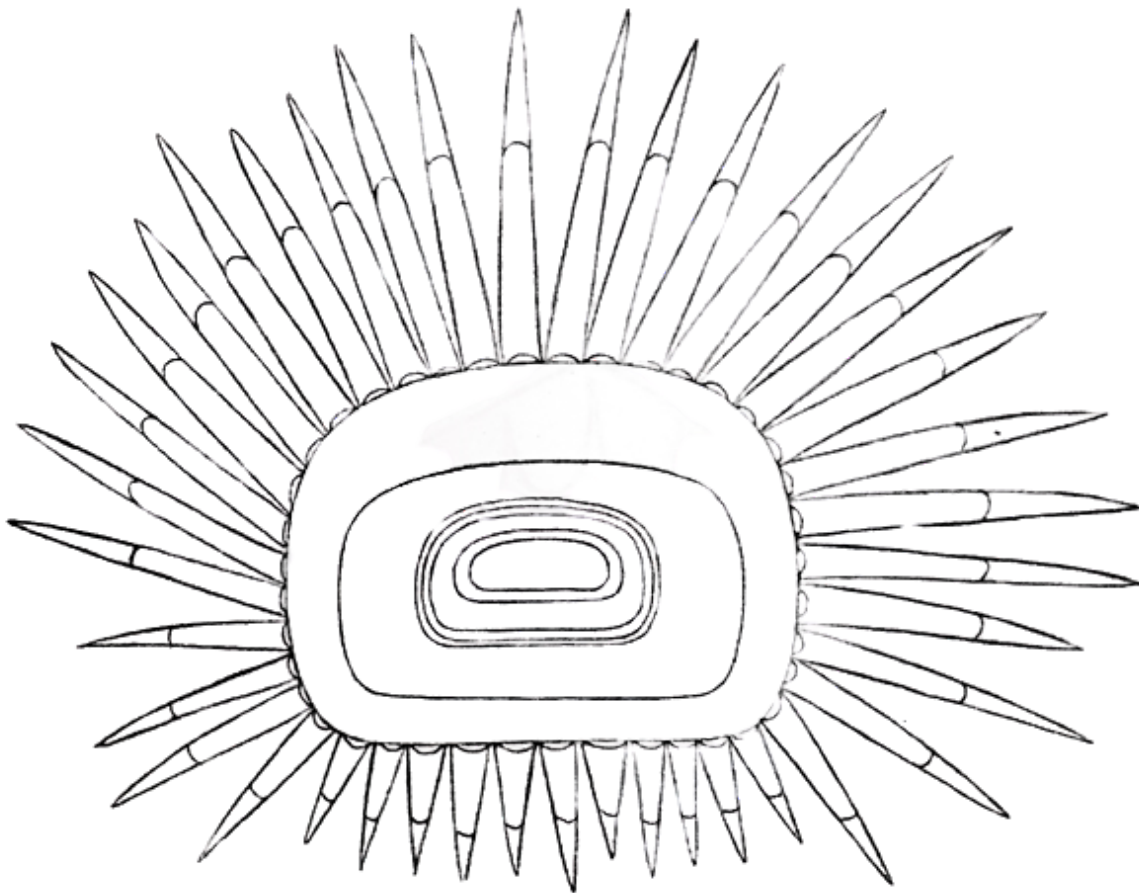
# ACTIVITIES TO CELEBRATE NATIVE AMERICAN AND ALASKA NATIVE HERITAGE MONTH

**Watch** Sitka resident and cultural liaison Chuck Miller present traditional Tlingit stories on the Sitka Tribe of Alaska Facebook page!

**Listen** to Indigenous musicians

**Practice** your Tlingit pronunciation using the Sealaska Heritage app

**Color** this form-line drawing by Mark Sixeby of a *Nées'* (sea urchin)



**NÉÉS'**