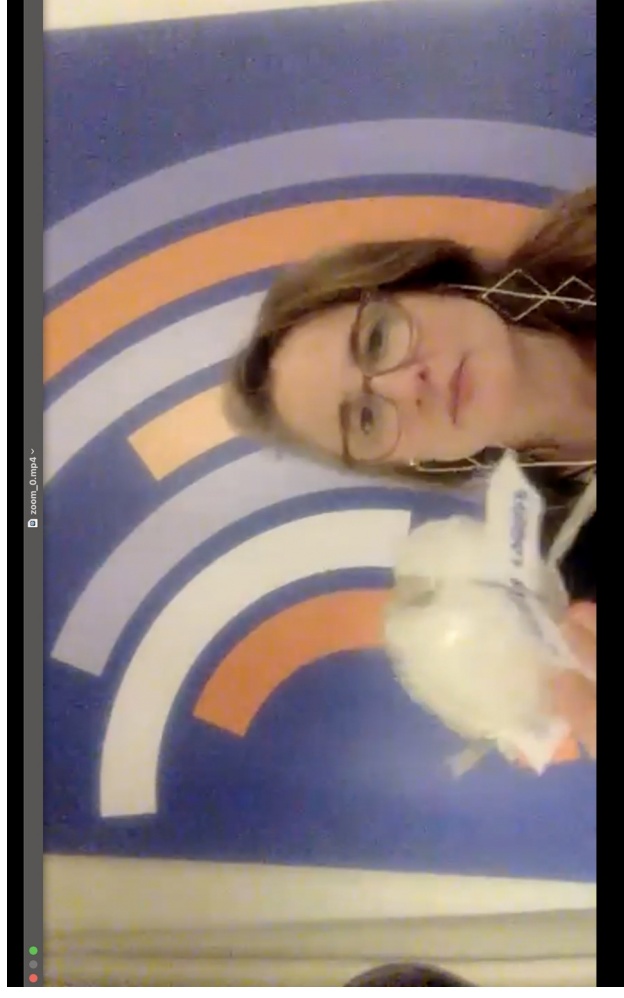


Republic of Learning 8: Little Earths, Human Stories	
Facilitators	Rachel Jacobs, Giles Lane & Aideen Foley
Participants	Andreas, Lindsey, Will, Anna, Lauren & Hannah
Theme	<p>This workshop focused on making <i>Little Earths</i>: stewardship objects that combine craft making, intimacy, scientific data and stories.</p> <p>A mythical object to keep in our pocket, have in our home or gift to others.</p> <p>https://www.manifest-data.org/post/republic-of-learning-8-little-earths-mythical-objects-human-stories</p>
Questions	<p>What do we love, care for and want to protect?</p> <p>How would we feel about the planet – the places and non-humans that we love – if we could hold them in our pocket?</p>
<p><i>Republic of Learning</i> is part of the "Materialising Data, Embodying Climate Change" project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council [AH/S00369X/1] ahrc.ukri.org</p>	



Different/brave thinking required
Got to go our own way!

Lauren:
free writing over making
envelope with smaller ones inside containing writings
Global – philosophy/big ideas, overarching things
Regional – problematic (history, colonialism, exploitation etc)
Space & scale

Giles:
Aligning the 4 scales with 4 spheres (cryosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere, atmosphere).
How we are held by them... both within and upon the Earth.
Global – cryosphere: too vast and remote: out of our hands.
Influenced by humans as a species but beyond our individual abilities to act
Regional – hydrosphere: UK as an island surrounded by water. Oceans as vast and unstoppable... King Canute refusing his sycophants by proving his power didn't extend to the waves. But the sea is always something we test ourselves & our limits against.

Republic of Learning



Little Earths & Human Stories

8th December 2021

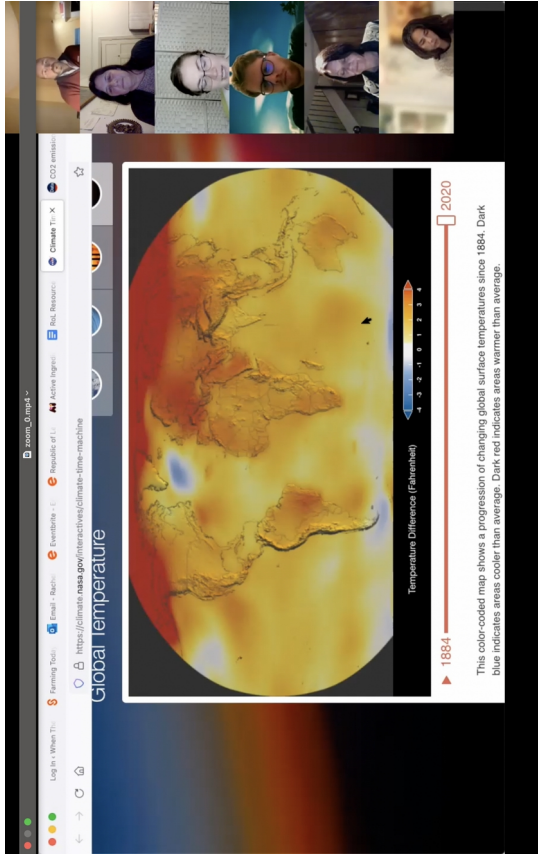
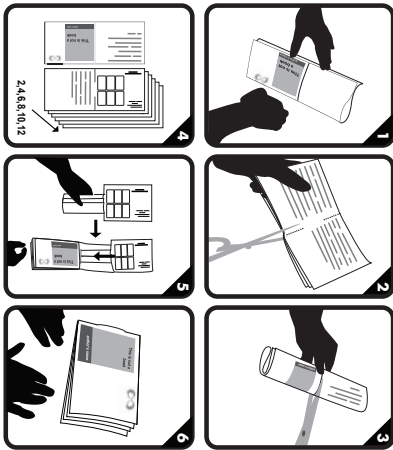
Republic of Learning 8:
Little Earths, Human Stories
Giles Lane, Rachel Jacobs & Aideen

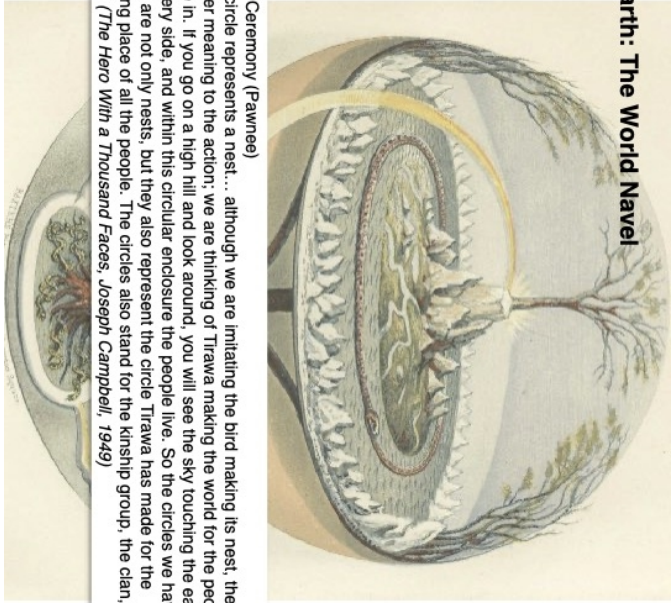
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Published by Proboscis
www.manifest-data.org
doi: 10.5281/zenodo.6606844



<https://bktr.it/3icNMq>

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Hako Ceremony (Pawnee)
"The circle represents a nest... although we are imitating the bird making its nest, there is another meaning to the action; we are thinking of Trawa making the world for the people to live in. If you go on a high hill and look around, you will see the sky touching the earth on every side, and within this circular enclosure the people live. So the circles we have made are not only nests, but they also represent the circle Trawa has made for the dwelling place of all the people. The circles also stand for the kinship group, the clan, the tribe." (The Hero With a Thousand Faces, Joseph Campbell, 1949)

A Little Earth: The World Navel

Q1: A V A Global Perspective

How do you imagine the Earth?
What are your cares for this layer of your little Earth?

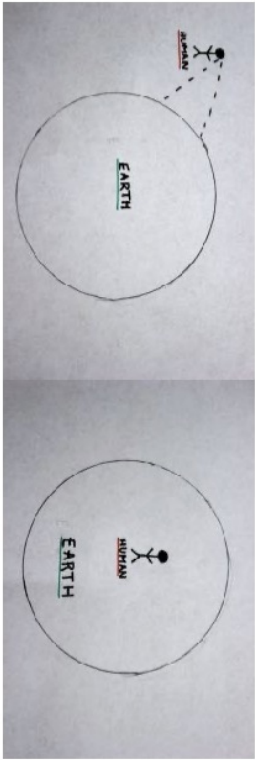
Links:

- <https://climate.nasa.gov/interactives/climate-time-machine>
- <https://ourworldindata.org/co2-emissions>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/oct/09/revealed-20-firms-third-carbon-emissions>



Hesiod (Ancient Greece)
"Three times, Earth [Gaia] gives decisive advice...: she makes herself understood, she indicates by words more than by signs, she also knows how to 'say everything explicitly' when she needs to, but always she foresees, she forewarns, she conceives of schemas that orient the course of things in a decisive way." (Hesiod, Theogony, 1914)

(Globes and Spheres, Perception of the Environment: Essays on livelihood, dwelling, and skill, Tim Ingold, 2000)



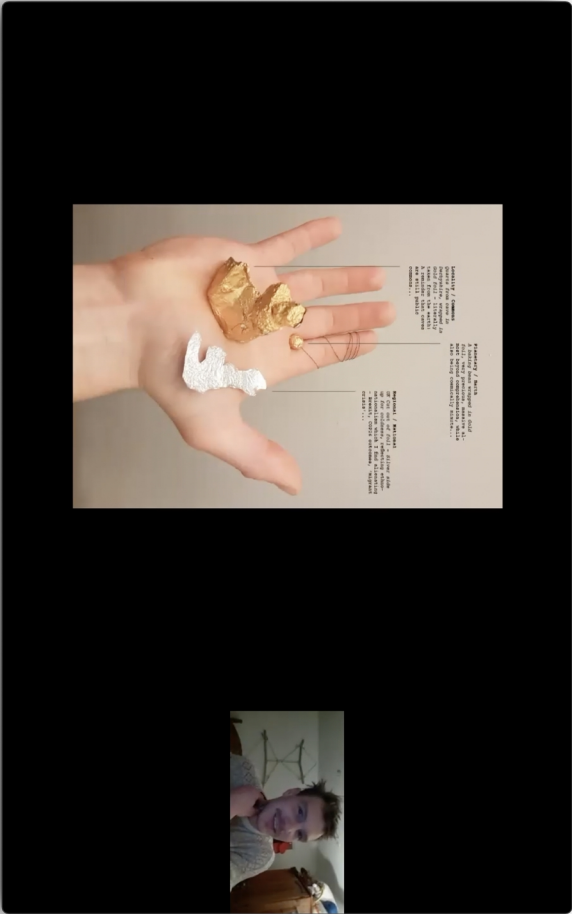
Gaia, Ge, Gyre, Earth: The Life Zone

Q2: A Regional/National Perspective

How do you imagine your country?
What are your cares for this layer of your little Earth?

Links:

- <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/climate/maps-and-data/uk/uk-temperature-rainfall-and-sunshine-time-series>
- <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/pub/data/weather/uk/ukcp18/science-reports/ukcp-infographic-headline-findings.pdf>



Weaving the world together

Grandmother Spider Brings The Light (Cherokee)

"In the beginning there was only darkness. The early people bumped into each other, always groping about. Then they said to each other 'we need light'. Woodpecker knew there was light on the other side of the world. Fox warned that the people who had plenty of light were greedy, otherwise they would have shared the light before now. The council or the early people wondered what to do. Possum spoke 'I have a thick tail and could hide the light in my fur. Possum set out to the other side of the world, as the light grew possum screwed up his eyes and this is why Possums eyes are small. He snatched the light but his tail got burnt, this is why Possum's tail is bald. Then Buzzard went to steal the light, thinking he was wiser than Possum. He snatched a piece of the sun and put it on top of his head and burnt his head feathers. This is why the buzzard is bald headed.

The early people did not know what to do next when a voice said 'let me try'. It took a while for people to hear Grandmother Spider. They let her try. Feeling around in the darkness she searched until she found a clump of clay and made a small pot. She went eastwards weaving a web so she could find her way home. She was so small that no one saw her come close to the sun. She gently took a small bit of light and put it in her bowl. The light shone around her as she made her way back along the thread she had spun. Even today you notice the spider always spins her web before the sun has fully risen." (Earthtales, storytelling in times of change, Alida Gersie, 1992)

Photo: Kogl weaving Mochila bags, Heart of the world, Alan Ereira, 1990)





Q3: A V A Q3: Local Perspective

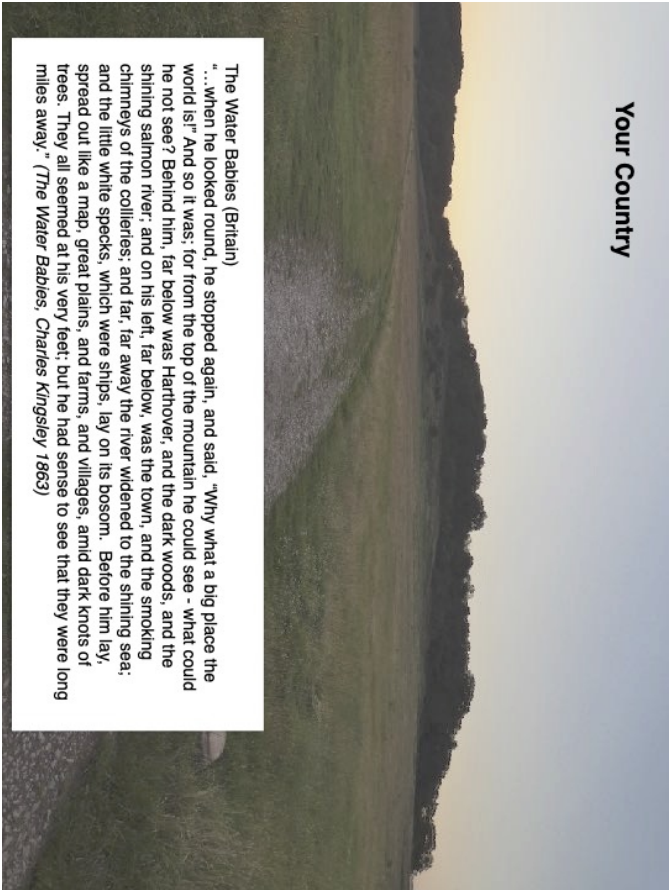
How do you imagine your locality?
What are your cares for this layer of your little Earth?

Links:

- <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/climate/maps-and-data/historic-station-data>
- <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/climate/maps-and-data/uk-climate-averages>

Q5: Weaving the World Together

How do we love, care and protect our little earth?
What action will this involve?
What holds our little earth together?
How do we nest each layer within the other?
What stories binds the different elements?
How do we bring our little earth to life?





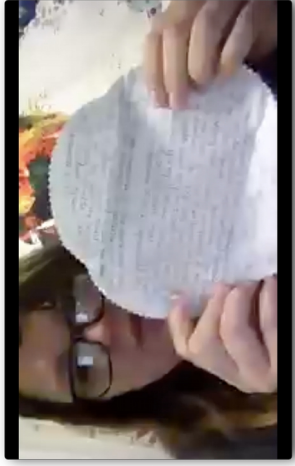
Your Locality

Q4: An individual perspective

How do you imagine yourself/family/kin in relation to the world?
What are your cares for this layer of your little Earth?

Links:

https://coastal.climatecentral.org/map/10/-1.0876/53.196/?theme=sea_level_rise&map_type=coastal_dem_comparison&basemap=roadmap&contiguous=true&elevation_model=best_available&forecast_year=2050&pathway=rcp85&percentile=p95&refresh=true&return_level=return_level_1&rl_mo_del=gtsr&slr_model=kopp_2017
<https://www.gov.uk/check-long-term-flood-risk>



may actually be periodic aberrations in human history!
Commons & cooperative societies may be the longer term norm for humans over past 100K years.
Concept of “commons” diverse... language shapes how people see it. Strong association in English with property & assets, but other cultures/languages often describe it more as a relationship
Enclosures of commonwealth like teeth coming down “from on high”
Personal – atmosphere: my breath is not just what’s closest but also within my very being. The tension of Climate Change felt in my actual body. My choices about what/how much carbon I burn are part of my life. How can we help people learn to breathe (i.e. live) more gently?
To be calm and not despair?



Weaving – holds it all together, ethics, respect, care, fair share, shared purpose. Binding.

Aideen: sewing project... personal scale. but too much!
Solutions not really as good as promised
Knots, not resolving
Only so much before hitting a knot
An enactment of all our fears and hopes

Lindsey: embedded precariousness of our situation
World in a bag – connecting to Water
Welsh language has large vocabulary for locality
Everything embroiled and connected together
Understanding your part in the "Extinction cascade"
All wobbly + interconnected
Worked on climate change issues since 1991, but shifting from global to local solutions/responses: survive and flourish

Giles: Local – lithosphere: Graeber & Wengrow's "Dawn of Everything"... hierarchy not necessarily the "natural order" :

Gustav Metzger's "Remembering Nature" with CSM students Milton

ball of bubblewrap and string
concerns about climate/environment written tape
Earth in the Goldilocks Zone

the scissors and tapes as yet other perspectives of fracture

cut along the lines... different perspectives of fracture

cyclical sine waves (time speeding up)

tangle + bridge to a submerged egg

time rather than spatial nesting

What are your cares for this layer of your little Earth?

How do you imagine your country?

How do you imagine the Earth?

Notes

Individual/Family/Kin



Trickster-Divinity Edshu(Yorubaland, West Africa)
"Edshu behaved in either field a farmer at work and proposed to play a trick. He put on a hat that on one side was red, the other white, the front green and black behind (these colours symbolising the four world directions as Edshu was a personification of the world navel). The two friendly farmers went back to their village and one said to the other, "did you see that old fellow in the white hat?" the other replied "the hat was red". They got into an argument and came to blows, eventually drawing knives on each other. The neighbours took them to the headman for judgement, but he could not work out where justice lay. Edshu was in the crowd at the trial and revealed himself, showing the crowd his hat. "The two couldn't help but quarrel. I wanted it that way. It brings me great joy to spread strife." (The Hero With a Thousand Faces, Joseph Campbell, 1949)

Photo: Toa of the head of a human emerging from the earth, the whole represents the emergence of life (Diyari, Australia, 1904)

Stage 2:

How do you imagine your locality?

How do you imagine yourself/family/kin in relation to the world?
What are your cares for this layer of your little Earth?

Andreas:

points of friction in local
 how to stay in the world

Box – personal contains all but has holes... leaks

Presence – can be open and solid

Presence is how we can feed the world and is our most
 precious gift to it

Will:

Made an image
 tiny fragments in his hand... precious but can hold

Lauren:

loops of nestled envelopes, full of free writing
 On Hull – vulnerability of the city. Overlooked. Under water in
 50 years. Fast eroding coastline. Survival...

Enrichment + health of community
 Individual – a striver!

Obligations towards the non-human



Mining the Moon – horror at disposability
 Blake – Is (England) really a green and pleasant land???

Andreas: tube dressed in paper
 Couldn't see all at once – must spin it to change perspectives
 and can thus see many
 Must be open to 'rolling' at different speeds
 Country fills in the world

Will: ball/bead on a string, covered in gold foil.
 Thinking of "Universe" (on BBC iPlayer?)
 The Earth – small, and humans even smaller... But precious!
 Buckminster Fuller's Spaceship Earth... needs care &
 protection
 Feelings about the Global are warm, but about the UK: cold.

Lindsey: Rock pebble in a bag
 Life is the slim layer of the bag/surrounding the earth
 The world fits in the country. Filaments
 Care for water... person and Dragon