

Education of sustainability

Level 3

Achievement Standard 91736 Version 1

Analyse how different worldviews, and the values and practises associated with them,
impact on sustainability

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Executive Summary


I will be analysing Maori worldviews and comparing it to Native American worldviews. I will research how these worldviews as well as their values and practises associated with them have an impact on sustainability. I will also see how the two worldviews have changed over time as well as seeing if there are any comparisons or similarities between them.

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Section 1: Explanation of two different worldviews

“The Māori world view represents a rationalised understanding of Māori culture and at the same time preserves the integrity of things Māori. An awareness and understanding of the Māori world view enhances people’s ability of to gain a Māori perspective in their actions and responsibilities, and to be more effective in engaging and working with Māori.”¹ To be able to grasp the idea of what the Maori worldview are is to understand and have a little knowledge about Maori culture.

Maori believe the creation of the world were Papatuanuku and Ranginui which were the mother of the earth and father of the sky who had many children. The children being many things that relate to natural resources. For example Tane Mahuta who is the god of the forest or there is Tangaroa who is the god of the sea. All together Papatuanuku and Ranginui had 70 children. Maori worldviews are to respect nature’s resources. Maori have a strong connection with the land, environment as well as the people. These are some of the few things that represent Maori.²

A way of expressing ones identity Maori people have relationships with everything being birds, people, fish, trees, the weather etc. These relationships have also helped Maori to interpret the world better. Maori believe that the spiritual world and the physical world that we live in are connected and our ancestors who have passed away are still with us further more acknowledging their passing. Tapu is like a legal system within the Maori community that represents the concept of protect meaning protecting their own values as well as respecting others. Maori believe that the world is created every time the sun rises. Mana represents power and without power life won’t reach its full potential.³ 

The second worldview is Native American worldviews. “Although there is not one definite worldview for Native Americans, many Native people have a lot of the same beliefs, morals, and values”⁴ Depending on what tribe you associate with differs there way of viewing things. Native Americans feel blessed with the beautiful surroundings they have in their life that has been given to them by the gods. They are people with patience. They are able to take time in what they do and have a “belief that all things unfold in time”⁵ When it comes to time they go with the flow and are really flexible with how they manage it.

¹http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/Plans/LongTermPlan/VolumeOne/section_1341865502977.html

² <http://history-nz.org/maori9.html>

³ <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/culture/frontier-of-chaos/maori-values>

⁴ <http://unioncollegenativeamericans.weebly.com/worldview-and-implications.html>

⁵ <http://nwindian.evergreen.edu/curriculum/ValuesBehaviors.pdf>

For survival purposes Native Americans value silence. It can also symbolize when one isn't comfortable about a particular situation. For example if an argument were to break out within a group others around them would remain silent. Native Americans are humble with their self-earned achievements. They don't like it when they draw attention to themselves hence why they are humble about them. They are cautious when speaking to one another. They only speak what is necessary when needed.⁶

Music is also a part of Native American culture which is an alternative way to express how they socialize with one another. Native Americans believe in equality and everyone is treated the same. This is a way so no one is ranked higher or lower than anybody else. For example each person has a right to contribute any suggestions under any circumstance therefore that suggestion won't go unnoticed. Also Native American values are not to mistreat young children. A method of parenting is to leave their child stranded for a few days where it teaches the child about life decisions. To develop strategies and gain skills that can not only help themselves but skills that can assist others of the community.⁷

Worldviews can differ depending on the upbringing of a person. There isn't a correct viewpoint on how things are looked at as people are diverse. Within their own cultures there can be a wide range of worldviews but they generally have the same value.



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⁶ <http://literacynet.org/lp/namericans/values.html>

⁷ <http://questgarden.com/79/14/5/090327191304/files/FourNativeAmericanValues.htm>

Section 2: Analysis in relation to aspects of sustainability

Both Maori and Native American worldviews relate to aspects of sustainability. An example of Maori and Native American worldview relating to aspects of sustainability is they respect the land and the natural resources that we have.

In Maori culture kaitiakitanga is the responsibility of taking care of the environment which is passed through many generations. "A kaitiaki is a guardian. This can be a person or group that cares for an area such as a lake or forest. They are given that role by the local tribe."⁸ The reason for kaitiakitanga is not only to protect the environment but also to ensure that they are maintaining those resources that the people who supported those resources from past generations are being looked after accordingly. Kaitiakitanga in particular relates to environmental sustainability as Maori people preserve nature's resources also protecting the environment in making sure they don't harm it. Apart of Maori culture they feel spiritually connected to the land therefore they take pride and care towards the land.

Maori people do many things for sustaining their culture. In the Maori community they have a marae which is a place where they can get together and socialize. Maori people are identified by which tribe they come from. To sustain Maori culture we have a Maori language week in New Zealand. During that week there are many things that are taught to people about Maori culture as well as the history about Maori ancestor's etc. Maori language and Maori culture has a massive impact on New Zealand and how the government runs it. Another source in sustaining their culture is that there is a Maori channel on television which shows and programs that relate to Maori culture. There is Maori news which gives updates on news within the Maori community. Also in Maori culture they have a Maori dance which is called the haka. The meaning of a haka is to look upon the history of Maori along with Maori heritage. The haka is popular within New Zealand and was first shown when the European settlers came to New Zealand.⁹

On the other hand Native Americans believe that they should also respect the earth and only use what is necessary. Using many things that can harm the natural environment. By harming the earth and not treating it well Native Americans believe that the earth will just harm them back in return. Native Americans have sacred land that they also see that they need to protect and respect. They must protect the earth's resources so that future generations can be able to use them as well. Native Americans have learnt to work with nature therefore they have a balance between nature and the Native American people. Native Americans were also limited with what they had and didn't have any type of

⁸<http://www.teara.govt.nz/en/kaitiakitanga-guardianship-and-conservation>

⁹ <http://www.tourism.net.nz/new-zealand/about-new-zealand/maori-culture.html>

machinery, an example being cars but in spite of what people may think it was actually a good thing. By not having such machinery it has lead them to not be greedy and destroy the earth. Once again this is also in relation to environmental sustainability.

Native American are considerate of others feelings. They believe in equality where everyone is to be treated the same. No one is higher or lower in ranker which this takes into consideration of one's personal feelings. This is a way to keep everyone happy and no arguments break out between the groups. They also value children and not treating them badly. Parents have different disciplinary methods but in no circumstance does the parent mistreat their child. This aspect of a Native American value relates back to the concept of social sustainability. This value enhances the development of not only their personal wellbeing but also their Native American community.



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Section 3: Comparison of each of the two worldviews

Maori and Native American worldview also values have comparisons as well as similarities. A similarity of the two worldviews are they both have a mutual respect for the environment which includes natural resources. They both have similar worldviews on the respect that their people should have on the environment and not taking things for granted.

In regards to present issues within the Maori community groups have been formed that oppose arguments to the government on how they are taking advantage of their land. Land is a major issue within the Maori community. Maori respect the land hence why groups have been created to fight back and claiming what's there's. This course of action attracts the attention of the media, but this issue has been happening for quite some time.

As more European settlers came to New Zealand the Maori population began to decrease which impacted on Maori culture. This meant the Maori community had to find solutions to sustain their culture which they have done. With having sustained their culture through many things we don't only get to learn about their culture today but also be leaning more about it in the future.

Maori communities' educational schooling is an issue and can have different impacts on people. There are not only low achievers but there are also high achievers within the Maori community. The reasons behind the low achievers are they don't have any educational resources available at home. Also based on success rate if a Maori pupil were to go to a school with a decil of 7-10 they would have a higher success rate becoming a Maori pupil that is a high achiever. Whereas if a Maori pupil were to go to a school with a decil 1-3 they would have a low success rate becoming a Maori pupil that is a low achiever.¹⁰ Also factors that can lead up to this is ones background. A person may have an unstable home or parents earn a low income causing them to go to low decil schools as they don't have funding for their child to attend to a school of a higher decil. In today's society the Maori community are looked at differently. This will only be an ongoing issue within the Maori community unless they take a course of action to help improve the situation.

Some of the issues that the Native American are facing is Native American women are treated badly and have a high rate in being sexually assaulted or even rape. The offenders of these crimes are from outside the Native American community as within

¹⁰ http://www.maxim.org.nz/site/DefaultSite/filesystem/documents/maori_education.pdf



Native American community they treat women with respect. 80% of crimes that are committed to Native American women are from outside their community but this issue is slowly being worked on. Native American find it hard to adapt to schooling within the US therefore have a low success rate.

Now with Native Americans colonizing in America the US government are trying to take away Native Americans sacred land and use the land for wrong purposes. Native Americans are connected with the land and have groups fighting back for rights in relation to the sacred land. Also Native Americans have an issue with poverty as well as high unemployment rates. Many Native Americans are left without jobs which leads them to poverty. By not having jobs they can't financially take care of their families properly and aren't able to provide for them. Some families have to live together which causes overcrowding in homes which the homes have bad qualities and not good living circumstances. If these families have children with them no being able to provide for them can disturb their growth development having an effect on their happiness through life. This also raises awareness concerning health for the Native American people. With Native American youth they have a high suicide rate and is a common factor of death. Many native rights aren't recognised by the US government which is limiting things in what they can do but working on improving this issue with the Native American community.¹¹

These two worldviews are similar in relation to their schooling as well as ownership over land. Both parties have the same way of thinking in regards to the value they have over land. But there are also distinct differences between the two worldviews as well as the issues that come together with them. With these issues some may still be occurring in the future but the issues are slowly being worked on.

¹¹ http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/13-native-american-issues_55b7d801e4b0074ba5a6869c

Section 4: Complexities explored

Maori and Native American values and worldviews have changed significantly overtime from the past till the present. These changes caused trouble within both Maori and Native American communities at first but the people had to adapt to the changes even though they disliked it.

Maori people are the indigenous people of New Zealand and were the first settlers that New Zealand had. Maori people were identified by tribes and each tribe had a chief. The chief is the leader of the tribes and any concerns about the tribe must be seen by the chief. Maori people were living peacefully, they had structure within their tribes and protected earth's resources and used the resources when necessary. They believed they should respect the environment which they followed for years. Everything started to change when the Europeans wanted to have settlements within New Zealand. The Maori community was against their entry into New Zealand. This caused conflicting issues between the Maori people and the Europeans. With the European settlers they brought unknown diseases to New Zealand which the Maori pupil were getting sick therefore they didn't know how to cure them causing many people within the Maori communities to become unquestionably ill. They also brought in guns which Maori people were unaware of as they haven't used machinery like that as they use spears. This led to the creation of the treaty of Waitangi which was signed on the 6th February 1840. This treaty went around New Zealand to all the Maori chiefs who signed the treaty for European settlers to have settlements established within New Zealand. From this event that occurred it have slightly changed the way Maori people view things. European settlers were taking the Maori peoples land and Maori people were forced to adapt to these changes. The environment was being harmed by the Europeans with buildings of homes on the land.¹²

With Native American's there values slightly changed also with the settlements of Europeans which is what they have in common with the Maori worldview. Native American were isolated from the world and content with their small Native American community. Native Americans also had tribes depending on where they were located. They were unaware of what was occurring around them. The environment is a thing they value and take respect in. With the European settlers they were taking advantage of the land. When Native Americans came in contact with an unknown object that was brought in by European settlers they become fascinated with it. This started to stir emotions they didn't know existed and the want for that object was only growing. This also led to arguments between each other and were confused as they have never



¹² <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/politics/treaty/the-treaty-in-brief>

experienced things like that. They believed they were given good things for a reason and to be humble about everything but when an unknown object is found they don't know what to do as they weren't use to it. This caused a slight change in the way Native Americans view things.

There is no set worldview for both groups Maori and Native American people. Through my analysis I found that both worldviews have similarities but yet they also have differences between them. Each person has their own preference on how they view things which also relate to people from both worldviews that I have been analysing. There is no set worldview for both Maori and Native American people. The understanding of all existence, why we do things for certain reasons and the way people think are a part of how each individual views the world which can vary depending on the person. Both worldviews have changed over time and there were many conflicting issues where they needed to overcome. By doing so they learnt how to adapt to changes that were being made.



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