**Aboriginal Communication vs. Mainstream Culture**

Task: Identify how the communication styles in “mainstream” culture are different from the traditional Aboriginal culture.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Traditional Aboriginal Culture** | **Mainstream Culture** |
| Handshake is gentle and short |  |
| Minimal eye contact signals respect |  |
| Speak more softly, slowly |  |
| Take time to ponder a question and think a matter through |  |
| Silence is comfortable, no rush to speak |  |
| Nodding means understanding, but not necessarily agreement |  |
| Saving face, and not embarrassing others, is important |  |
| Consensus is valued |  |
| Interference in the affairs of others is not condoned |  |

**Aboriginal Values vs. Mainstream Culture**

Task: Identify how the values in “mainstream” culture are different from the values in traditional Aboriginal culture.

|  |  |
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| **Traditional Aboriginal Culture** | **Mainstream Culture** |
| Live in harmony with nature |  |
| Focus in the present |  |
| Mythology explains natural phenomena |  |
| Value tradition |  |
| Focus on cooperation |  |
| Work to satisfy present needs |  |
| Share wealth |  |
| Value humility |  |
| Win once, then let others win |  |