

Read the excerpt from the *Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples*, "A Word from Commissioners", and respond to the following questions with a partner. Record your answers in your learning logs.

1. In your opinion, how well has Canada reflected "the notion that dissimilar peoples can share lands, resources, power and dreams while respecting and sustaining their differences"?
2. The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP) was appointed at a turbulent moment in Canada's history. Have the types of events described in this excerpt (conflict, blockades, protests, negative media reports) become a thing of the past? Explain.
3. In your own words, what was the central question that the RCAP attempted to address?
4. Assimilation is "the process whereby one cultural group is absorbed into the culture of another, usually the majority culture." (*Integrating Aboriginal Perspectives into Curricula*, Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth)
 - Do you agree with the Commissioners that assimilation "is a denial of the principles of peace, harmony and justice . . ."? Explain.
 - What are some ways by which the Canadian government has attempted to assimilate First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples?
 - According to the Commissioners, why has assimilation of First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples failed?
5. What do Canadians need to understand to bring about the fundamental change needed to restore the relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians?
6. How do the Commissioners define Aboriginal nationhood?