

Read the description of your perspective carefully. Then, with your team members, create a short skit to present your point of view to the rest of the class in a convincing fashion. Remember to explain why you see things as you do, to be careful about stereotypes and to express yourselves in ways that are respectful of the “other” perspective.

## Turtle Island Perspective



You are the descendants of many generations of people who have lived in various territories of this vast expanse of land that, according to some oral traditions, is called Turtle Island. To you, this land is very, very old—it is the oldest land, and it is the *only* land. There are many different languages and ways of life among the peoples of this land: nomadic hunters in the Plains, fishers in the frozen North and along the coasts, woodworkers and artists and traders, farming communities in the East, and the large civilizations of the Incas and the Mayas in the South.

You do not know why these strange people, with their large ships and their flags, have come to this land. You find that these newcomers have no knowledge and that their culture lacks understanding of tradition, but they have goods they are eager to trade. You are fascinated by their tools, their iron, their guns, their clothes, and their beads.

## “Old World” Perspective



You come from England, France, Portugal, Spain or Netherlands—countries that are proud of their long and rich histories—and you believe that in Europe is the highest and best civilization that has ever existed. You have heard stories that it is possible to reach the spices and silks of Asia by sailing across the Atlantic Ocean. You have also heard stories of a land of many riches, fish and furs and forests and gold, lying in the path of this route to Asia. You knew of Europe and of Asia, but this is a New Land, one that many people in your country do not believe exists. You have heard that there are strange people in this New World, people who do not have religion and who may be dangerous. You are fascinated by this unknown land and you have dreams of extending the influence of your country by claiming it as a possession of the empire of your King or Queen.