

I have noticed along my journey that these questions are not on everyone's minds all the time. Who woulda thought, huh? I live my life connected to our great Aki/land<sup>1</sup> and all she holds. I sometimes (often) forget that the rest of the world isn't also connected the way I am. For this reason my experiences present themselves as significant and miraculous and mind boggling to people around me. These lessons you are learning with me here are going to offer you these same experiences of your own.

Life is about perspectives and there are endless numbers of those. Think of the eye of a honeybee and the many facets it holds, the many directions it can see at once. Think of the facets on a gemstone, each one catching a different ray from the same light, at the same time, creating a sparkle that humans find fascinating without understanding the connection, the lesson each of those stones offers. Each is a perspective of the same thing in the same place and moment.

## **Exercise #7**

Gather a group of family and/or friends. The more people you gather the more effective this exercise will be, and the more fun, too! Ask everyone to sit in a large circle or as closely as one can be made comfortably. Pick a beginning person for your circle. The person immediately to the right of the beginning is the end. The game ends when each person has had a turn. Game play proceeds to the person to the left of the beginning and continues in a clockwise direction.

The first person writes down a short phrase in secret and folds the paper, setting it aside until the end of the round. This can be absolutely anything. "The sky is blue." "Where's Waldo?" "The dog peed on the floor." Limit to one sentence, long or short. After setting the written phrase to the side, the first person whispers the phrase/sentence to the person on his/her/their left, exactly as it is written and just once.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ojibwe.lib.umn.edu/search?utf8=%E2%9C%93&q=land&commit=Search&type=english>

The 2nd person whispers what they heard to the 3rd person and play continues around the circle until the last person has heard the phrase/sentence.

To complete the round the last person states out loud what they heard and then the first person reads the written phrase or sentence out loud for all to hear.

Award 1 point for each correct word that makes it to the last person.

The 2nd person in the circle then becomes the first person and the game repeats.

When I was a child we called this game "telephone".

The purpose of this exercise is to explore perspectives based on what one hears or thinks they hear in a given moment and how their previous life's experiences contribute with interpretation.

***Field Notes:***