



the **Change** Agent

*An Adult Education Magazine
for Social Justice*



Teach Basic Skills with the “Indigenous Peoples” Issue of *The Change Agent*



**New England Literacy
Resource Center**

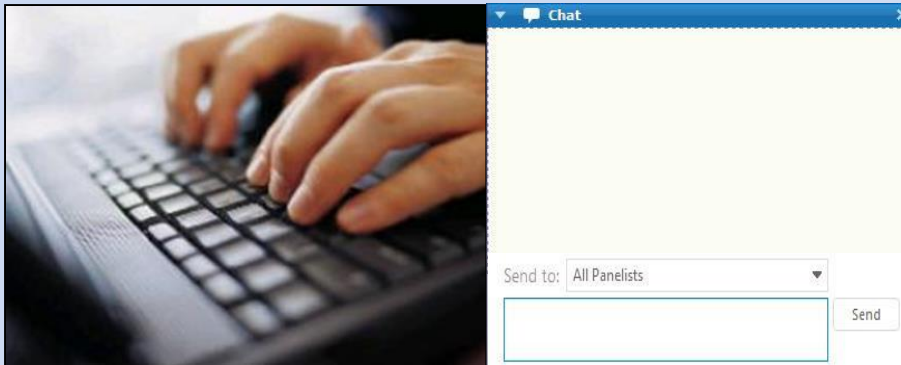


**World
Education**

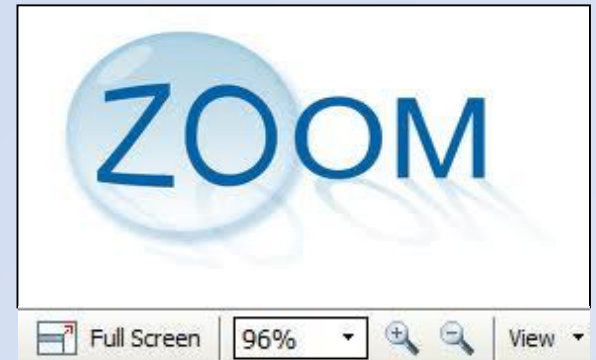
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Webinar Tools

Use chat box for discussion

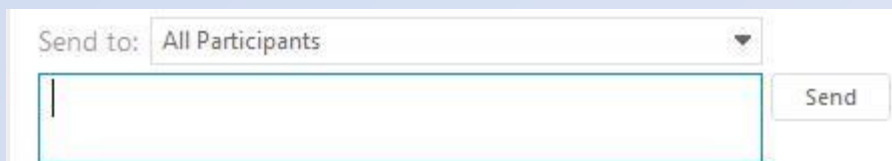


Adjust Screen



Write your questions in the chat box.

*Please remember to please send chats to “**all participants**” NOT “all attendees.”*

A close-up of the Zoom chat input area. It features a 'Send to:' dropdown menu with 'All Participants' selected. Below the dropdown is a large, empty text input field with a vertical cursor at the beginning. To the right of the input field is a 'Send' button.

The Change Agent is available in print (individual or bulk subscriptions), and online, where selected articles are available in audio.



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In this webinar, you will:

1. a tour of this teaching tool that teaches to the standards in the context of moving, relevant, and engaging content;
2. access to additional special materials that are particularly relevant to high-beginner and low-intermediate learners;
3. an introduction to our new Call for Articles -- the theme is Play. Get insider knowledge about what kind of content we're looking for at *The Change Agent!*

Main themes covered:



1. Glimpse of native traditions
2. Doorway to key social science concepts and historical moments
3. Interesting complex concepts, for example:
 - a) Settler colonialism
 - b) reciprocity
4. Poetry, video links, speaking and listening opportunities
5. Connection to immigrant learners who may be (or be knowledgeable about) indigenous people in their country of origin

Laughing for the First Time

How a Navajo Baby Becomes Fully Part of the Human World

Hannabah Blue

You are my sunshine, my only sunshine...

Recalling my Dad's favorite song makes me smile and laugh—a Navajo laugh that is sacred. The echo of the vibrations, which bounce off my lungs, swing past my heart, and escape out my throat, awaken the ancestors. They smile that their child is well. They give praise that our practices are alive.

Many Native communities value humor. For Navajos, laughter is holy, particularly for our babies. Our babies bloom as beams of precious light. They are our sons and daughters. Our suns. When Navajo babies are born, they have just emerged from the Spirit World. But they are thought to still be split between there and this world, the human world. They are holy beings still, and we circle them with love and care. Navajo babies are not fully in the human world until they have laughed for the first time. Then, they are fully among us, and they are developing their personalities.

When Navajo babies are born, they have just emerged from the Spirit World.

The person who makes a baby laugh for the first time, shares their character with him or



The author, Hannabah Blue, with her niece, Annalie (above), and with her niece, Sialely (next page).

AFTER YOU READ:

- 1. Read about other traditional practices, including the buffalo hunt on pp. 4-6 and praying to the Creator on p. 12. How might these practices contribute to wellness?**
- 2. What traditions do you have in your life? And how do they contribute to wellness?**

Why Call Them “Indians”?

Safa Elhanafi

BEFORE YOU READ: Why do you think Native Americans are sometimes called “Indians”?

Before Europeans arrived in North America, there were millions of Indigenous people. They lived in more than 600 tribes, and they had diverse languages and cultures.¹ So why did people call them all “Indians”? This is a sensitive subject that raises political and cultural questions.

The whole story started when Christopher Columbus “discovered” America. He thought he

We should call Indigenous people by the name of their tribe.

was going to an area in Asia known as the “Indies.” When he landed in the Caribbean, he insisted he was in the Indies.

That’s why he named

the people he met “Indians.”

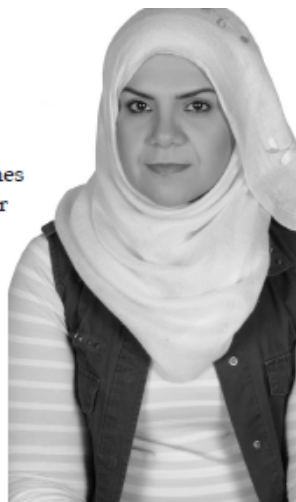
Another Italian navigator, Amerigo Vespucci, proved that Columbus was wrong. He did not land in the Indies. That is why the Americas—the continents of North and South America—are named after Amerigo Vespucci.²

So the name “Indian” comes from one explorer who thought he was in the Indies. And the

name “America” comes from another explorer who figured out it wasn’t the Indies. If you call Indigenous people “Indians” or “Native Americans,” both names come from outsiders. This is upsetting for some people. Columbus and Vespucci are not just outsiders, they are people who started the genocide of Indigenous people. Even the U.S. government uses the term “American Indian.” This term puts all the Indigenous people in one group and doesn’t reflect their cultures and traditions.

One of the reasons “naming” matters is that it can have the effect of collapsing all these diverse groups into one general group, which means we lose a lot of their diversity in the process.

We should call Indigenous people by the name of their tribe. We should study the Indigenous traditions and history. They are very diverse, and they are interesting and valuable for everyone. We could learn a lot from them.



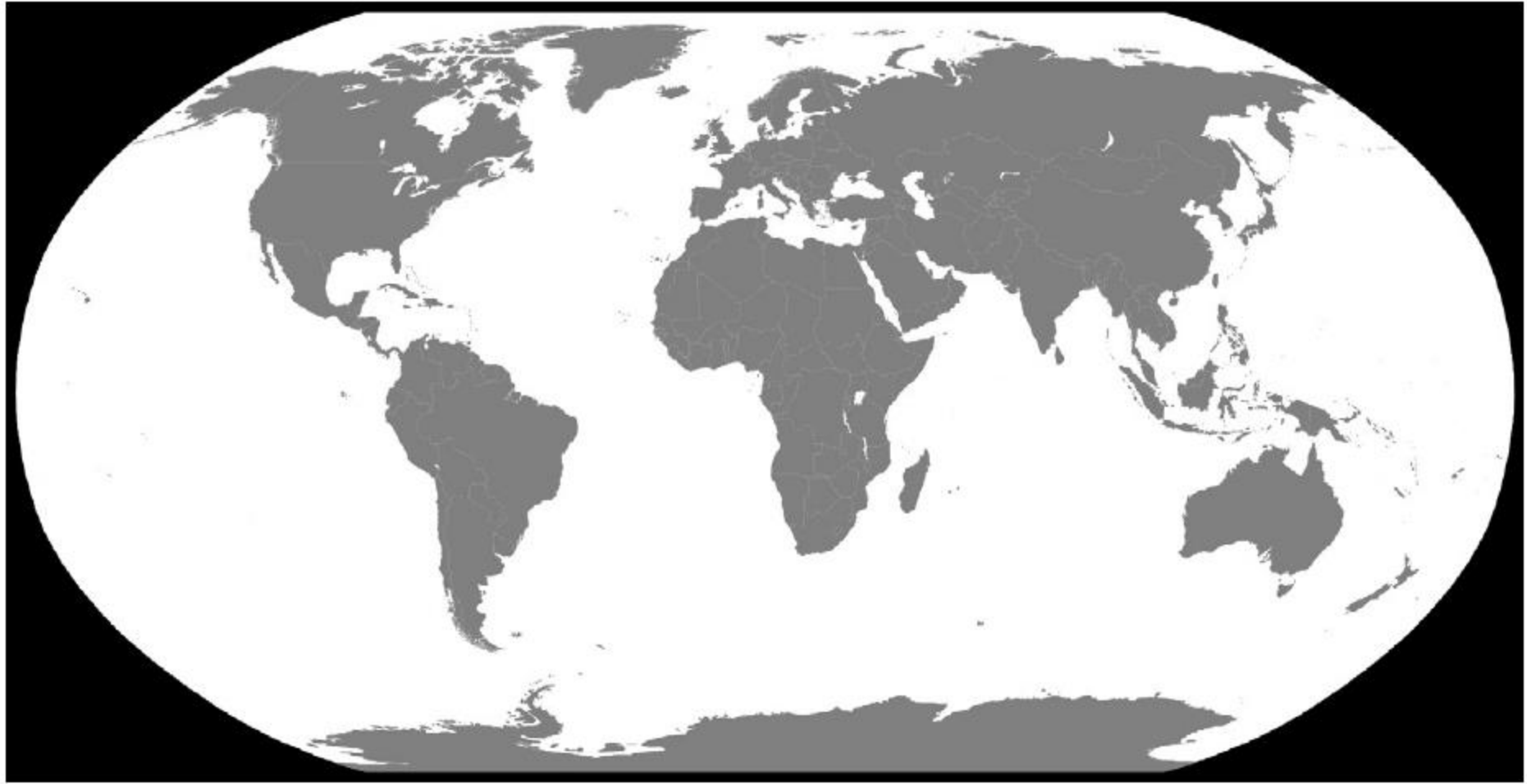
Look at this map of the world. Why did Columbus think he could go west from Europe and land in the Indies?

Safa Elhanafi is from Egypt. She is the mother of two kids, and she is an adult education student at ERACE in Branford, CT. Mohammed Elweheshy helped her write this article.

Sources: 1. <www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2014/06/24/323665644/the-map-of-native-american-tribes-youve-never-seen-before>
2. <www.britannica.com/biography/Amerigo-Vespucci>

AFTER YOU READ: According to the author, why does naming matter? What do you think about it?

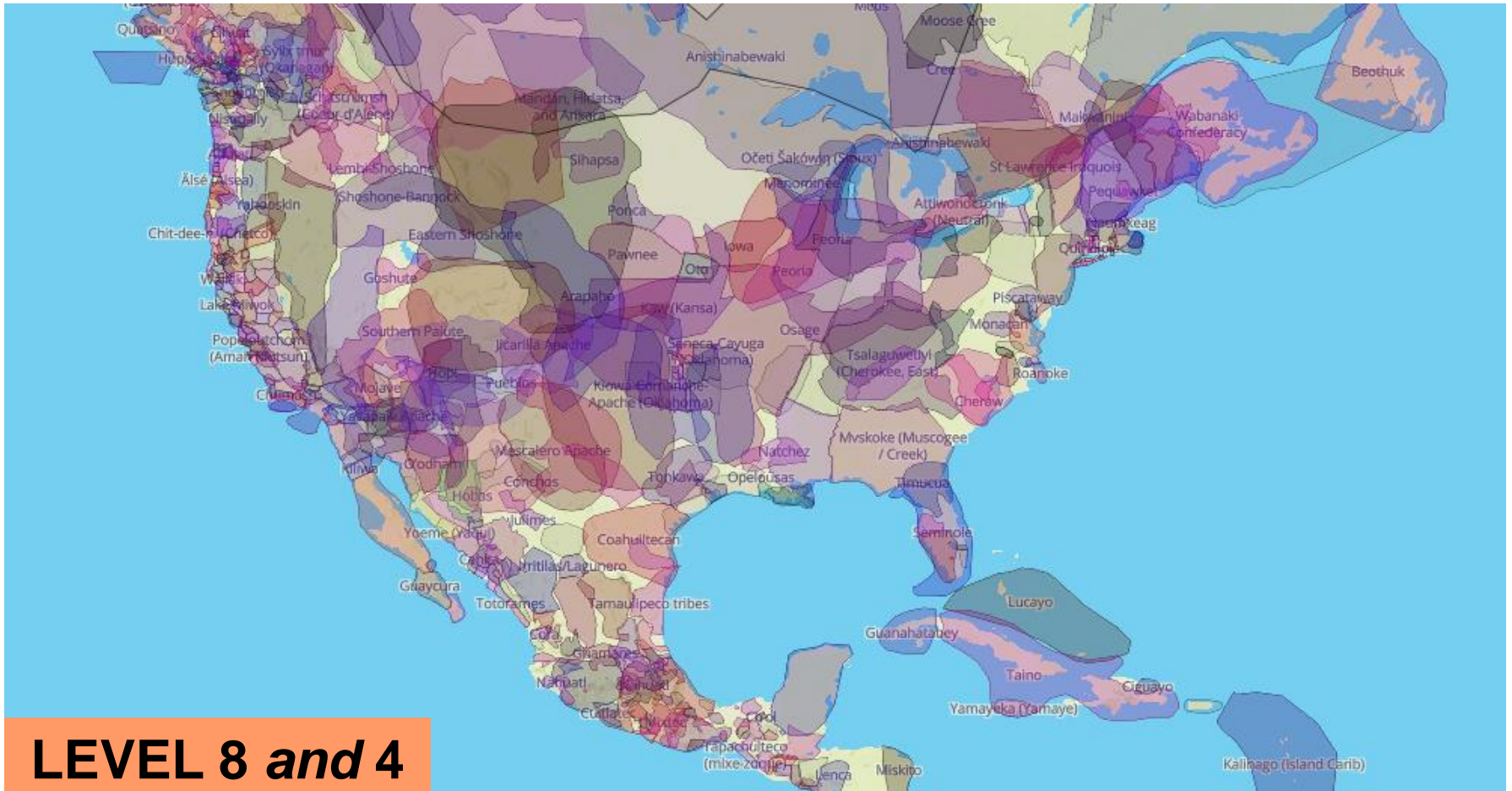
LEVEL 8



Look at this map of the world. Why did Columbus think he could go west from Europe and land in the Indies?

Acknowledge the Land

<native-land.ca>



LEVEL 8 *and* 4
**(See “extras”
for LEVEL 4)**

La Guelaguetza

A Festival of Reciprocity

Sergio Mendoza

BEFORE YOU READ: Define “reciprocity” (noun). Try using it in a sentence. Try using “reciprocate” (verb) and reciprocal (adjective) in sentences as well. Share examples of reciprocity in your life.

I am Zapotec. We are Indigenous people living in Oaxaca, Mexico. Every year in July, Indigenous people in Oaxaca have a big celebration. It is called La Guelaguetza.

Guelaguetza is a Zapotec word that means “offering” or “present.” In our Indigenous culture, generosity and reciprocity are important values. In the festival of La Guelaguetza, we bring gifts to each other and receive gifts in return.

Unfortunately, the festival is very expensive. Tourists come from all over the world. The price to enter is very high. Only people with a lot of money can go. (Some tickets are free, but you have to wait in a long line to get them.) If you want to buy food or water at the festival, you have to pay a lot. If you want to sell anything at the festival, you have to pay a big fee to the authorities. Ironically, most Zapotecs cannot attend the festival. We do not have enough money. I have never attended it myself. I have only heard about it.

AFTER YOU READ: Explain how it is ironic that many Zapotecs can



Indigenous people from Oaxaca participate in La Guelaguetza, 2005. Photo from <wikimedia.org>.



LEVEL 5

Introduction to Settler Colonialism

Use an Illustration, an Historical Document, and Vocabulary to Gain Background Knowledge



INDIAN LAND FOR SALE

GET A HOME

OF
YOUR OWN



EASY PAYMENTS



PERFECT TITLE



POSSESSION

WITHIN

THIRTY DAYS

FINE LANDS IN THE WEST

IRRIGATED
IRRIGABLE

GRAZING

AGRICULTURAL
DRY FARMING

IN 1910 THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR SOLD UNDER SEALED BIDS ALLOTTED INDIAN LAND AS FOLLOWS:

Location.	Acres.	Average Price per Acre.	Location.	Acres.	Average Price per Acre.
Colorado	5,211.21	\$7.27	Oklahoma	34,664.00	\$19.14
Idaho	17,013.00	24.85	Oregon	1,020.00	15.43
Kansas	1,684.50	33.45	South Dakota	120,445.00	16.53
Montana	11,034.00	9.86	Washington	4,879.00	41.37
Nebraska	5,641.00	36.65	Wisconsin	1,069.00	17.00
North Dakota	22,610.70	9.93	Wyoming	865.00	20.64

Vocabulary

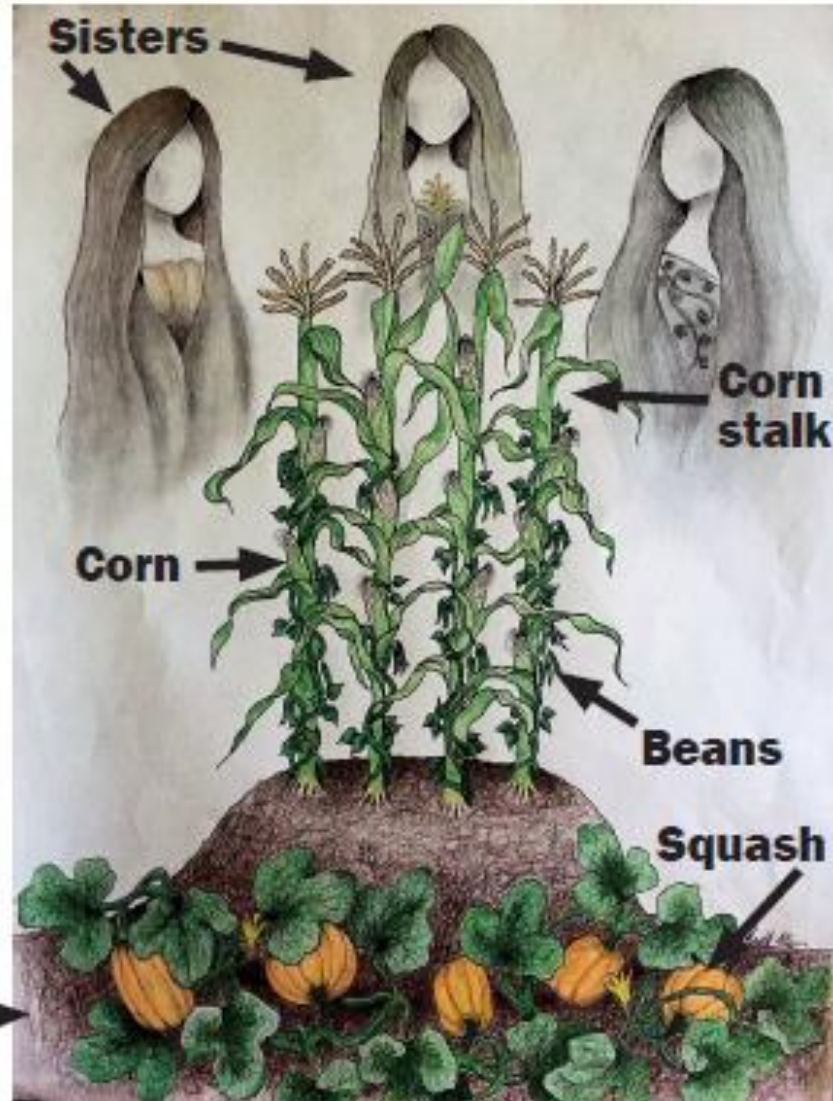


Native means the first people to live on a land.



Moist means a little bit wet.

Soil is dirt where plants grow.



Raccoon



Nitrogen is a chemical that helps plants grow.



Prickly means sharp (like a cactus).

The Three Sisters: Corn, Beans, and Squash

The Old Farmer's Almanac

Corn, beans, and squash are called the “three sisters.” Native Americans grow these three plants together. The plants grow well together. They are like sisters.

Each plant gives something to the other plants. The corn gives beans support. The beans climb up the corn stalk. The squash climb up the corn stalk.

The beans, pull nitrogen from the air. They put the nitrogen in the soil. Nitrogen is an important food for the other plants.

The squash plant has large leaves. The large leaves give shade from the sun. The soil stays cool and moist. The leaves stop weeds from growing. The squash leaves are prickly. The raccoons do not like to step on the leaves.

Together, the three sisters give gifts to us. They give us healthy foods

LEVEL 4 – “extras”
LEVEL 9 – in magazine



Image from <www.angelmounds.org/exhibits/garden>.

Back Issues Still Relevant!

For example:



Math



Career Pathways



Hair

<http://changeagent.nelrc.org/issues/>

Write for *The Change Agent*

- Check out our “Call for Articles” The theme of our next issue is **“Play”**
- Students can write for a national magazine.
- Their story will be read by peers.
- They will experience “the editorial process,” including revisions, etc.
- Next writing deadline is **May 3, 2019**.
- Students whose pieces are accepted receive \$50.

Download “Call for Articles” at:

<http://changeagent.nelrc.org/write-for-us/>

Submitting Articles to *The Change Agent*



Each submission includes ***all relevant contact information*** for the student and the teacher.



Please email submissions as attachments.

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\$20 per teacher per year

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Finally...

A recording of this webinar will be available at changeagent.nelrc.org

Questions or comments? Contact Cynthia Peters cpeters@worlded.org

Thank you for participating!

