

STEP 1

CHANGING OUR GRAMMAR

PRACTICING PERSONHOOD

consider gendering non-human beings with human pronouns. to embody respect and moral concern, practice seeing the world as a "communion of subjects, not a collection of objects". calling a tree an "it" creates a barrier, opening the door to exploitation; if a maple is a "her," you will think twice before using a chain saw

TRANSLATING VERBS

language can bring character and animacy. the potawatomi phrase **wiikwegamaa** means "**to be a bay**", releasing the water from being a static noun ("a thing") and letting it live as an active being

LISTEN TO THE TEACHERS

acknowledge that plants and animals are our oldest teachers and possess wisdom because they have been on the earth far longer than humans