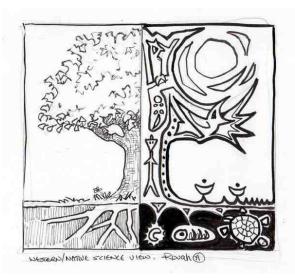## LESSON 3.2   ANTIDOTE TO COLONIALISM - decolonization

Eric Riskes writes, "Decolonization is a goal but it is not an endpoint." Decolonization of course is tied to colonialism, but is inextricably linked to matters of imperialism, social justice, power, and White Supremacy. In the 'Age of Exploration,' Western countries sought to expand their power through the acquisition of land, ignoring Indigenous sovereignty, stewardship of the land, and their ways of living. In this way, decolonization is political, but it is also economic (in the possession of resources), educational (in the imposition of knowledge), cultural (in the erasure of values, attitudes, language, and beliefs), and psychological (internalization of oppression).

So what is decolonization? Decolonization challenges, resists, and dismantles the ongoing "artificial disciplinary demarcations of dominant ways of knowing and being" that have been imposed through colonialism by Western powers. Decolonization is the ongoing process of engaging and opposing colonialism and must be done through the framework of Indigeneity.

Frantz Fanon put it: *"Decolonization, which sets out to change the order of the world, is, obviously, a program of complete disorder. But it cannot come as a result of magical practices, nor of a natural shock, nor of a friendly understanding. Decolonization, as we know, is a historical process: that is to say it cannot be understood, it cannot become intelligible nor clear to itself except in the exact measure that we can discern the movements which give it historical form and content."*

Source of illustration: Green Teacher, Education for Planet Earth, 2013.

FURTHER THOUGHTS AND REFLECTIONS:
If you are interested in the topic we recommend a visit to the podcast series Decolonization in Action.
To Reflect:
If this is the first time you are thinking about decolonization, ask yourself why?
What might have led to not knowing? How does the colonial system support your unawareness, and what has caused you to not consider it?