

Hi all, a few things for you after today's class:

1. Michael Jackson's ["Earth Song"](<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XAi3VTSdTxU>) video and his **motivation** for recording it.
2. And lest you think I'm picking on MJ, Moby's video for "My Only Love" also treats indigenous people - in the few moments they appear - as passive victims with limited agency and in need external help.

I apologize for making you listen to Moby, despite the educational value of making you do so.

3. Also here is the [Jungle Songs Spotify Playlist](#), which includes...

In addition to, "Amazing", in which Kanye goes to the rain forest of Hawai'i (with Young Jeezy) to remind himself he's amazing (or rather, he's "so amazing, so amazing, so amazing, it's amazing")...

It includes perhaps the most well-known Jungle song of all time: [Welcome to the Jungle](#) by Guns N Roses. Axl Rose claimed the lyrics "were inspired by an encounter he and a friend had with a homeless man while they were coming out of a bus into New York. Trying to put a scare into the young runaways, the man yelled at them, "You know where you are? You're in the jungle baby; you're gonna die!" "It was a very telling lyric – just the stark honesty of it," said Slash. "If you lived in Los Angeles – and lived in the trenches, so to speak – you could relate to it." ([source](#)).

Sound familiar? Trying to make it as a musician in LA, staring down a monkey trying to steal your sunglasses in a park in Bali... that's (metaphorically) the modern-day equivalent of Marlow going up the Congo to find Kurtz (in "Heart of Darkness") or [Francisco de Orellana in 1542](#) somehow managing to survive a journey from what is today Peru down the Amazon River all the way to the Atlantic. It's basically the same thing as ornithologist Emilie Snethlage (1868-1929), who while on a collecting trip in the Amazon in 1919 had to *amputate her own finger with a machete* after a piranha bit her and gangrene started to set in.

OK maybe not quite the same but you get the idea. The jungle, urban or otherwise, is where you prove yourself.

EB