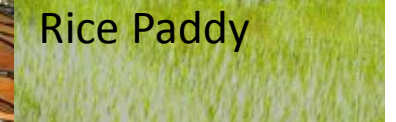




TEK and the world as we  
know it

# TEK



Definition:

**Traditional ecological knowledge (TEK)** describes indigenous and other forms of traditional knowledge regarding sustainability of local resources. As a field of study in anthropology, TEK refers to "a cumulative body of knowledge, belief, and practice, evolving by accumulation of TEK and handed down through generations through traditional songs, stories and beliefs. It is concerned with the relationship of living beings (including human) with their traditional groups and with their environment."<sup>[1]</sup> Such knowledge is commonly used in [natural resource management](#) as a substitute for baseline environmental data to measure changes over time in remote regions that have little recorded scientific data.<sup>[2]</sup> (Wikipedia)

pad·dy  
/'padē/  
*noun*  
noun: **rice paddy**  
a field where rice is grown.  
rice before threshing or in the husk.

There are different definitions of it

# TEK

- Emphasises symbiotic character of humans and nature
- Respecting carrying capacity of ecosystem
- Transferred by various media and cultural traditions- through song dance, storytelling ect
- **Doesn't make distinctions between empirical and sacred**
- Implied knowledge of environment because of traditional means of **sustenance**

Environmentalists love this idea!  
(or they should, at least)

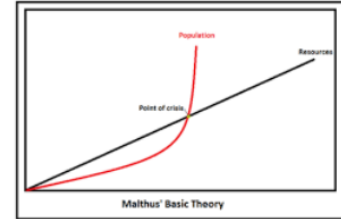
sus-te-nance /'sætənəns/ noun: **sustenance**

1. **food and drink** as a source of nourishment, strength.

"poor rural economies turned to potatoes for sustenance"

• **the maintaining of someone or something in life or existence.**

"he kept two or three cows for the sustenance of his family"



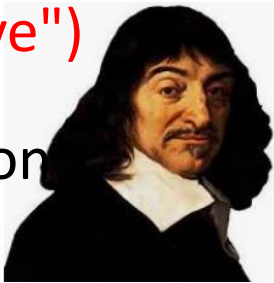
However the  
religious  
association may  
vary(?)

# Western Science:Philosophical Basis

Definitions of Theory:

(Everything is what it appears to be, and inference into reality must be made through physical observation)

- **Positivism**: a philosophical theory stating that **certain ("positive")** knowledge is based on natural phenomena and their properties and relations. Thus, information **derived from sensory experience**, interpreted through reason and logic, **forms the exclusive source of all certain knowledge**



DESCARTES: Rationalism  
(opposed to  
**Positivism**)

- **Materialism**: holds that **matter is the fundamental substance in nature**, and that all things, including mental aspects and consciousness, are results of material interactions. In Idealism, mind and consciousness are first-order realities to which matter is subject and secondary.(not spiritual?)

(Wikipedia)

# Empiricism

(Philosophical definition)

- **Empiricism** is the theory that the **origin of all knowledge is sense experience**. It emphasizes the role of **experience** and **evidence**, especially **sensory perception**, in the formation of ideas, and argues that the **only** knowledge humans can have is **a posteriori** (i.e. based on experience). Most empiricists also discount the notion of **innate ideas** or **innatism** (the idea that the mind is **born** with ideas or knowledge and is not a "**blank slate**" at birth).
- **Traditionally communicated through literature, especially in most modern western science**

# TEK

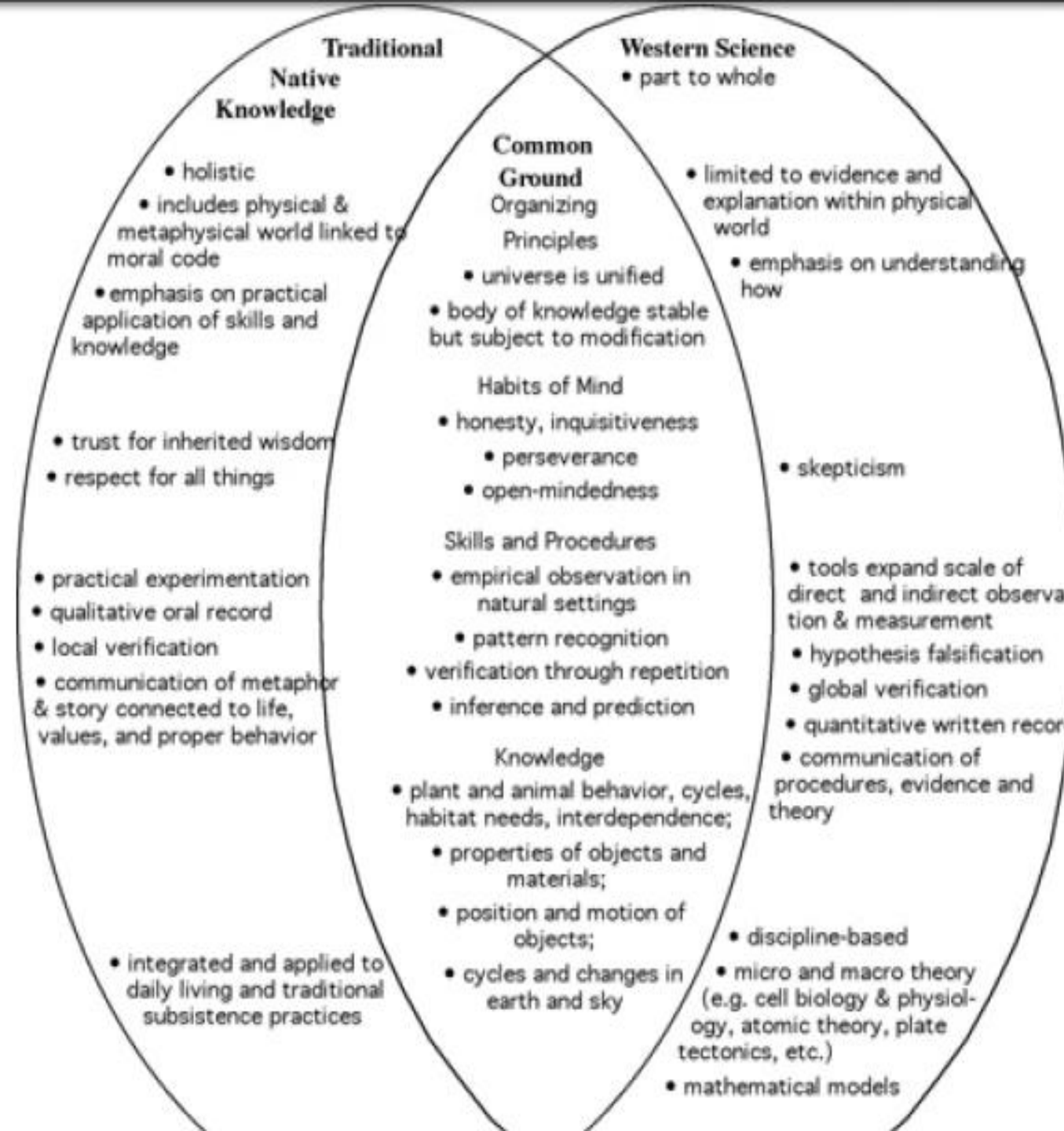
- Knowledge communicated through diverse media(in contrast to literature)
- Has spirituality embedded
- In essence, no less reliable than empirical literature (although there's noting to say it cant be wrong)



# There's arguments about how TEK can and should be applied



(LITERATURE)



# Some thoughts: data reliability&legibility



- Empirical scientific literature is purported to be pretty reliable  
Arguments about correctness of knowledge are mostly communicated through literature
- Limited because it only appeals to people who are able to comprehend this type of literature- which is usually not reader friendly, can be pretty boring
- Acquisition and determination of truth can be by researchers/ authors who do not have any relationship with what they are studying  
eg. Guy who spent a lot of time in a school and never hung out with a chicken will be studying things about hanging out with chickens( although this may be considered reasonable if hes looking at stuff recorded by guys that chill with chickens)



# Teck



## Some thoughts: Canada

- Resource extraction process of environmental impact is conducted by Professionals based on limited forms of knowledge and knowledge acquirement
- Shouldn't the people living there be consulted?
  - Yes, and they are required to by law in Canada however there are holes in this system, and the Canadian government has its own incentives to support developers (to be vague)
  - Usually has to do with negotiations over how much the community under treaty law will sell out for
  - Could be sort of unethical if we make considerations to cultural integration with land, and the fact that many of these communities are in isolation, and sometimes desperate.



# Australian TEK

Traditional  
Seasonal food  
knowledge

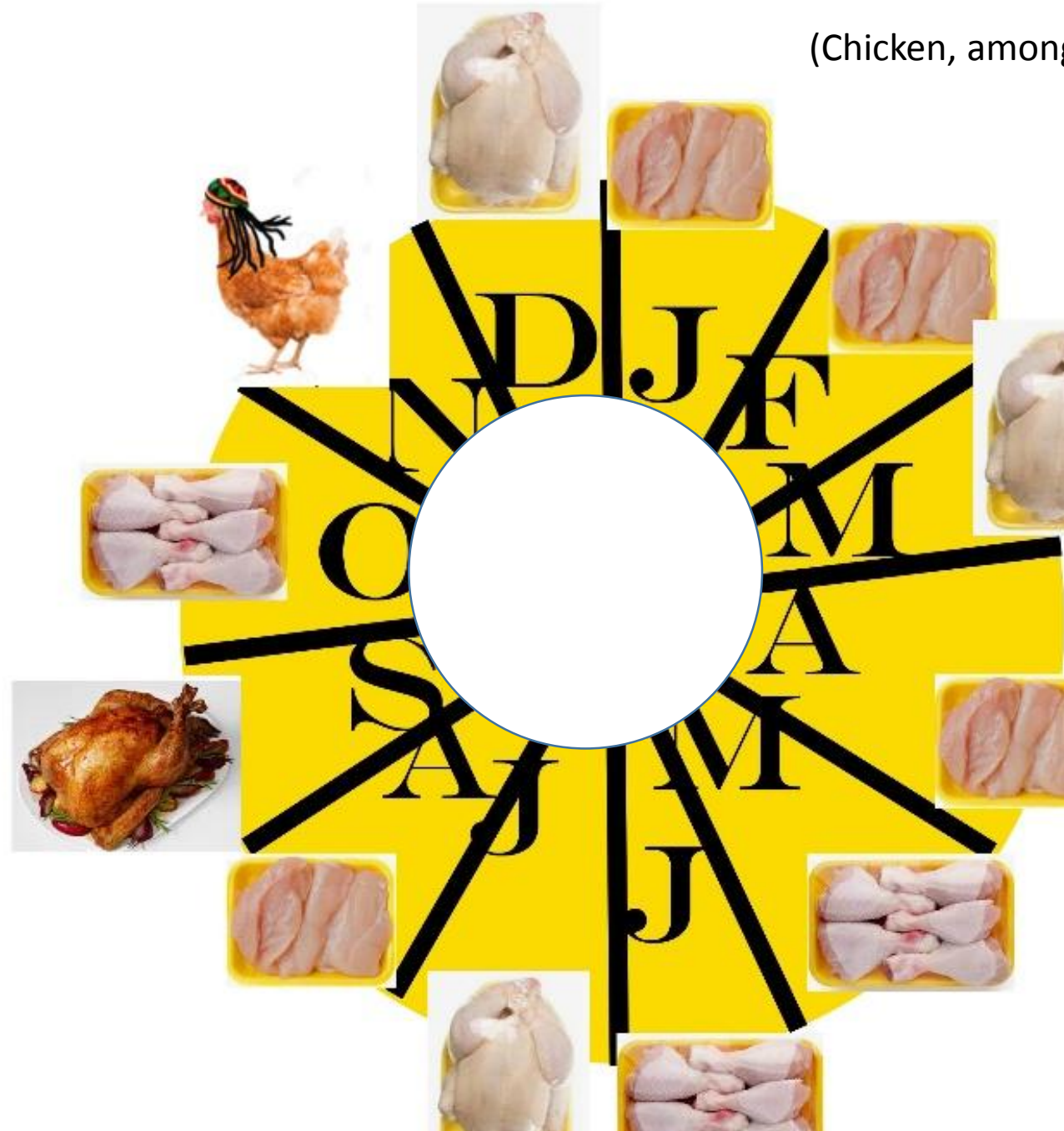
# Ecology embedded in lifestyle





In contrast  
commonly  
eat the same  
types of food  
all year

And Don't  
really know  
where the  
food comes  
from....



(Chicken, among other things of course...)



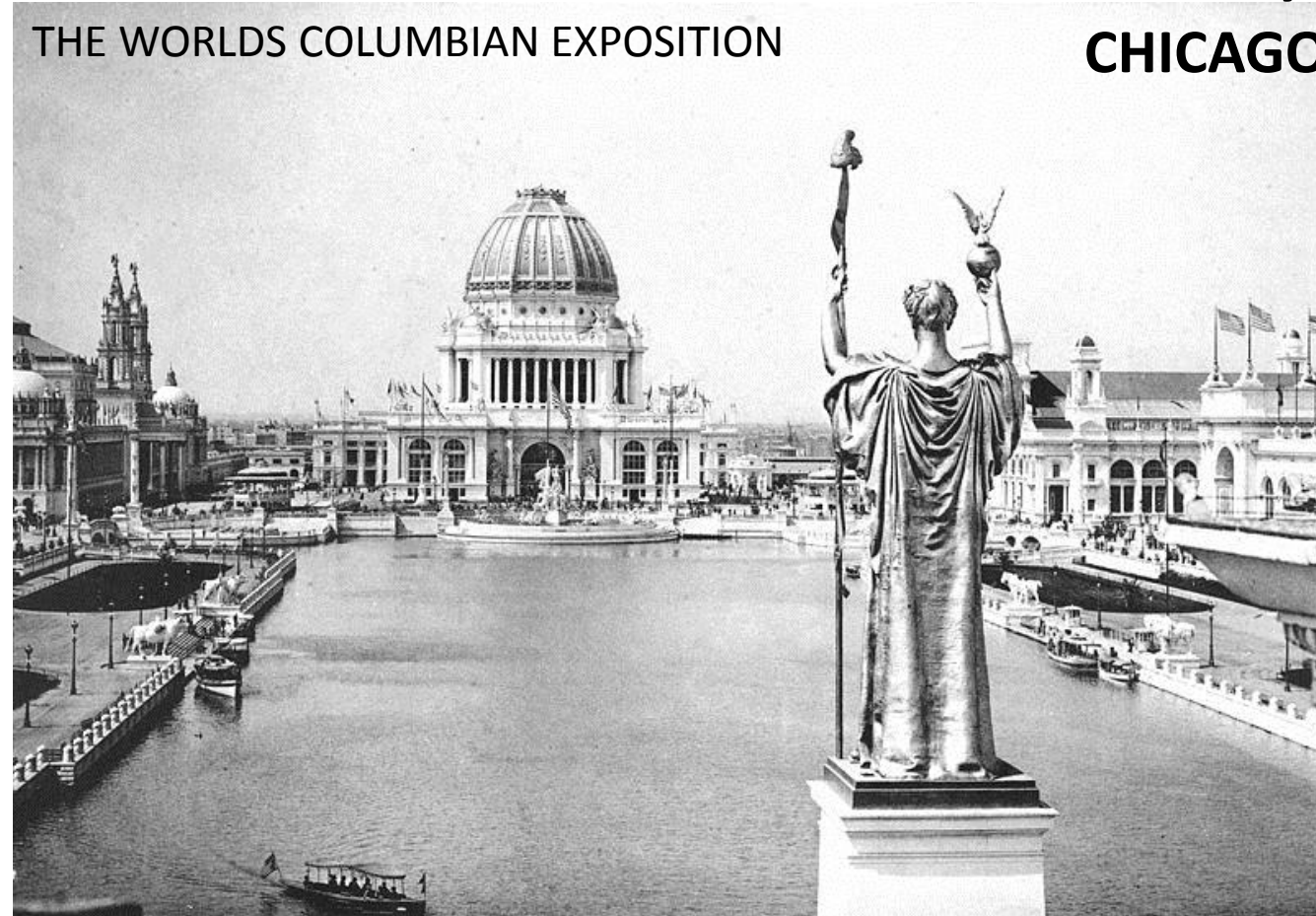
# SOME LESSER KNOWN HISTORY OF OUR FIRST WORLD TRADITION: MEAT PACKING

1893,  
CHICAGO

to celebrate the 400th anniversary of [Christopher Columbus](#)'s arrival in the [New World](#) in 1492.<sup>[2]</sup> The centerpiece of the Fair, the large water pool, represented the long voyage Columbus took to the New World. Chicago bested [New York City](#); [Washington, D.C.](#); and [St. Louis](#) for the honor of hosting the fair. The Exposition was an influential social and cultural event and had a profound effect on [architecture](#), sanitation, the arts, Chicago's self-image, and **American industrial optimism**. (Wikipedia, for the sake of better wording)

funny fact– dude running for mayor for a second term was assassinated 2 days before it ended so they closed it off

Also they constructed 200 buildings for the event and were going to reinforce them with marble but they ended up just burning it





# Union stockyards

- connected railway to people,
- could transport livestock and product
- Gave farmers an **accessible, reliable market**  
*Regarded the first large scale Meat processing Operation in North America*



and the availability and  
role of animal based food



(Also may be an  
ethical  
argument by its  
very existence)

- Poets that visited, talked about this place being **like hell** because of what was going on there, and because of the poor conditions of people working (this was one of the first assembly line type labour settings)



# FORDISM



Revolutionized the labour system

- **Fords model of assembly line production was heavily influenced by the meat packing industry**

Fordism has been analyzed along four dimensions. First, as an industrial [paradigm](#), it involves **mass production of standardized goods on a moving [assembly line](#) using dedicated machinery and semiskilled labour**. Second, as a **national accumulation (or growth) regime**, it involves a virtuous cycle of mass production and mass [consumption](#). Third, as a mode of regulation,

Fordism [comprises](#)

(1) an institutionalized compromise between [organized labour](#) and big business whereby workers accept management [prerogatives](#) in return for rising wages, (2) [monopolistic competition](#) between large firms based on cost-plus pricing and advertising, (3) centralized financial capital, deficit finance, and credit-based mass consumption, **(4) state intervention to secure full employment and establish a [welfare state](#)**, and (5) the embedding of national economies in a liberal international economic order. Fourth, as a form of social life, Fordism is characterized by mass media, mass transport, and mass politics.

Fordism: Fordism is the basis of modern economic and social systems in industrialized, standardized mass production and mass consumption. The concept is named for Henry Ford



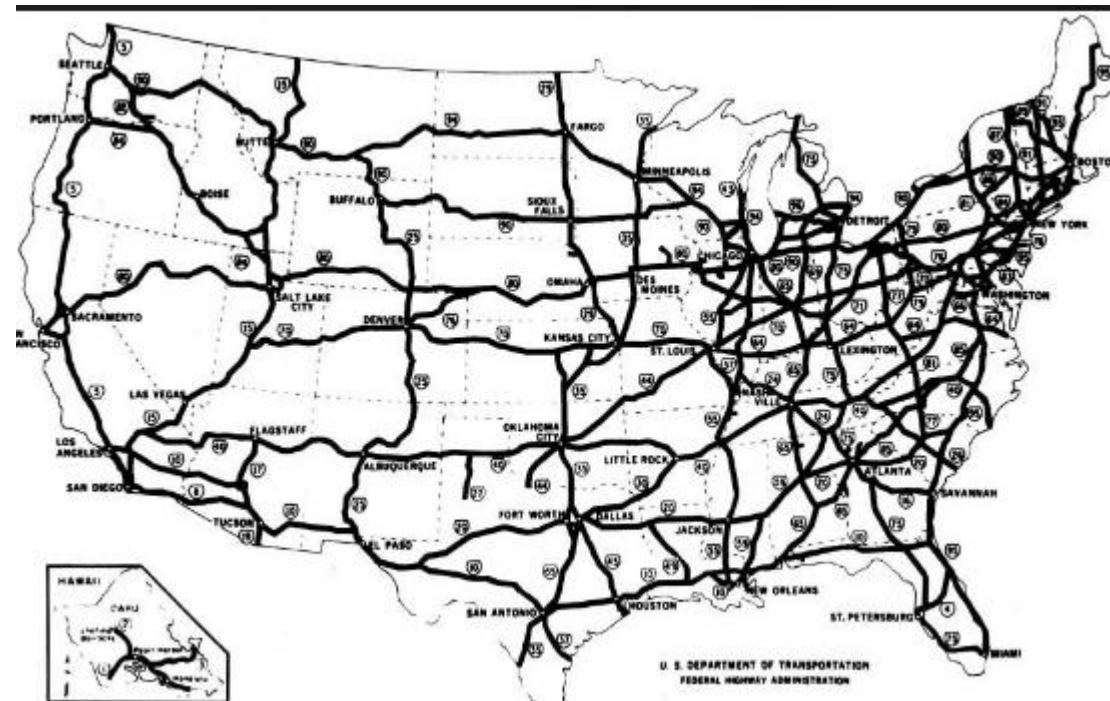
# LAWNS

- THE AMERICAN LAWN

# The Education system



INTERSTATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM WAS ESTABLISHED  
FOR THE QUICK EVACUATION OF MASS  
POPULATIONS AT THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR  
BOMBING BY THE SOVIETS UNDER PRESIDENT  
EISENHOWER!!



# Conclusion

- TEK is interesting, and marks the contrast between what has come to be reliable knowledge
- Western Science is seen as reliable, is the widespread reliable transfer of knowledge, through primary literature (but is primary literature applicable/ Accessible to all people?)

How does one spend 10 or 15 in years in an institution and yet knows nothing relevant/ applicable to their own life?

- A large general population **disassociated with, and has disassociated from ecology-** because of work , our way of getting,
- and forgotten the **history of what has determined why we live the way we do**, learning and working the way we do. we've come far from having direct relationships to transportation and grocery stores) **the manner of trade and our overall means to modern sustenance**

Thank you!