

CHAPTER 1	Launch Lab: Considering Connections	BLM 1.0.1
HANDOUT		
Purpose: Reflect on the relationship between all living things and their environment.		

### Procedure

In September 2004, Sheila Watt-Cloutier encouraged a committee of United States senators to consider reversing the U.S. position on the Kyoto Protocol. Near the end of her testimony, Watt-Cloutier asked the Senate committee members to consider how the Arctic region, its peoples, and its wildlife are connected to the rest of the world. Read her statement below, and then answer the Analysis questions that follow.

“Use what is happening in the Arctic—the Inuit Story—as a vehicle to reconnect us all, so that we may understand that the planet and its people are one. The Inuit hunter who falls through the depleting and unpredictable sea ice is connected to the cars we drive, the industries we rely upon, and the disposable world we have become.”

*(Testimony of Sheila Watt-Cloutier, Chair, Inuit Circumpolar Conference to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, Washington DC, September 15, 2004.)*

### Analysis

1. In what ways could an Inuit hunter falling through the sea ice be connected to the activities of people who live south of the Arctic?
2. Aboriginal peoples often talk about how all living things are connected to, and depend on, one another. What does “being connected” mean to you?
3. Do you think you are connected to everyone and everything in the world? Can you prove that you are *not*? Explain your ideas to a partner, and share them with the class.