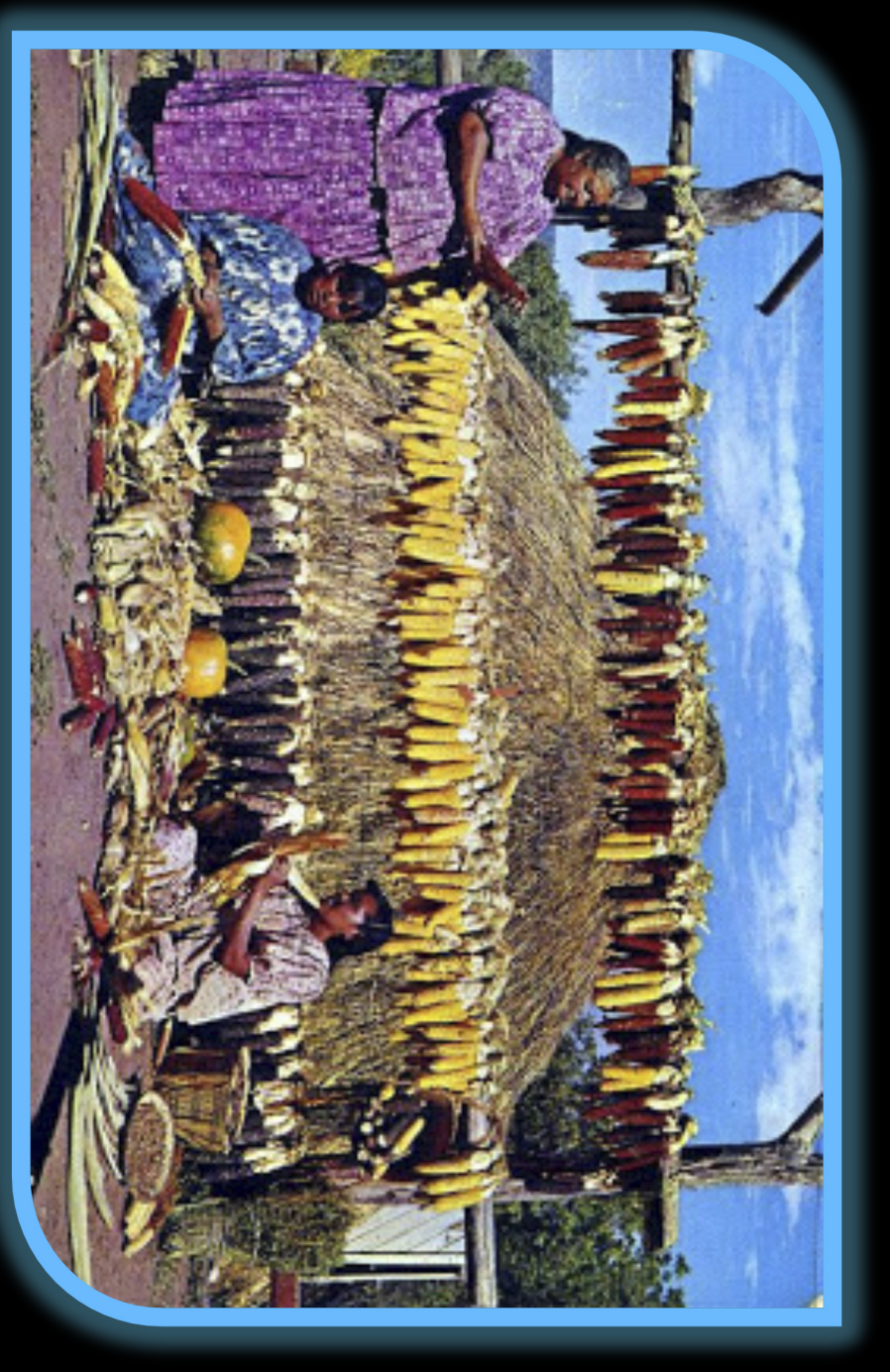
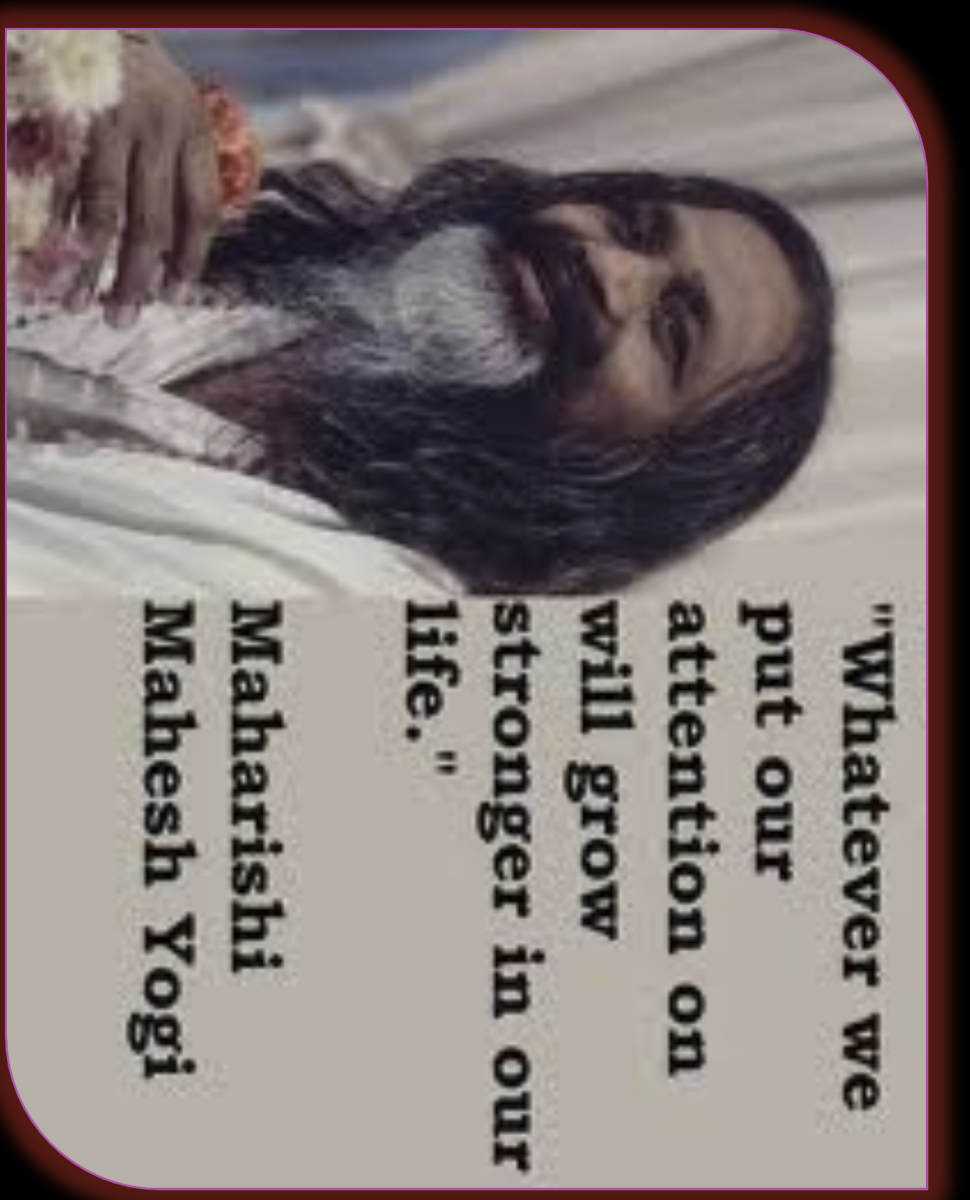


Comparing Indigenous and Western Approaches to Autism By Anna Wilson MEd.

Research questions:

1. How do Indigenous approaches to autism explore stories in the healing process?
2. Do popular, Western websites include Indigenous perspectives on Autism?

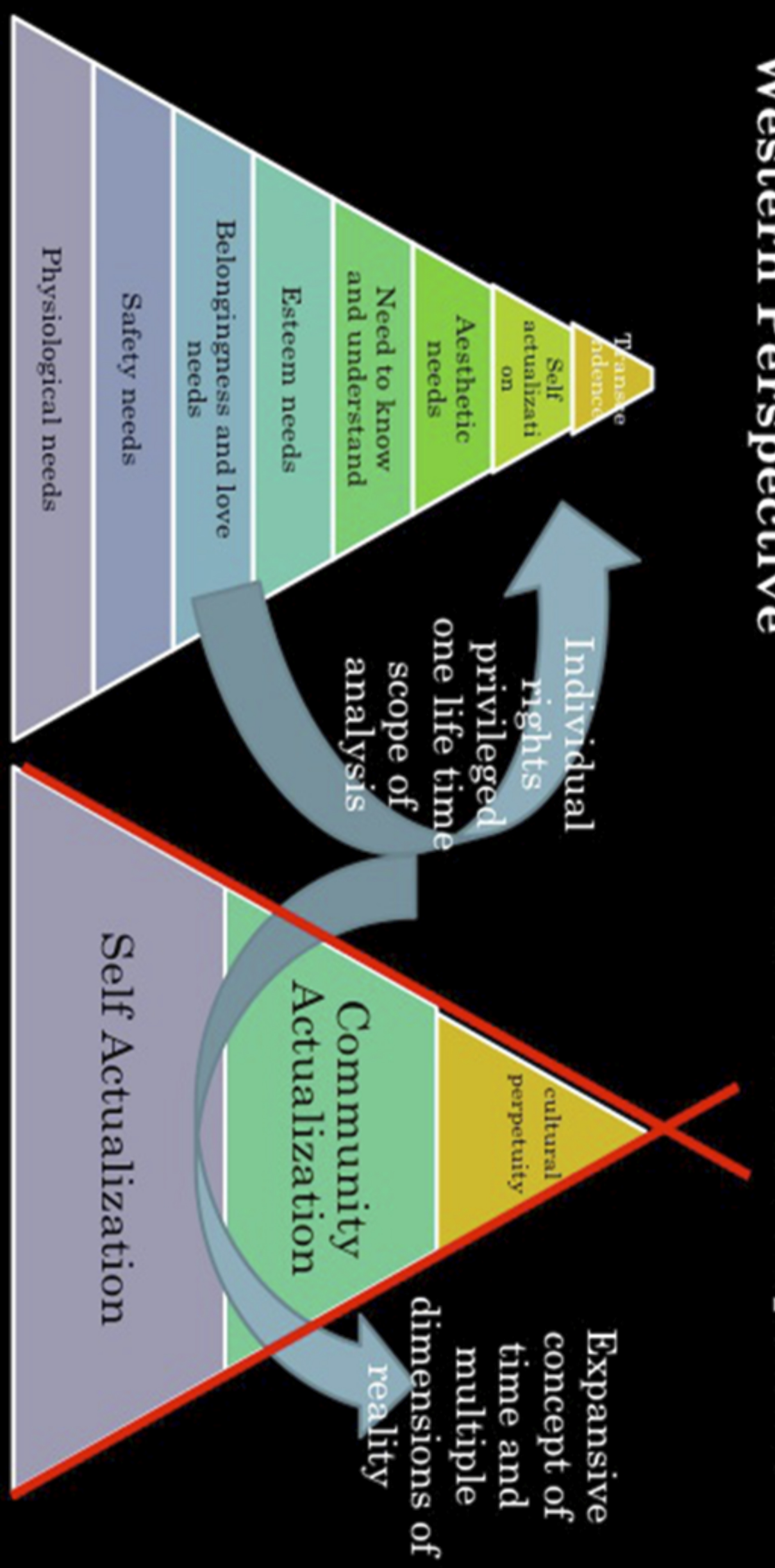
The *Autism Society of Canada* shares Adam Kurtz's story of using His Holiness Maharishi Mahesh Yogi's transcendental meditation to cope with Asperger's Syndrome.



The Navajo view the differences in Autistic relatives as beautiful and help them live in harmony by learning from many relatives through their philosophy of Hozho serving Autistic people better by caring for them within their community. Healing songs and ceremonies facilitate meditation, prayer, and peace. Women's matrilineal status ensure that children are cared for from a variety of relatives. Navajo families "absorb people with disabilities smoothly into the family clan, allowing other family members to compensate" for the special needs of children with disabilities

(Kapp, 2011, p. 590).

MASLOW'S HIERARCHY OF NEEDS (INFORMED BY BLACKFOOT NATION (ALTA))



Huit, 2004; Blackstock, 2008; Wadsworth.



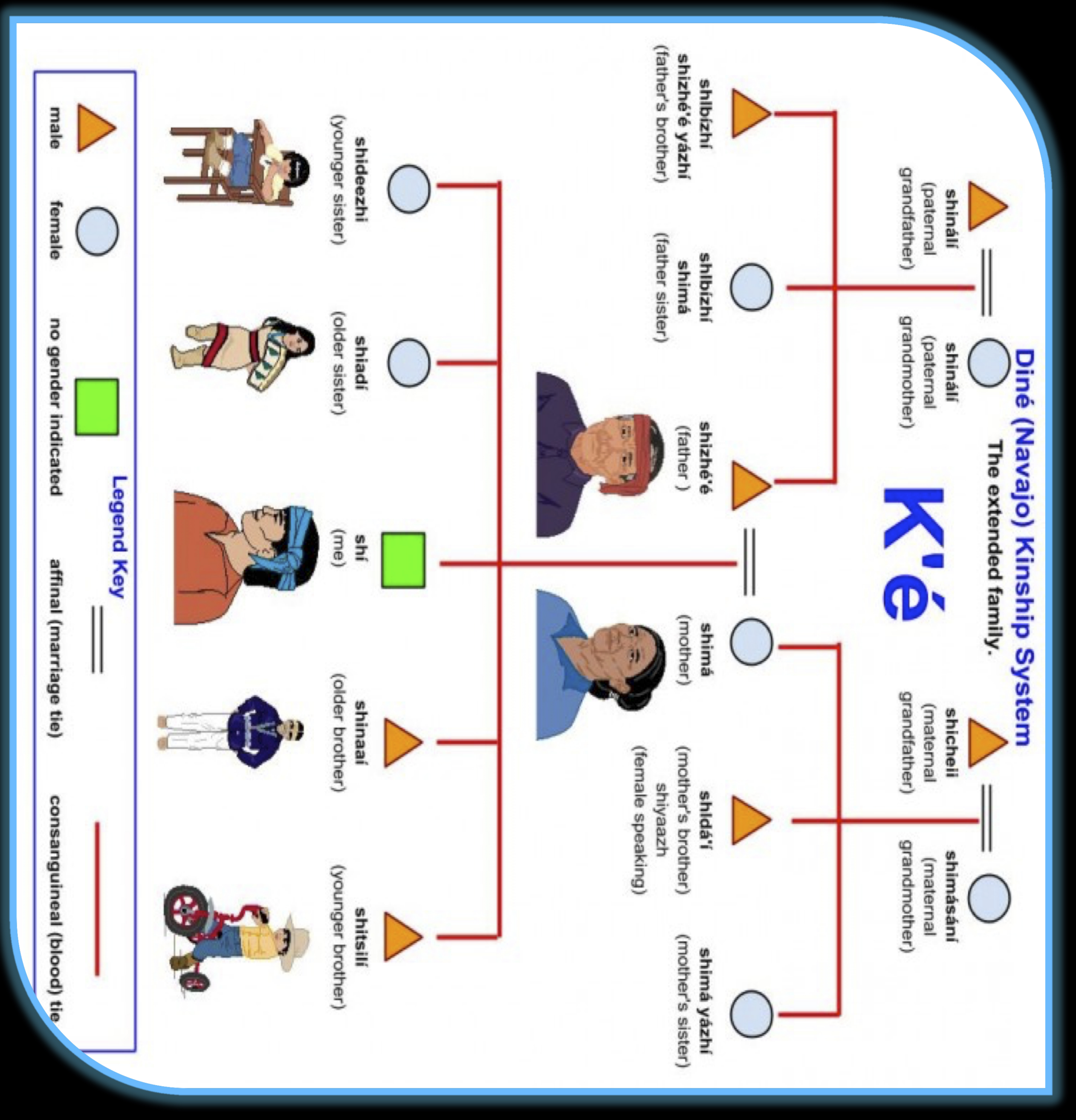
Parents who cope well with Autistic children place less importance on their careers and materialism and more importance on their family and community (Luther, Canham, & Cureton, 2005).



Children with autism are calm in the ocean feeling the sensations of the waves on their skin (Haber, 2011).



This poster challenges Western society's medical model that views autism as a 'disease' by defending the empowering Navajo view of autism as a 'difference' in their philosophy of Hozho (beauty). This envisions people with autism as a source of social capital instead of a social burden. The World Health Organization (WHO) values librarians' inclusion of people with autism through sharing their valuable experiences through digital stories and autism web site (Servili, & Saxena, 2013).



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