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STS.036 Technology and Nature in American History
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STS.036

Reading questions for Basso, *Wisdom Sits in Places*

Chapter 1

- How do Western Apache place names embody a sense of permanence as well as reveal changes in the land? (1-13)
- What does the Ellen Tessay episode reveal about the relationship between past and present? (22)
- How do place names (e.g., Shades of Shit) “invest the Apache landscape with a sobering moral dimension”? (24)
- How do the Apaches from Cibecue conceptualize the past and history? How is their sense of history different from Anglo-American history? What are the failures of Anglo-American history, according to Basso? (31-34)
- What does Basso mean by “spatial conceptions of history”? (34)

Chapter 2

- What are the implications of Nick Thompson’s observation that “White men need paper maps We have maps in our minds”? (43)
- What does Basso mean by the “metacommunicative message”? (55)
- What is the difference between “shooting with stories” (48) and “stalking with stories” (59-60)?
- What is Basso’s critique of materialist analyses of Native American relationships with the land? (66) What approach does he call for instead?
- What is the connection between natural landscapes and social relations, according to Basso? (74-75)
- What is the significance of the brick-laying metaphor and the cattle-herding metaphor? (84-85)

In general

- How does Basso’s account of Native Americans’ relationship to their land compare to Cronon’s?
- How does the style of Basso’s book relate to its subject or purpose? In other words, does *how* Basso writes relate to *what* he is writing about?