**Mother Tongues**

A photographic project by Yuri Marder in collaboration with the Endangered Language Alliance, featuring portraits of endangered language speakers in New York City.

Peruse the website, <https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/BAIiNoj-YD3aJQ> and choose ONE endangered language and answer the following questions, based on the Royal BC Museum’s *Living Languages* Exhibit.

1. More than half of all of Canada’s Aboriginal languages are spoken in British Columbia. Many groups are part of initiatives to preserve what has survived and to teach these languages to the younger generations. Is this important? Why do you think people try to record, preserve, and teach endangered languages?
2. For the language you have chosen to research, find out from where, geographically, it originates. Many languages are lost due to border disputes: competing bordering countries invade and take over land, parceling out the disputed land. This is seen in BC and Alberta, where Indigenous language groups cross over the border because the border was imposed by settlers. How has this process played out with your chosen language group?
3. What is the origin of the phrase, “Mother Tongue”? What significance does this hold?
4. Are there any languages that your chosen language shares history with? What are the similarities and differences?
5. How many people identify with and speak this endangered language?
6. What is the dominant language threatening this endangered language? How has it been repressed?
7. What efforts have been made to preserve this language? Is there a resilience to it?