Colors Of The Wind Lyrics -- Pocahontas

You think I'm an ignorant savage
And you've been so many places
I guess it must be so
But still I cannot see
If the savage one is me
How can there be so much that you don't know?
You don't know ...

You think you own whatever land you land on
The Earth is just a dead thing you can claim
But I know every rock and tree and creature
Has a life, has a spirit, has a name

You think the only people who are people
Are the people who look and think like you
But if you walk the footsteps of a stranger
You'll learn things you never knew you never knew

Have you ever heard the wolf cry to the blue corn moon
Or asked the grinning bobcat why he grinned?
Can you sing with all the voices of the mountains?
Can you paint with all the colors of the wind?
Can you paint with all the colors of the wind?

Come run the hidden pine trails of the forest
Come taste the sunsweet berries of the Earth
Come roll in all the riches all around you
And for once, never wonder what they're worth

The rainstorm and the river are my brothers
The heron and the otter are my friends
And we are all connected to each other
In a circle, in a hoop that never ends

How high does the sycamore grow?
If you cut it down, then you'll never know
And you'll never hear the wolf cry to the blue corn moon

For whether we are white or copper skinned
We need to sing with all the voices of the mountains
We need to paint with all the colors of the wind

You can own the Earth and still
All you'll own is Earth until
You can paint with all the colors of the wind

Questions to help you read a song like an anthropologist and a linguist:

What cultures are represented through the song?
How are the different cultures represented visually? Linguistically? What evidence do you see of culture?
What messages do the images communicate? Both literal and implied?

What values and assumptions of the two cultures are implied or stated in the song lyrics?
What is the thesis of the song's lyrics? What is the main point of the song?

Who made the song? What ideas might it contribute to the way we view American history?
What conclusions might we draw about what happens in contact zones based on this song?

Questions to help you read a documentary like an anthropologist and a linguist:

What cultures are represented in the video?
How are the different cultures represented? What evidence do you see of the cultures?
What values are upheld by the cultures?

What do hear about the language that highlights the power structure between the two cultures?
How do they communicate? What confusions, misconceptions exist?

Who made the documentary? What ideas might it contribute to the way we view Australian history?
What does it teach us about what happens in contact zones?