One Crossing, Many Claims

Read how location, culture, and resource use shape a conflict.

WG.4.18 "Identify specific situations where human or cultural factors are involved in geographic conflict and identify different viewpoints in the conflict."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that explain why the Lake Oahe crossing became a conflict. Circle a cultural concern, then write 1 and 2 beside statements that show two different viewpoints.

A Pipeline Beneath Lake Oahe

1. In 2016, crews began building the Dakota Access Pipeline to carry crude oil from North Dakota to Illinois. One planned crossing ran beneath Lake Oahe, a reservoir on the Missouri River near the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. For the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, the crossing was not just a point on a construction plan. The tribe depended on the river for water and warned that an oil leak could threaten its supply. Where the pipeline crossed the landscape mattered because the same place held different meanings for people who would face different risks and benefits.

2. The tribe also argued that construction threatened places with cultural and historical importance to its people. Tribal leaders said they had not been adequately consulted before decisions were made. Many people joined protests near the reservation, calling for stronger protection of water and sacred places. Energy Transfer, the pipeline's developer, presented a different view: it said the route would carry oil safely and efficiently. Supporters also pointed to construction jobs and the value of moving oil to markets. These views clashed over who should decide how land near the crossing could be used.

3. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers controlled the federal approval needed for the crossing under Lake Oahe. In late 2016, the agency delayed that approval while considering another route. In 2017, it granted the needed permission, and oil began flowing that year. The decision did not erase the disagreement. Tribal members and allies continued to question the crossing's effects on water, sacred places, and tribal rights. Pipeline supporters saw a completed route for transporting oil. This conflict shows how a single location can connect resource use, cultural ties to land, and different views of acceptable risk.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the crossing's location near Lake Oahe create a conflict over water use? Include the tribe's concern and a reason supporters favored the pipeline.

2. What cultural concern did tribal leaders raise, and how did their view of construction differ from Energy Transfer's?

3. How might someone seeking construction work and someone protecting tribal sacred places judge the same crossing differently?

4. After the 2017 approval, how did tribal members and pipeline supporters view the crossing differently?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a town proposes a new road through land used for an annual cultural gathering. In one paragraph, explain why this location could cause conflict, describe two different viewpoints, and propose one way the town could address both concerns.

ANSWER KEY

One Crossing, Many Claims

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details that explain why the Lake Oahe crossing became a conflict. Circle a cultural concern, then write 1 and 2 beside statements that show two different viewpoints. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the crossing's location near Lake Oahe create a conflict over water use? Include the tribe's concern and a reason supporters favored the pipeline.	**The tribe relied on the river for water and feared a leak at the crossing. Supporters valued the pipeline as a way to move oil to markets.**
2	What cultural concern did tribal leaders raise, and how did their view of construction differ from Energy Transfer's?	**Tribal leaders said construction threatened culturally important places and that they had not been adequately consulted. Energy Transfer said the route would carry oil safely and efficiently.**
3	How might someone seeking construction work and someone protecting tribal sacred places judge the same crossing differently?	**A person seeking work might support the crossing for the jobs it offered. A person protecting sacred places might oppose it because construction could threaten them.**
4	After the 2017 approval, how did tribal members and pipeline supporters view the crossing differently?	**Tribal members and allies continued to question effects on water, sacred places, and tribal rights. Supporters saw a completed route for transporting oil.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The proposed road could make travel easier, but it would cut through the place where residents hold an annual cultural gathering. Drivers and business owners might support the road because it could shorten trips. People who organize the gathering might oppose that route because it could disrupt a tradition tied to that land. The town could study another route and ask both groups to compare its effects.

Accept answers that identify a specific place-based concern and accurately distinguish viewpoints supported by the passage. For the open task, accept other workable proposals that address both transportation and the cultural gathering.