When Neighbors Disagree

Land, crops, and conflict in early New England

5.C.1.10.C "how contact between cultures led at times to misunderstandings and conflict."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two different views about how land could be used, then circle one way a disagreement caused harm. Number each view to show which group held it.

Different Views of the Land

1 In the 1600s, English settlers built towns in New England, where Native peoples had lived for generations. They met through trade, talks, and daily travel. Yet the groups did not always agree about who could use a place. Many Native communities planted crops, hunted, and fished on lands they knew well. English settlers often measured land into lots and recorded claims on paper.

2 Cattle and pigs brought by settlers sometimes wandered into Native cornfields and ate or trampled crops. To the farmers, these fields were carefully tended food sources, even if no fence stood around them. Some settlers treated land without a fence as open to their animals. A settler might see an animal roaming freely; a farmer might see lost food and a claim to the field being ignored.

3 Written land agreements could also cause trouble. English settlers often treated a signed deed as proof that land now belonged to them alone. Some Native leaders understood agreements to allow their people to keep using parts of the land. As settlements grew, disputes over fields and land claims sometimes turned into fighting. Different ideas mattered, but taking land and damaging crops mattered too.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How could a field without a fence mean different things to a settler and a Native farmer?

2. How could wandering cattle or pigs turn a difference in views into a conflict?

3. Why could a written land agreement lead to a dispute, even if both groups agreed to it?

4. Why would it be incomplete to say that these conflicts were only misunderstandings?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine two groups with different customs meet at a river crossing. One group puts up a gate where the other has crossed for years. In four sentences, explain each group's view, show how their different views might lead to conflict, and give one question they could ask to understand each other.

ANSWER KEY

When Neighbors Disagree

GRADE 5 · 5.C.1.10.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two different views about how land could be used, then circle one way a disagreement caused harm. Number each view to show which group held it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How could a field without a fence mean different things to a settler and a Native farmer?	**Some settlers treated unfenced land as open to their animals. A Native farmer saw a tended field that provided food, with or without a fence.**
2	How could wandering cattle or pigs turn a difference in views into a conflict?	**The animals could eat or trample crops, causing Native farmers to lose food and feel that their claim to the field was ignored.**
3	Why could a written land agreement lead to a dispute, even if both groups agreed to it?	**Settlers might treat the deed as giving them the land alone, while Native leaders might expect their people to keep using parts of it.**
4	Why would it be incomplete to say that these conflicts were only misunderstandings?	**Settlers also took land and their animals damaged crops. Those harms mattered alongside different ideas about land use.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The group that built the gate thinks it will protect its nearby crops. The other group thinks the gate blocks a crossing they have always used. If the second group opens the gate without asking, the first group might think its crops are at risk, and the groups could argue. They could ask, "When do you need to cross the river?"

Accept answers that accurately connect each group's view to the resulting harm or dispute. For Your Turn, look for two distinct views, a plausible conflict, and a question that could reveal what the other group needs.