Why Regions Clash

Read three disputes and trace what drives each one.

6.C.7.6 "Explain reasons for conflict between regions of the Western Hemisphere, such as territorial disputes, access to natural resources, and ethnic differences (e.g., boundary and mineral claims of the Arctic…"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the competing interests in each paragraph, then circle the resource, land, or rule at the center of the disagreement. Use your marks to explain why each conflict happens.

Three Disagreements in the Western Hemisphere

1. The Arctic Ocean lies north of Canada, the United States, Russia, Greenland, and Norway. Much of its sea ice floats over water, but the seabed beneath may hold oil and gas. Countries can claim rights to resources on parts of the seabed if they show that their continental shelf extends there. Some claims overlap, so governments disagree about where one country's rights end and another's begin. A disputed boundary matters because it can decide who may explore for minerals or fuel. Scientific evidence and international rules help countries negotiate.

2. In Bolivia, natural gas lies beneath some lands where Indigenous communities live. Bolivia's government controls underground resources under national law and may seek gas income to pay for public services. Indigenous groups may object when drilling plans affect land they use or when they believe decisions were made without meaningful consultation. A pipeline or drilling site can change access to land and water. The conflict is not simply about who wants fuel. It is also about whose authority counts when a government plans to use resources tied to a community's home.

3. At the United States-Mexico border, people cross for work, safety, family, and trade. Governments set rules for entry, while border communities face the everyday effects of those rules. Some people want stricter checks because they worry about safety or jobs. Others argue that strict rules can separate families or harm people seeking protection. Differences in language and culture can add mistrust, but they do not cause conflict by themselves. Disagreement grows when groups disagree about who may enter, how the rules should work, and how newcomers should be treated.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why might an overlapping claim to the Arctic seabed cause conflict?

2. Why might a natural gas project in Bolivia lead to a dispute between the government and an Indigenous community?

3. Why do people disagree about rules at the United States-Mexico border?

4. How is the cause of the Arctic dispute different from the cause of the border dispute?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Invent a dispute between two neighboring regions that share a river. In 4 to 5 sentences, describe what each region wants from the river, explain why their needs clash, and propose one way they could begin to settle the dispute.

ANSWER KEY

Why Regions Clash

GRADE 6 · 6.C.7.6

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the competing interests in each paragraph, then circle the resource, land, or rule at the center of the disagreement. Use your marks to explain why each conflict happens. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why might an overlapping claim to the Arctic seabed cause conflict?	**An overlapping claim creates disagreement about which country has the right to explore for resources such as oil and gas.**
2	Why might a natural gas project in Bolivia lead to a dispute between the government and an Indigenous community?	**The government may want income from gas, while the community may object to effects on its land or to a decision made without meaningful consultation.**
3	Why do people disagree about rules at the United States-Mexico border?	**Some want stricter checks because they worry about safety or jobs. Others worry that strict rules separate families or harm people seeking protection.**
4	How is the cause of the Arctic dispute different from the cause of the border dispute?	**The Arctic dispute concerns overlapping claims to seabed resources. The border dispute concerns entry rules and how people crossing the border are treated.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The farms in East Vale want to take more river water for crops. Families in West Vale want enough water to keep their fishing grounds healthy. If East Vale takes too much, less water will flow to West Vale, so the regions disagree about how much each can use. They could begin by measuring the river's flow together and agreeing on limits during dry months.

Accept explanations that connect each group's interest to the source of disagreement in the passage. For Your Turn, look for two distinct needs, a clear reason they clash, and a proposed first step.