Water and the Route

Trace the outcomes of the Dakota Access Pipeline protests and the concerns behind them.

USH.C.9.2.E "Identify the outcome of the grassroots protests of the Dakota Access Pipeline and its potential impact on Tribal water resources and cultural sites."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the immediate and later outcomes of the protests. Circle possible effects on Tribal water and cultural sites so you can connect the outcomes to the concerns.

What the Protests Changed

1. In 2016, members of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and supporters gathered near the Dakota Access Pipeline route in North Dakota. The planned oil pipeline would pass beneath Lake Oahe, a reservoir on the Missouri River near the Standing Rock Reservation. Tribal leaders warned that a leak could threaten water used by their communities. They also objected that construction along the route could damage burial grounds and other places important to their history. Many said federal officials had not listened adequately to Tribal concerns before approving the route. Protest camps grew as people arrived from other Tribal nations and beyond.

2. At camps near the route, protesters held marches, prayed, and called themselves water protectors. Some blocked construction equipment; police arrested hundreds during months of confrontations. Their actions brought national attention to the Tribe's objections. In December 2016, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers declined to grant the easement needed to cross federal land at Lake Oahe. The agency announced plans to study other routes and environmental effects. That decision paused the crossing, but it did not cancel the entire pipeline. For protesters, the pause was an immediate victory, not a final answer about the route.

3. In 2017, a new administration moved the project forward. The Army Corps granted the easement, and oil began flowing through the completed pipeline that year. The protests had not permanently stopped construction or moved the crossing away from Lake Oahe. They did, however, draw attention to questions about Tribal consultation and protection of water and cultural sites. A future leak near the lake could affect a water source, although a possible leak is not the same as a documented spill. Construction could disturb cultural places even if no oil leaked. The Tribe continued to challenge federal decisions about the crossing.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What immediate decision followed the protests, and what did it do to the Lake Oahe crossing?

2. What happened to the pipeline in 2017, and what does that show about the limits of the protests' immediate victory?

3. Why could the pipeline's location near Lake Oahe still matter to Tribal water resources after construction?

4. How could construction affect cultural sites even if the pipeline never leaked?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label that makes a claim about whether the protests succeeded. Use the temporary pause and the pipeline's later operation as evidence, then connect that mixed outcome to one water concern and one cultural-site concern.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · USH.C.9.2.E

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the immediate and later outcomes of the protests. Circle possible effects on Tribal water and cultural sites so you can connect the outcomes to the concerns. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What immediate decision followed the protests, and what did it do to the Lake Oahe crossing?	**In December 2016, the Army Corps declined to grant the easement, pausing the crossing while it planned further study.**
2	What happened to the pipeline in 2017, and what does that show about the limits of the protests' immediate victory?	**The Army Corps granted the easement, and oil began flowing. The earlier pause had not permanently stopped the pipeline or moved the crossing.**
3	Why could the pipeline's location near Lake Oahe still matter to Tribal water resources after construction?	**A future leak near the lake could threaten water used by Tribal communities; the passage does not say a spill occurred.**
4	How could construction affect cultural sites even if the pipeline never leaked?	**Construction along the route could damage burial grounds or other places important to Tribal history.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Standing Rock protests had a mixed outcome: they won a temporary pause, but they did not stop the pipeline. In December 2016, the Army Corps withheld the Lake Oahe easement, yet it granted the easement in 2017 and oil began flowing. A future leak near the lake could threaten water used by Tribal communities. Construction along the route could also harm burial grounds or other cultural places, a concern that a pause alone could not settle.

Accept claims that distinguish the temporary pause from the completed pipeline. Students should describe water contamination and cultural-site damage as potential impacts, not claim the passage documents a spill or damage to a specific site.