

Fault Lines Between Nations

Identify the causes that can turn disagreements into conflict.

WG.17.b "describing and explaining examples of the different types of conflicts that may erupt between and among nations; and"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each conflict type or cause named in the passage. Circle the words that explain why the countries or groups disagreed.

Why Nations Clash

- ① Conflicts between nations can grow from disagreements about territory, resources, identity, or political ideas. A territorial conflict occurs when governments claim the same land or boundary. India and Pakistan have both claimed Kashmir since the end of British rule in 1947. The region matters because it has mountain borders, river headwaters, and deep meaning for many people. Leaders may see control of such a place as necessary for national security or national pride, making compromise difficult.
- ② Resource conflicts develop when countries depend on the same limited supply. Egypt and Ethiopia have disagreed over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam on the Blue Nile. Ethiopia expects the dam to produce electricity, while Egypt worries that filling and operating it could reduce water available downstream. The countries have used talks and proposals, yet they have not reached a final agreement on dam operations. This example shows how a shared river can connect countries while also creating competition.
- ③ Identity and political ideas can also cause international conflict. As Yugoslavia broke apart in the 1990s, nationalist leaders and armed groups fought over new borders and control. In Bosnia, Bosniaks, Croats, and Serbs had different political aims and fears about their safety. The conflict was not caused by one issue alone, identity, territory, and power overlapped. During the Cold War, rivalry between the capitalist United States and the communist Soviet Union helped fuel wars elsewhere through support for opposing sides. Different causes often combine, and outside nations can make a local conflict wider.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What type of conflict is the disagreement over Kashmir? Give two reasons the passage says the region matters.

2 Explain why the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam has created conflict between Egypt and Ethiopia.

3 How does the Bosnia example show that more than one cause can be involved in a conflict?

4 How was the Cold War conflict different from the Nile disagreement? Use evidence from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Invent a conflict between two neighboring fictional nations. In 5 or 6 sentences, name its main conflict type, explain two causes, and describe one way the conflict could spread or be eased.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each conflict type or cause named in the passage. Circle the words that explain why the countries or groups disagreed. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What type of conflict is the disagreement over Kashmir? Give two reasons the passage says the region matters.	It is a territorial conflict. Kashmir has mountain borders, river headwaters, and deep meaning for many people. Any two reasons are acceptable.
2	Explain why the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam has created conflict between Egypt and Ethiopia.	Ethiopia expects the dam to produce electricity, while Egypt fears that filling and operating it could reduce downstream water.
3	How does the Bosnia example show that more than one cause can be involved in a conflict?	Groups had different political aims and fears about safety, while they also fought over new borders and control. Identity, territory, and power overlapped.
4	How was the Cold War conflict different from the Nile disagreement? Use evidence from the passage.	The Cold War was a political and ideological rivalry in which the United States and Soviet Union supported opposing sides in other wars. The Nile disagreement is a resource conflict over water and dam operations.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Rivermark and Hillen disagree over water from the Silver River. Their main conflict is a resource conflict. Rivermark wants to build a dam to provide electricity for its growing cities. Hillen depends on the river to irrigate farms downstream. The argument could spread if Hillen asks neighboring countries to block trade with Rivermark. A water-sharing agreement could ease the conflict by setting limits on how much water each country uses.

Accept accurate explanations that identify a conflict type and connect it to specific causes. For Your Turn, accept any plausible fictional situation with two causes and a realistic way the conflict could spread or be eased.