

Grade 3 Social Studies #1: October 26 – October 30, 2020

Lesson Focus: How should First People's lands be developed in the Northern Interior?

Materials:

- Internet access for videos

Invitation to Learn:

In this lesson you will be gathering evidence to help you make an ethical judgement about how First Peoples' Lands should be developed in the Northern Interior.

Watch this video:

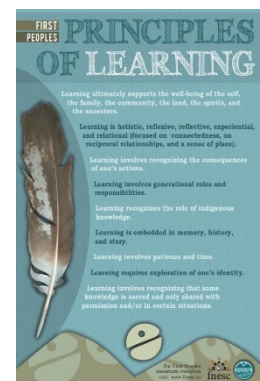
Our Land Beautiful <https://www.canadawildproductions.com/film/konline/>

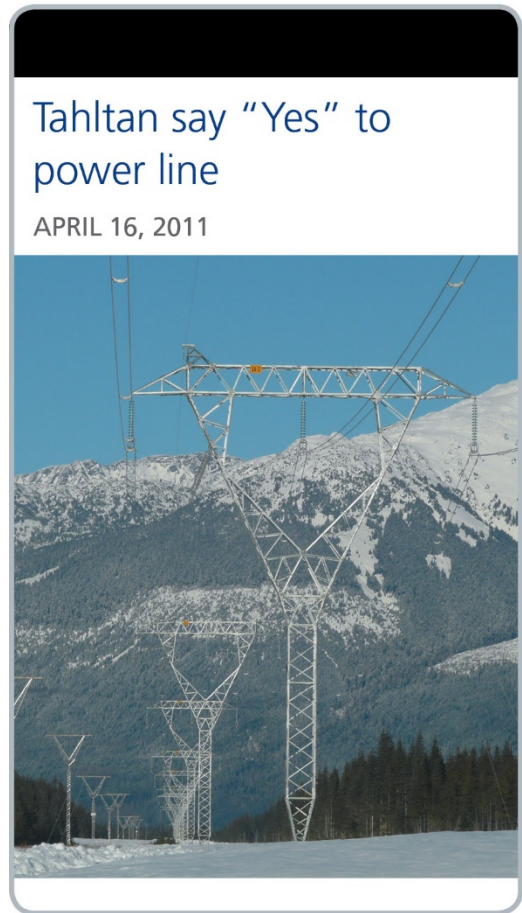
Ask/Discuss:

- What is traditional territory?
 - **Traditional territory is land that a group of people have occupied and used for a long, long time.**
- When making decisions how can you ensure that your decision is fair?
 - **collect evidence from all people involved in the decision, keep an open mind, and ask questions if more evidence is needed**

Learning from First Peoples

First Peoples have a strong connection between their culture and their environment.







The Tahltan people look to the land for sustenance, guidance, and healing.



— *Tahltan Band Council*



This project gave the Tahltan opportunities to benefit from the project while ensuring there was future economic growth in the region for all.



— *Rich Coleman, Government of British Columbia*



We knew when we agreed to the hydro transmission line that our lives would be impacted forever. We wanted to form a relationship with the government so that we could have some control over the development ... in our area.



— *Annita McPhee, Tahltan Central Council*



Figure 1 Flooding



Figure 2: Site C Dam



Figure 3: Dunne-za Protest

There is only one Peace River valley, and its soils, habitat, and beauty can never be regained once it has been dammed and flooded.

— Peace Valley Environment Association

Site C will be a source of clean, reliable, and affordable electricity in B.C. for more than 100 years.

— BC Hydro, 2016

We are not opposed to the development of the energy—we are opposed to the destruction of the Valley.

— Roland Willson, West Moberly First Nation, Dunne-za, 2016

Look at all the images.

Discuss:

- What evidence tells you that people reached an agreement? What was the agreement about?
- Whose views are represented? Whose views are missing?
- What clues do you see that First Peoples' lands are being developed?
- What can you tell about what different groups think about the building of the Site C Dam?
- How might different people be helped by the development of the land?
- How might people be harmed by the development of the land?
- What else might be harmed by development?

Location

- The Dakelh, Dene-thah, Dunne-za, Gitksan, Kaska, Sekani, Tagish, Tahltan, Tlingit, and Wet'suwet'en live in the Northern Interior.

Natural Resources

- The Tahltan traditional territory is rich in natural resources such as gold, copper, silver, forestry, salmon, and wildlife. More than half of all mineral exploration and mine development in B.C. takes place in Tahltan territory. Agreements made in 2011 between the Tahltan and the B.C. government allow the Tahltan to participate in future decision-making regarding resources in their area. They also allow them to receive economic benefits from resource development.

Power Line Agreement

- The Northwest Transmission Line supplies northwestern British Columbians with a clean and reliable source of power. The power makes it easier for resource companies like mines to operate in the area.

Flooding

- This photo shows a part of the Peace River valley that will be flooded by the Site C Dam. The flooding will destroy part of the Dunne-za Nations' traditional territories. Many people will lose their land and the flooding will destroy animal, plant, and fish habitats. The Dunne-za claim that by

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allowing the Site C Dam, the government has failed to protect their rights to this land, which were guaranteed by Treaty 8 and Canada's Constitution.