

Oil pipeline protest joined by military veterans

5th December, 2016



People in the U.S. state of North Dakota are angry because an oil company is building a giant pipe near their land. The oil company wants to build the multibillion-dollar oil pipeline under a lake near the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. The Sioux people are Native Americans who have been on the land for thousands of years. The Native

Americans have been joined by many protestors. They are all trying to stop the \$3.8 billion pipeline from passing near Sioux land. They say it will dirty their drinking water and make it undrinkable. They also say the pipeline will damage sacred Sioux sites. A Texas-based company, Energy Transfer Partners, owns the 1,885-km pipeline project. It is almost complete.

The protestors are calling themselves "water protectors". They have been on the site for months trying to block the pipeline. They were recently joined by veterans from the U.S. military. These are retired soldiers, sailors and members of the air force. The veterans have built the protestors shelters to keep warm in the freezing winter. There has been violence between the protestors and police. A North Dakota spokesman said some of the protestors were "frightening". He said: "It's time for them to go home." However, Coast Guard veteran Ashleigh Jennifer Parker said: "We will be unarmed, completely prepared for peaceful protest. We don't even like the word 'protest.' We're there to help the water protectors."

Sources: nytimes.com / reuters.com / yahoo.com

Writing

It is better to protest online than protest in the street. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

angry / giant / pipe / lake / thousands of years / protestors / drinking water / sites / protectors / block / veterans / retired / soldiers / air force / freezing / frightening

True / False

- a) People in South Dakota are angry about an oil pipeline. T / F
- b) A company wants to build an oil pipeline over a lake. T / F
- c) The Sioux people have lived near the lake for thousands of years. T / F
- d) The oil pipeline is almost finished. T / F
- e) Protestors call themselves "water protectors". T / F
- f) The protestors have been joined by retired members of the US military. T / F
- g) The protestors have built shelters for the veterans. T / F
- h) The protestors love the word 'protest'. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. angry | a. scary |
| 2. build | b. holy |
| 3. under | c. furious |
| 4. sacred | d. not long ago |
| 5. complete | e. non-violent |
| 6. block | f. finished |
| 7. recently | g. construct |
| 8. frightening | h. totally |
| 9. completely | i. stop |
| 10. peaceful | j. beneath |

Discussion – Student A

- a) Will the veterans joining the protest make a difference?
- b) What would make you join a protest?
- c) Who do you want to win, and why?
- d) What should happen to the violent protestors?
- e) What do you think of the word 'protest'?
- f) What do you know about the Sioux?
- g) What questions would you like to ask the protestors?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the oil company?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. People in the U.S. state of North Dakota | a. land for thousands of years |
| 2. an oil company is building a giant | b. for peaceful protest |
| 3. Native Americans who have been on the | c. based company |
| 4. They also say the pipeline will | d. pipe near their land |
| 5. A Texas- | e. members of the air force |
| 6. trying to block | f. shelters to keep warm |
| 7. retired soldiers, sailors and | g. are angry |
| 8. The veterans have built the protestors | h. water protectors |
| 9. completely prepared | i. damage sacred Sioux sites |
| 10. We're there to help the | j. the pipeline |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you think should happen to the pipeline?
- Why do oil companies damage the environment?
- Do you think the oil company cares about drinking water?
- Should the Sioux accept the pipeline is for the economy?
- Are profit and oil more important than a lake?
- What advice do you have for the Sioux?
- What advice do you have for the oil company?

Spelling

- building a tgain pipe
- The Sioux people are ateNiv Americans
- for sstduoanh of years
- make it ilnbrkudena
- the pipeline will gdmaae sacred Sioux sites
- It is almost ctpelome
- They were eyeltrcn joined by veterans
- rdriete soldiers
- ehsltser to keep warm
- There has been iolvecne
- We will be dramneu
- lfaucepe protest

Answers – Synonym Match

1. c	2. g	3. j	4. b	5. f
6. i	7. d	8. a	9. h	10. e

Role Play

Role A – Oil

You think oil is the best form of energy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their energy forms. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): wind, nuclear or bio-fuel.

Role B – Wind

You think wind is the best form of energy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their energy forms. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): oil, nuclear or bio-fuel.

Role C – Nuclear

You think nuclear is the best form of energy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their energy forms. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): wind, oil or bio-fuel.

Role D – Bio-fuel

You think bio-fuel is the best form of energy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their energy forms. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): wind, nuclear or oil.

Speaking – Energy

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------|---------|
| • bio-fuels | • oil |
| • thermal | • solar |
| • nuclear | • wind |
| • wave power | • coal |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.