

water

LEARNING OBJECTIVE: To identify threats to international water bodies and consider who is responsible for protecting these waters.

VIDEOS:



A Totem Journey (Canada) Amy George, a Tsleil Waututh elder, joins forces with artists to defend their coastal territory from petroleum pipelines.



Resisting Arctic Oil (Norway) Silje Lundberg, a youth activist, warns that oil drilling in Arctic Norway endangers the largest arctic coral reef in the world.



Citizen Regulators at Turkey Point (USA) Florida biologist Laura Reynolds, launches a citizen law suit to prevent nuclear waste from leaking into Biscayne Bay.



A Glacier Nation (Chile) Activist Matías Asun has created a Glacier Nation in his campaign to stop destructive mining practices.



Love the Everglades (USA) Rev. Houston R. Cypress, an artist and member of the Miccosukee Nation, uses art to communicate the urgency of Everglades restoration.



The High Cost of Ship Breaking (Bangladesh) Syeda Rizwana Hasan, an environmental lawyer, challenges the global ship breaking industry that has used Bangladesh's coasts as a dumping ground.

QUESTIONS:

What kinds of water threats are people facing in each of the videos? How are these related to your community?

How are the protagonists drawing attention to the problems in their communities? Who is being held accountable?

What water regulations and laws exist where you live and how are they enforced?

ACTIVITIES:

Create a water map by identifying the biggest water users in your community (upstream and downstream) and any possible threats to a healthy water supply. What news story might you write about the future of water in your community?

Create a visual collage about water. Add news headlines, a poem or statistics. How do the images and text work together to create a message? Discuss other ways that art can help build awareness of threats to the water bodies that we rely on.

RESOURCES:

- Aquapedia watereducation.org/aquapedia
- UN water unwater.org
- UNESCO en.unesco.org/themes/one-planet-one-ocean
- David Suzuki Foundation davidsuzuki.org/issues/freshwater/

KEYWORDS:

downstream, upstream, wetlands, sea level rise, drought, pollution, nuclear waste, sustainability, restoration