**Environmental Racism in B.C.**

***Fracking in Northern B.C.***

In this lesson, we will be looking at the impacts of fracking, a process of injecting liquid at high pressure into underground areas in order to force open existing fissures in an effort to extract oil or gas. This method of resource extraction has been met with resistance in recent years due to the environmental and health concerns that arise from the process, which typically involves environmental degradation and widespread subterranean pollution which can cause massive health issues in populations that live nearby. **Suggested Grade Range: High School (Grades 9-12). For Earlier grades, consider providing resources yourself instead of having students search for their own; incorporate more in-class or group discussion rather than posting online.**

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| **Map-Marker-Flag-3-Right-Pink-icon.png** | **Engage** |
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| To start out, give this video [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iVxB7hFDTlE) a watch; in it, the Green Party MLA Adam Olsen, the representative of Saanich North and the Islands districts of B.C. in 2022, poses a question to B.C.’s NDP government on their awareness of environmental racism and its impact on the First Nations and other communities that are situated near fracking sites.  **Consider: the impact and implications of having heavy industry, such as fracking, being conducted near your own home:**   * **What are some of your concerns regarding your own health?** * **Does what MLA Olsen says cause you to think about the government’s approach to these practices?** * **Why do you think the health concerns mentioned by MLA Olsen are disproportionately affecting indigenous peoples?** |

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| Give [this article](https://d1wqtxts1xzle7.cloudfront.net/54236594/Ranganathan_The_Environment_as_Freedom__A_Decolonial_Reimagining___Items-libre.pdf?1503600785=&response-content-disposition=inline%3B+filename%3DThe_Environment_as_Freedom_A_Decolonial.pdf&Expires=1677804255&Signature=V-zN5C03SfVesATX7nRD2Qq9ew3j6A7y1K4ioaj9P59b2LlnPO-x4l8p4QxM0J~0xK2Fbpej6cSCiKZmRcctUP49EeHTftEdFG2F63UfCzWbArLtJPE8O5WgULo1SDGzjuhILduKmfz8gjv-QfRJMhkevJhybGXuTgQzpM~pkA06-D3GXomIiVP2TamKBnHnjjTsI2AYfJf1pQrafgDYfArRV9PwiN11Xd5TgcDaRkmUFnCWC8iYNedRqsNN3mEtv5Ouwh4BHuADWIUpR57oG1~QYRxyfsdnu6tbCYe9BWbVtg6XHnKZ-vJJcyOONqEIqtyQmkcmnoFjRm5LrUWeOw__&Key-Pair-Id=APKAJLOHF5GGSLRBV4ZA), written by Malini Ranganthan in 2017, a read. Keep in mind what MLA Olsen mentioned in the video you just watched. Explore what environmental freedom means to you, and what freedom from environmental racism could mean for your community.  **Consider:**   * **How does this article make you feel about the environmental policies that are being made in B.C.?** * **Do you feel like you are impacted by environmental racism?** |

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| As Holifield explains in their 2001 article on *Defining Environmental Justice and Environmental Racism*, “Environmental racism is racial discrimination in environmental policy-making and enforcement of regulations and laws, the deliberate targeting of communities of color for toxic waste facilities, the official sanctioning of the presence of life threat-ening poisons and pollutants for communities of color, and the history of excluding people of color from leadership of the environmental movement” (Holifield, 2001, p. 83). This instance of fracking has all of the hallmarks of this definition of environmental racism; it is the result of governmental policy made that will disproportionately impact areas wherein minority groups, in this case indigenous communities, will face the majority of the potential dangers and environmental impacts.  **Activity: Based on the video from the beginning of this lesson, brainstorm some factors of fracking practices in B.C. that constitute environmental racism, as defined in the *Explain* section. Write these factors down in a post** [**here**](https://padlet.com/codepeters/environmental-racism-fracking-k4v8aqx1wevjoc5k)**, and then go and use the internet to find some news articles or journal articles that discuss fracking, and include them in your post. Make sure to mention why you included the resource that you chose.** |

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| Based on the readings and videos you have looked at thus far, do you have any concerns about environmental policy in B.C.? What questions or concerns do you have for the community that you live in, or for other communities in B.C.? What are some practices that you are aware of that could constitute environmental racism? If you cannot think of any, try using the internet to find some examples of environmental issues that may be rooted in environmental racism. |

|  | **Share** |
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| Take some time and think about what you and your classmates have written about thus far. Was there any one post, article, or topic covered that really stood out to you?  **Activity: Take a minute to compose some thoughts that you have on the topic of environmental racism or on fracking practices in B.C.** **and consider them within the framework of the Holifield and Malini readings. Share your thoughts** [**here**](https://flip.com/3d44a354) **with your classmates through a short (1.5 minute) recording of your thoughts.** |

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| Look back through the activities you and your classmates have completed throughout this section. Take a few minutes to read through your classmates' posts and watch some of their video responses.  **Activity: Reflecting on what you and your classmates have discussed throughout this section, go back and comment on at least 2 of your classmates posts or videos. Reflect on how what they said resonated with you, or how what you talked about in your post or video relates to theirs. For the posts, use this link** [**here**](https://padlet.com/codepeters/environmental-racism-fracking-k4v8aqx1wevjoc5k)**, and for the videos, use this link** [**here**](https://flip.com/3d44a354)**. Make sure to keep things respectful!** |

| **images** | **Extend** |
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| To access the resources below, check with your institution’s library catalog or use Google Scholar to check availability.  References:  Ranganathan, Malini. 2017. The Environment as Freedom: A Decolonial Reimagining. Items June 13.  Holifield, R. (2001). *DEFINING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM* Bellwether Publishing Ltd. doi:10.2747/0272-3638.22.1.78  MLA Olsen Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iVxB7hFDTlE>  Lavoie, Judith. 2017. First Nations Bear Brunt of B.C.’s Sprawling Fracking Operations: New Report. The Narwhal. <https://thenarwhal.ca/first-nations-bear-brunt-b-c-s-sprawling-fracking-operations-new-report/> |