

This historical WebQuest focuses on a real historical event that took place in the province of Alberta; the construction of pipelines to transport oil and gas. You will experience what these communities and its people experienced during and after pipeline construction. It also features various learning materials for an in-depth community study of Leduc during the oil discovery era.

Pipe Dreams: A Historical WebQuest

Introduction:

It is the early 1950's in Alberta and many people are demanding to use more oil and gas. At first, oil was loaded in barrels and carted away from the oil fields in horse-drawn wagons but pipelines are becoming the most efficient method of transporting oil and natural gas. Although they are expensive to construct, they transport oil and natural gas for thousands of kilometres and are the cheapest method of transporting oil and gas. With this in mind, a petroleum company is applying to develop an oil field within Leduc, Alberta and wants to build a pipeline to transport oil across Canada.

Task:

It is the early 1950's and you are a community member that will participate in a hearing to decide whether a pipeline should be constructed from an oil field within Leduc. You will present a report to the hearing board outlining your position on the issue. You will need to research the history of the proposed pipeline site, study historical maps and photographs, identify primary and secondary sources of information and use this knowledge to create your report.

Process:

1. Each person in your group is to select one of the following roles. A description for each position is included.

Farmer

You own a farm near the proposed pipeline site. You raise cattle and grow wheat. The oil company wants to put a pipeline through your land. If you let the company build it on your property, you will be paid for the right-of-way and easement. While the pipeline is being built, the company's machinery will be on your land and people will be driving to and from your property.

CEO of the Oil Company

You are the CEO of the oil company that wants to build 150 kilometres of pipeline that will take oil from a new oilfield to the nearest oil refinery. You believe that oil is a very important resource, needed to produce many products that will make people's lives easier and better. You believe that all Albertans benefit one way or another from the oil industry and that it will result in lower costs for the consumer.

Oil Worker

You have just graduated from high school, and you're looking for a job. You read in the newspaper that an oil company will be hiring workers to build a pipeline nearby. The wage is good, and you really need the experience. You don't want to see nature destroyed, and you trust that the oil company will do its best to respect the environment.

Environmentalist

You are an environmentalist. You have heard that the pipeline will have to go through a natural forest habitat. You are worried that it will disturb the plants and animals there. You feel that oil could benefit Alberta, but the oil companies are only interested in making money. Once they cut down trees, drain ponds, and build the pipeline, the environment will be changed forever. You feel that Alberta has a vast quantity of energy resources, so the environment should not be risked.

Government of Alberta

You are a member of the Alberta government. The petroleum that is discovered on Crown property such as lands, forests and water and energy resources is government owned. Your government has an interest in the need to prevent the waste of natural resources. Although, you believe that petroleum generates large revenues for the government. You also feel that petroleum resources should not be exploited.

Scientist

You are a scientist who has conducted extensive research into the environmental risks of energy development projects. You recognize the project's environmental risks, but you also know that all human activity has risks. You believe that people should weigh the risks against the benefits. You believe that the potential benefits of the project are large and that pipelines are technologically efficient and safer.

Tourism Researcher

You are a tourism researcher who has conducted various studies on the area's attractions and accommodations. You believe that the area's great natural beauty has been limited to tourists because of the region's isolation. You believe that tourism will grow if the project goes ahead. Although, you also believe that tourism could be harmed if the environment becomes polluted.

2. Once you have chosen a role, you must prepare a report for your presentation. Each member of the team is to research his or her particular area.
3. View the following websites to get information on pipelines, understanding oil and life experiences on drilling for oil. This will help you understand the issue and form your character's opinion.

The Wonderful Invention of ... Pipeline

<http://www.blackgold.ab.ca/leduc1/today3.htm>

How pipelines are built, used to transport oil and facts about pipelines.

Rocks, Oil and the Devonian Reef

<http://www.blackgold.ab.ca/leduc1/blkgld1.htm>

Different Types of Oil

<http://www.blackgold.ab.ca/leduc1/blkgld2.htm>

How Oil is Found

<http://www.blackgold.ab.ca/leduc1/blkgld3.htm>

Some Common Uses for Oil

<http://www.blackgold.ab.ca/leduc1/blkgld4.htm>

How Oil is Processed

<http://www.blackgold.ab.ca/leduc1/blkgld5.htm>

Life on the Rigs

<http://www.blackgold.ab.ca/leduc1/today1.htm>

4. After reading the above information. Proceed to complete the following sections in your report:

Section 1: The Community

This mind map will help you understand the various aspects to consider when writing/analyzing about the history of your community from the perspective of your character.

Section 2: Community History Project Planning Form

This form will help you outline your topic and the resources you are going to use in your report.

Section 3: A Sense of Community

- Complete this guide to get a historical perspective of your community. Remember to complete the information from your character's perspective.
- This is to be included in your report to the hearing board.

Section 4: Choose one of the following to complete:

- o Write a brief history of your community
 - o Construct a timeline, chart, graph or table
 - o Write a letter from the point of view of your character supporting your position on the proposed pipeline development project to the hearing board
5. Once you have researched your community from your character's viewpoint, get together with your group members and discuss your findings. This is a chance for all group members to give extra input on ideas, facts, and resources that were researched
 6. After each member has contributed his or her ideas, your report should be revised by the other members of the group. A final copy should then be written/edited.
 7. Present your report to the hearing board.

Resources:

Here is a list of resources that you will need for the assignment.

Location:

[Alberta's Natural Resources](#)

[Canadian Oil and Gas: The First One Hundred Years](#)

[The Alberta Traveller: Alberta's History](#)

[Timeline of Leduc History](#)

[Clickable Map of Alberta](#)

[Map of Alberta \(natural resources Canada\)](#)

[Society of Petroleum Engineers](#)

Recreation and Landmarks:

[Alberta's Natural Resources](#)

[Canadian Oil and Gas: The First One Hundred Years](#)

[The Alberta Traveller: Alberta's History](#)

[Timeline of Leduc History](#)

[Geographic Area: Leduc](#)

Economy:

[Alberta's Natural Resources](#)

[Canadian Oil and Gas: The First One Hundred Years](#)

[The Alberta Traveller: Alberta's History](#)

[Timeline of Leduc History](#)

[Society of Petroleum Engineers](#)

[Imperial Oil...The Company That Made it all Happen](#)

[Post- Leduc Oil and Gas Exploration and Development](#)

Community History and Celebration

[Alberta's Natural Resources](#)

[Canadian Oil and Gas: The First One Hundred Years](#)

[The Alberta Traveller: Alberta's History](#)

[Timeline of Leduc History](#)

[Society of Petroleum Engineers](#)

[Devon...A Model Town](#)

[Imperial Oil...The Company That Made it all Happen](#)

[Post- Leduc Oil and Gas Exploration and Development](#)

[Geographic Area: Leduc](#)

People

[Alberta's Natural Resources](#)

[Canadian Oil and Gas: The First One Hundred Years](#)

[The Alberta Traveller: Alberta's History](#)

[Timeline of Leduc History](#)

[Society of Petroleum Engineers](#)

[Imperial Oil...The Company That Made it all Happen](#)

[Post- Leduc Oil and Gas Exploration and Development](#)

[Calgary Petroleum Club](#)

[OilDirectory.com Industry Services - Remember & Recognize](#)

Natural Resources and Land Use

[Alberta's Natural Resources](#)

[Canadian Oil and Gas: The First One Hundred Years](#)

[The Alberta Traveller: Alberta's History](#)

[Timeline of Leduc History](#)

[Society of Petroleum Engineers](#)

[Devon...A Model Town](#)

[Imperial Oil...The Company That Made it all Happen](#)

[Post- Leduc Oil and Gas Exploration and Development](#)

Transportation

[Alberta's Natural Resources](#)

[Canadian Oil and Gas: The First One Hundred Years](#)

[The Alberta Traveller: Alberta's History](#)

[Timeline of Leduc History](#)

[Devon...A Model Town](#)

Events and Changes

[CKUA Heritage Trails on Leduc](#)

[Leduc No. 1 Interpretive Center Virtual Tour Outdoors](#)

[Celebrations and Special Events](#)

[Timeline of 50 years](#)

[Changes in Principles](#)

[Alberta...Then and Now](#)

Evaluation:

Each member of your group will be given an individual grade and a group grade.

You will be graded individually on your report. Your group grade will be based on your actual input and feedback given to your group members. The individual grade will be based on the overall effect of the report as a whole. It will be evaluated on accuracy as well as creativity.

Conclusion:

Communities are unique in many different ways and are shaped by people, places and events. Communities face many challenges and dilemmas in moving into the future.

After completing this WebQuest, you hopefully have a better understanding of your community's past and the people, places and events that have contributed to your community's evolution.