Social Studies 10-1

Unit 3: Globalization and sustainable prosperity

Land and resource agreements

The James Bay project

- In 1971 Quebec announced dams on rivers flowing west into James Bay, including the La Grande.
- On 11 November 1975, Cree and Inuit leaders signed the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement with Quebec, Canada, and the hydro corporations.
- Electricity from the La Grande complex travels south, while the changed river meets Cree communities near its mouth.



People and land on one map

- Spirituality, stewardship, sustainability, and resource development are four ways people describe the relationship between a community and a river project.
- In 1975 Cree and Inuit leaders signed the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.
- Later hydro debates show the questions stayed alive.
- Impact assessment is a tool of environmental law, and a sketch map shows who lives downstream of a dam and who uses the power.

Key terms

stewardship

Stewardship is the work of caring for land, water, and animals so a community can keep living from that place.

sustainability

Sustainability is a pattern of resource use that keeps health, culture, and livelihood available for the next generation.

resource agreement

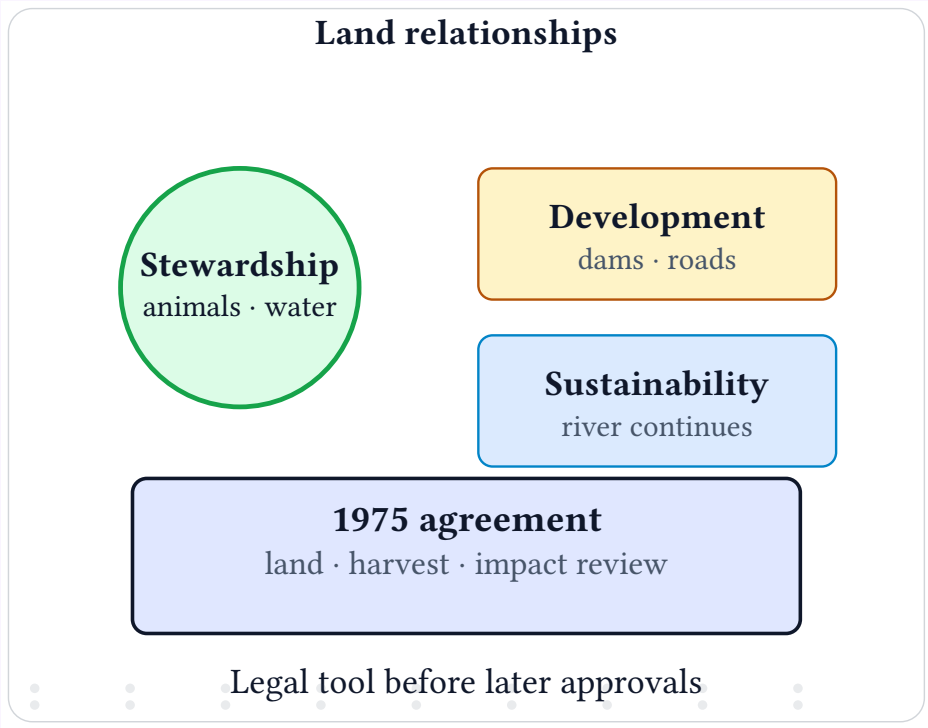
A resource agreement is a formal deal among governments and the peoples of a territory about land, harvesting, compensation, and development.

impact assessment

An impact assessment is a legal study of a project's effects on the environment, health, society, and Indigenous peoples before a government decision.

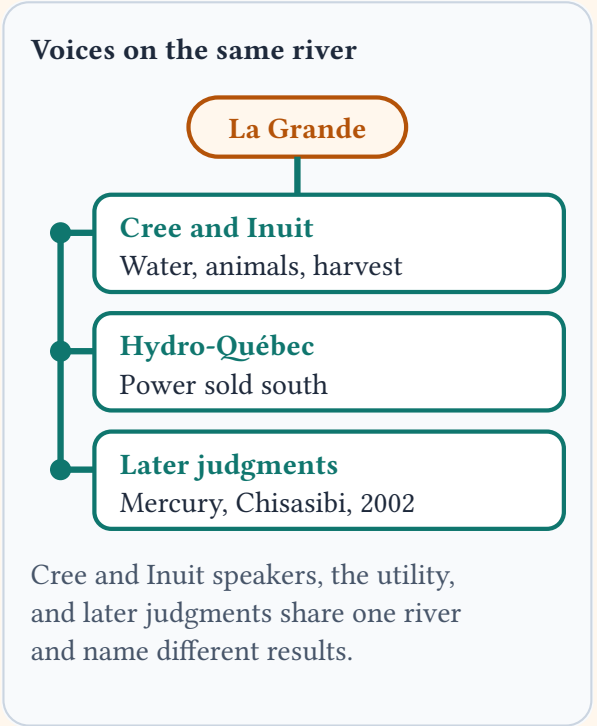
Four relationships and a legal tool

- Public Cree and Inuit statements describe a spiritual relationship with animals, water, and future generations, which grounds stewardship of hunting territories.
- Sustainability asks whether community life and the river system can continue, while resource development builds dams, reservoirs, roads, and transmission.
- The 1975 agreement set land categories, harvesting rights, compensation, and institutions, and impact assessment studies effects before a later approval.



Comparison table

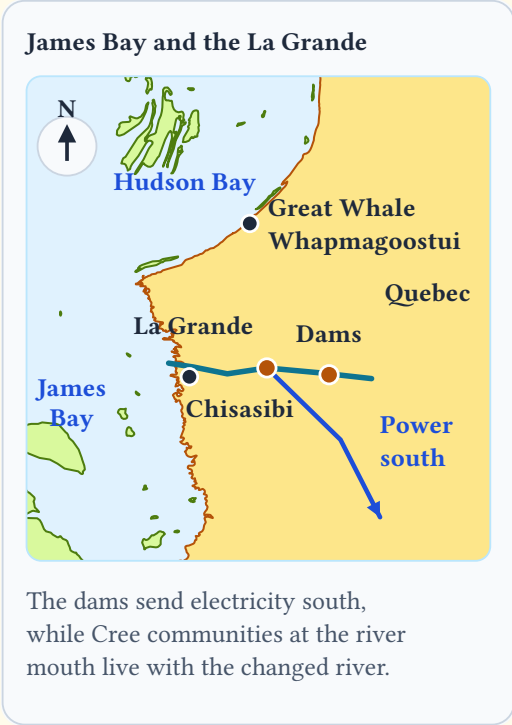
- Cree and Inuit land relationships: public teachings of spiritual responsibility, stewardship of animals and water, and harvesting that families still rely on.
- Hydro development: Quebec and Hydro-Québec sought electricity, construction work, and power that could be sold far to the south.
- Later judgments include mercury in fish, the 1980 move to Chisasibi, Great Whale, and the 2002 Paix des Braves.



Cree and Inuit speakers, the utility, and later judgments share one river and name different results.

Sketch map of the La Grande River

- Draw James Bay on the west, the La Grande flowing west, a dam and reservoir inland, and Chisasibi near the mouth.
- Draw a transmission corridor running south toward southern users and export markets.
- Write one inference about who lives with the changed river and who receives the electricity.



Impact assessment as a tool

- An impact assessment gathers studies of water, wildlife, health, society, and effects on Indigenous peoples.
- Review committees under the James Bay agreement are a regional form of that study-and-comment work.
- The finished study informs a cabinet decision, and consent remains a political and nation-to-nation question.

Review

- The 2002 Paix des Braves set a new Cree-Quebec framework for development.
- A partial diversion of the Rupert River went ahead under that framework.
- A full answer uses stewardship or sustainability and one geographic inference.

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