Social Studies 10-2

Unit 3: Globalization and sustainable prosperity

Environment and prosperity

Oil sands and livelihoods

- Northern Alberta's oil sands, in the Athabasca, Cold Lake, and Peace River deposits, are a major resource development region.
- Workers, contractors, and public royalties and taxes are the prosperity evidence people in the region and in the province can point to.
- Open pit mines, in situ wells, tailings, water use, and greenhouse gas emissions are the land, water, and climate evidence.



Three policy tools, two families of view

- Land and resource use is the physical choice to mine, drill, cut, flood, or otherwise work a place.
- A resource development agreement sets jobs, business, monitoring, or access among a company, a government, and sometimes an Indigenous government.
- Environmental legislation sets legal duties for air, land, water, and the species that live there.
- People then read the result as prosperity, as sustainability, or as both.

Key terms

environmental legislation

Environmental legislation is law that sets duties for how people and firms use land, water, air, and living beings.

resource development agreement

A resource development agreement is a formal deal among a company, a government, or an Indigenous government about jobs, business, monitoring, or access to a resource.

prosperity

Prosperity is a condition of secure livelihoods, useful infrastructure, and public revenue that communities can spend on services.

oil sands

Oil sands are deposits of bitumen mixed with sand and clay in northern Alberta, which industry separates to produce heavy oil.

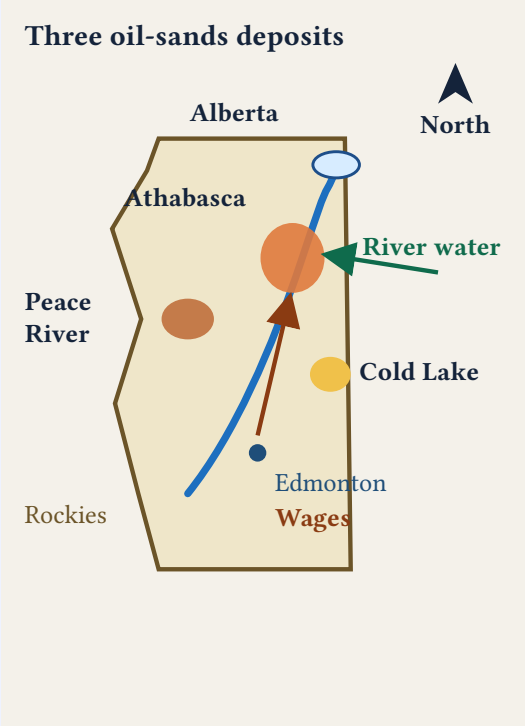
Key terms

sustainability

Sustainability is a pattern of living and producing that keeps ecosystems and communities able to continue.

Perspectives on the oil sands

- An oil sands worker in the Athabasca region points to wages as the benefit of the work.
- Royalties and taxes are the public money side of that work, the share governments collect.
- A First Nation guardian points to the Athabasca watershed and the wildlife that depend on it.



Three tools on the oil sands

- Open pit mines and in situ wells are land and resource use.
- Some First Nations and Métis communities sign agreements about jobs and about monitoring the land.
- Alberta's Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act sets legal duties for air, land, water, and wildlife.

Laws and perspectives

- The brief holds an oil sands mine, a royalty note, a watershed concern, and a community agreement about jobs and monitoring.
- The statute lines cover approvals and enforcement under Alberta's Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act.
- Five speakers stay on the page: worker, public revenue, reclamation lead, watershed guardian, and climate obligation.

A pipeline and a clinic

- A fisheries officer reviews a pipeline water crossing under environmental rules before construction.
- A qualitative note says oil sands royalties help fund a clinic wing in the provincial health system.
- Decide which scene is environmental legislation at work and which scene is a prosperity reading.

Review

- A bitumen mine needs approvals under Alberta’s Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act.
- From memory, say what kind of policy tool the Act is and what job it does.
- Name one person who would talk about this mine through wages or public money.

Prosperity and sustainability

- Land and resource use, resource development agreements, and environmental legislation are three different policy tools.
- Prosperity is secure work, local business, and public revenue for services.
- Sustainability is land, water, wildlife, reclamation, and climate obligations continuing together with communities.

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