

Day 13

Indigenous Peoples

The Dandy Lions

40 POINTS

Notes on the AP News article

- ❖ Indigenous people have lived by the idea that if humans cut into the Amazon rainforest, they make people vulnerable to sicknesses
- ❖ A study finds that the prevalence of diseases decreased in areas where forests were isolated solely for Indigenous people
- ❖ If states don't guarantee rights and territories of Indigenous individuals, we harm their health and lives
 - To an extent, the ecosystem as well
- ❖ Harm looks like respiratory diseases, such as asthma initiated by toxic air pollution from fires
- ❖ Indigenous land tenure helps maintain forests
 - Others say it is important to maintain the forest outside of Indigenous-occupied areas as well

Indigenous community that is facing an environmental challenge in the world: Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

- ❖ The Dakota Access Pipeline received its permit to construct in 2016
- ❖ However, priests spread the word that a potential oil pipeline was threatening the water supply of the community of the Standing Rock Sioux reservation
 - Located in North Dakota
- ❖ Media coverage and advocacy efforts from many campaigns, politicians, and celebrities kept the DAPL in the spotlight
- ❖ The pipeline transports crude oil from the Bakken region to an oil terminal that is located in Patoka, Illinois. It connects to another pipeline where it brings oils to refiners on the Gulf Coast, in which both pipelines create the Bakken Pipeline when connected
- ❖ However, it crosses the upstream of the Standing Rock reservation near the Lake Oahe reservoir
 - Leaks or even spills make cause contamination of water supply for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
- ❖ Since there is more capacity of oil barrels per day, this means there is more potential for environmental harm

- Risk of pipeline rupture
- ❖ The pipeline is 1,772 miles long and it is underground
- ❖ Lake Oahe is on the Missouri River, which is a drinker water source for many communities, such as the tribe
- ❖ The tribe is directly impacted by the pipeline as their water supply is threatened and it violates their treaty rights
 - Vulnerable to environmental risks
- ❖ In order to combat this, many environmental activists and tribe members created large protests against the Dakota Access Pipelines, often referred to as NoDAPL
- ❖ People highlighted the importance of environmental justice for these tribes
- ❖ While the pipeline is still existing today, advocates constantly speak for its shutdown and portray the need for environmental justice and Indigenous rights

Reflection:

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe is facing an urgent environmental and cultural crisis with the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline. This pipeline threatens the tribe's primary water source, the Missouri River, and crosses sacred lands, including burial sites. It is more than just an environmental issue, it is an attack on the tribe's sovereignty, culture, and way of life. As we learn about their struggle, it becomes clear that the consequences of environmental injustice extend far beyond one community, affecting the health, safety, and future of many.

In response, the Standing Rock Sioux have organized and mobilized in extraordinary ways. Through the NoDAPL movement, they have brought together thousands of Indigenous people and environmental activists from across the globe. They have held peaceful protests, launched legal challenges, and amplified their voices internationally, demanding respect for treaty rights and environmental protections. Their resilience in the face of legal setbacks and ongoing pipeline operations demonstrates a profound commitment to both their community and the planet.

Reflecting on this teaches us that Indigenous leadership is rooted in deep knowledge of the land, courage in confronting powerful interests, and the ability to unite people around shared values. Their fight reminds us that resilience is

not just enduring hardship but actively defending what is sacred and just. We see that protecting Indigenous rights is tied to protecting all of us from environmental harm.

Call to action: Take a stand by signing a petition to help protect the Standing Rock Sioux's land and water today!