

Keeping the Spirit Bear Coast Clear of Tar Sands Oil

Comprehension

1. What is the Spirit Bear also known as?
2. What other animal species can be found in British Columbia?
3. What is the Northern Gateway Project?
4. What did the NRDC defend the Spirit Bear Coast against when it started twenty years ago?
5. Is Tar Sands extraction more or less polluting than conventional crude?
6. What is Enbridge?
7. What reputation does Enbridge have concerning fossil fuels transportation?
8. What topographical complications would tar sands extraction in BC involve?
9. Give at least three examples of public and/or political opposition to the Northern Gateway Project.
10. Is the project likely to move forward in the near future? Why (not)?

Vocabulary

Match the words in **bold** in the text to the definitions below.

- a) Not smooth or flat
- b) Surrounded by land
- c) Revealed
- d) Members of the same family
- e) Problems you must solve before you can do something successfully
- f) Increasing the rate or level of something
- g) Having something very difficult to deal with
- h) Stopped something making progress
- i) Large area of land
- j) An area of land where people do not live, build or grow crops
- k) Attitude or view about an issue that you state clearly
- l) Existed for a long time; cannot easily be changed

Idioms

Explain the meaning of the idiomatic expressions below.

“Northern Gateway’s coffin is now riddled with nails” (line 64)

“Enbridge hasn’t officially pulled the plug on the pipeline.” (line 64)

“Should the project rear its ugly head again” (line 71)