



## TITLE: Water Protectors-Stratego

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Grade band: 4th

Subject: Geography

Topic: Water Protectors

### Introduction

This activity focuses on Westward Expansion through the lens of an Indigenous person and on water usage and preservation.

### Purpose

This activity may be used to activate pre-existing knowledge during instruction on water protection.

### Materials

- Stratego game board - obtain separately**
- Instructions provided below
- Scissors
- Stickers or label paper



## Instructions

### “Water Protectors: Battle for Clean Waters”

1. The purpose of the game is to protect the Colorado River from pollution and ensure its health for future generations.
2. As river guardians, students will strategize, make tough decisions, and learn about the real-world challenges facing this vital waterway.

### Pieces:

1. Game board - download separately: Representing the Colorado River and its surrounding Ecosystem.
2. Pieces:
  - a. **Pollution Tokens (Red Team):** Represent various pollutants that threaten the river.
    - Fishing Line (#2)
    - Barnyard (#3)
    - Hazardous Liquids (#4)
    - Picnic Trash (#5)
    - Motor Oil (#6)
    - Production Chemicals (#7)
    - Trash (#8)
    - Factories (#9)
    - Building sites (#10)
    - Drought (Special Piece-Can remove any piece except #8)
  - b. **Protectors Tokens (Blue Team):** These are the river guardian pieces, symbolizing the ten Native Tribes part of the ten tribe partnership with the effort to combat pollution and protect wildlife.
    - The Uintah and Ouray Indian tribe (#2)
    - The Ute Tribe (#3)
    - The Apache Nation (#4)
    - Southern Ute Indian Tribe (#5)
    - The Navajo Nation (#6)

- The Mojave Indian Tribe (#7)
- Fort Yuma Quechan Indians (#8)
- The Colorado River Indian Tribes (#9)
- The Sovereign Nation of the Cocophas (#10)
- Wildlife (Special Piece-Can remove any piece except #8)

## Setting up the Game:

1. Setup:
  - a. Place the game board in the center.
  - b. Both teams scatter their pieces strategically

## Rules:

### 1. Movement:

- All pieces move vertically or horizontally (except for #2 ).
- (#2 piece) can move any number of squares in a straight line.
- No piece can enter the two central squares (forbidden areas).

### 2. Battle:

- When two pieces meet, the stronger one wins (based on number value). If the value is the same it is a tie and both pieces are taken.
  - i. The player that is trying to take the piece must announce their piece and state what they are trying to do for example:
    1. “4 thousand people from The Apache Nation are trying to clear this pollutant from the river...” and the opposing team will answer “ 6 million gallons of Motor oil from cars has seeped into the river so you cannot clear it” because the value of the piece 4 is smaller than the 6
- Wildlife piece (fox) or Drought piece defeat any other piece except (#8) which can disarm that piece.
  - i. If a player is trying to take a Wildlife piece they must take a wildlife card to read to learn about the wildlife in the colorado river. Then proceed to take the piece and continue the game.
  - ii. If a player is trying to take a Drought piece they must take a pollution card and try to answer it correctly. Then proceed to take the piece and continue the game regardless if it was answered correctly or not.

### 3. Winning:

- **The Blue** Team wins if they manage to clear all the pollution from the river and capture the flag of the opposing team (A polluted river).

- **The Red** Team wins if they manage to pollute and capture the flag of the opposing team (A clean river).

## Activity Materials & Answer Keys



#2



#3



#4



#5



#6



#7



#8



#9



#10



FLAG



Drought



Wildlife



#2



#3



#4



#5



#6



#7



#8



#9



#10

FLAG

<p style="text-align: center;">Pollution</p> <p>The construction of this caused water pollution by draining contaminated rain water with animal droppings into the creek.</p>	<p><b>Banyards</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Pollution</p> <p>This produced by factories leaked into nearby bodies of water which made their way into the Colorado River</p>	<p><b>Production Chemicals</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Pollution</p> <p>When industrialization brought in street and water traffic this pollutant made its way into the Colorado River from boats and cars.</p>	<p><b>Motor Oil</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Pollution</p> <p>What pollutant did building sites leak into the Colorado River?</p>	<p><b>Hazardous Liquids</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Pollution</p> <p>What pollutant made its way into the river from family picnics?</p>	<p><b>Family Picnics</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Pollution</p> <p>What pollutant got lost in the water of The Colorado River from fishermen?</p>	<p><b>Fishing Line</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Wildlife Fact</p>	<p>The Colorado River is an important resource for the Mexican spotted owl, one of the largest owl species in North America.</p>

Wildlife Fact	The Colorado River is an important resource for the Screwbean Mesquite which is traditionally used for firewood or to make war clubs.
Wildlife Fact	The Colorado River is an important resource for the Mexican gray wolf, one of the most endangered mammals in North America.
Wildlife Fact	The Colorado River is an important resource for the Desert bighorn sheep, a subspecies of bighorn sheep that is native to the deserts of the United States.
Wildlife Fact	The Colorado River is an important resource for the Honey Mesquite, which grows up to 20 feet in height.
Wildlife Fact	The Colorado River is an important resource for the Goodding Willow which is used to make bows, build homes, and for gourd rattle handles.