

Women and The Land

The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls brought forward many key issues and topics. One of these key issues is about communities with resource development projects. These projects often include a largely male workforce and many of the workers are travelling or transient, meaning that they come for their shift and then return to their homes, which are often geographically far away. These work scenarios correlate to higher rates of violence towards women and girls.



What is a man camp?

Man camps are temporary housing facilities constructed for predominantly male workers on resource development projects in the oil, pipeline, mining, hydroelectric, and forestry industries.

Discussion Questions:

How does connection to place and people potentially change how you act?

Have you ever been somewhere or lived somewhere that you thought was an ugly or negative place to live?

Why do people have these thoughts? What makes a place a great place to live?

How might being a travelling employee with a large paycheck be affecting some of these people's behaviours?



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Watch this short video about Fort St. John, BC, an industry based town with many transient (travelling) workers.



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Man Camps and Girls and Women

Both the article and the video touch on some critical thoughts as to why these man camps perpetuate violence. One of the reasons being that there is no connection to people or place. Many of these travelling workers do not consider this their home, but rather just their job site. They stay for a few weeks at a time and then return home where they spend most of their money and time. Places with high resource extraction are often lacking in supports and funds; mainly because a large part of the population only works there and is not then contributing to the community or local economy.

These man camps most often have no relationship with the local Indigenous Peoples of the area, from whose traditional territories they are benefiting. Many have limited knowledge or understanding of local Indigenous cultures, realities, challenges or relationships. These workers have little to no connection to the land, including the animals and people that depend on it for food, water, and traditional medicines.



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Complete the following activities

Think of how you treat a place if you are a visitor or guest.

If you go to visit a family member or friend's home, what are some things that you might do differently from your own home?

Are you messier or more tidy than usual?

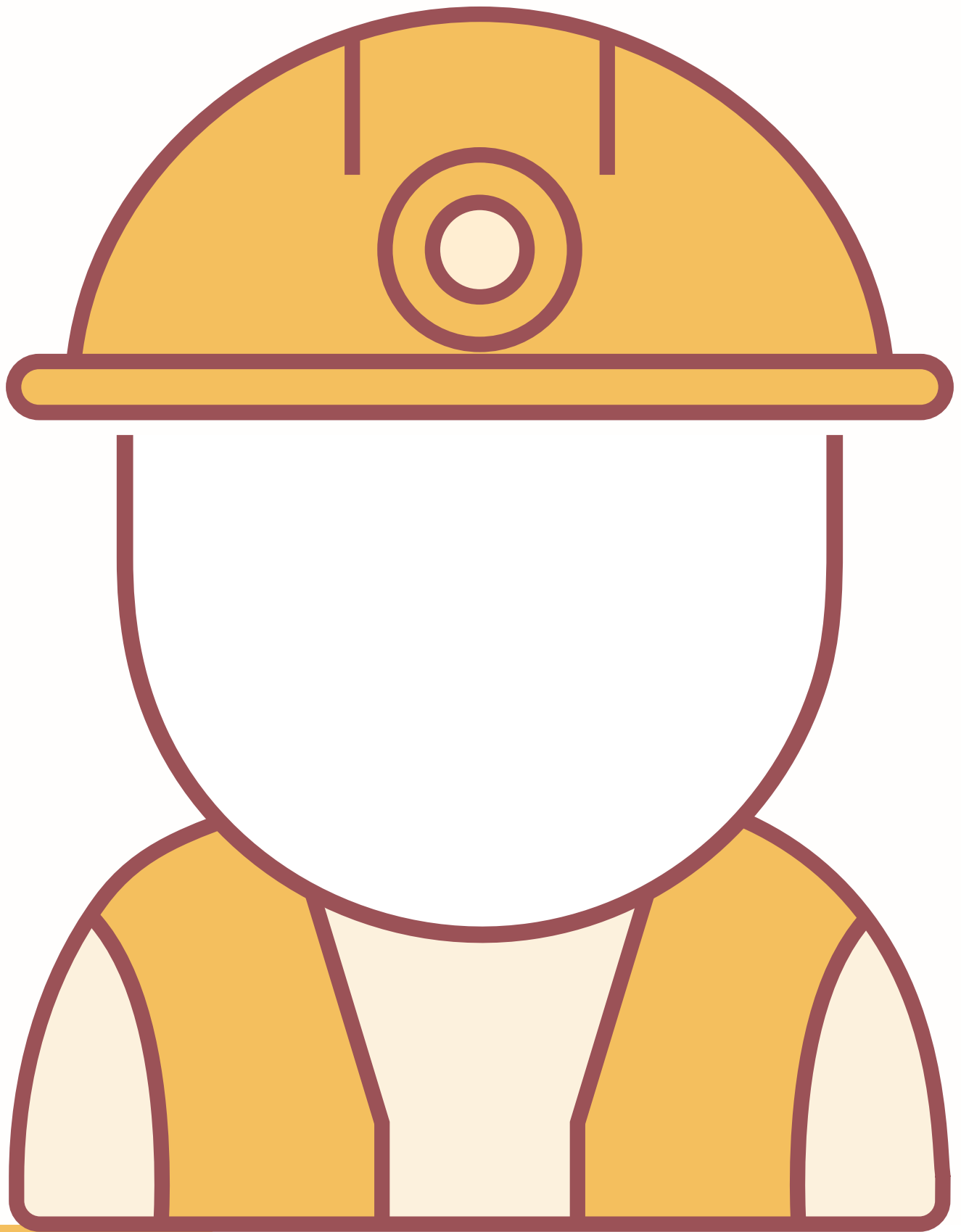
Are you more helpful or less helpful as a visitor?

Now think about the men working in man camps and how they are treating the territory in which they are guests.

Are they being helpful? How could they be better guests?

Using your ideas, choose to write a one paragraph journal entry on the topic, create a short video explaining how people in man camps can be better guests, or create a work of art depicting your thoughts and feelings.





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Think and Create

Write as many suggestions as you can around and inside the worker. Feel free to be creative and add artwork and doodles to express your ideas and feelings.