A Story of Extractivism: The Alberta Tar Sands (2 short videos)

1. Ted Talk 17 minutes: “The True Cost of Oil.”

Connects tar sand extraction to the Athabascan Delta, the Great Bear Rainforest, Global Climate Change, and the US Keystone and Enbridge Northern Gateway pipelines. This is an emotional appeal against tar sand extraction in Alberta. Though some of the narrative draws on scientific themes, it is not “fair and balanced.” Nonetheless, it illustrates the scale of the project and identifies the nature of various impacts of the oil extraction taking place there.

Garth Lenz

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=84zIj_EdQdM>

Viewing questions:

The tar sands are located in what large ecosystem?

List four ecological services provided by the wetlands in this ecosystem.

What is the name of the greatest temperate rainforest in the world, and where is it located relative to the tar sands region?

Mines and in situ development and extraction. Describe each.

“Tar sands” vs. “oil sands.” Does the name matter? Explain.

What river do the tar sands tailing ponds drain into? Why is this a concern?

Summarize the economic logic of the need for local people on the river to eat local fish, rather than fish from elsewhere.

Summarize the argument for the boreal forest being a strong defense against climate change.

List the basic descriptors of the Peace Athabasca Wetland.

Through what proposed pipeline would tar sands oil be sent through to the United States?

Beaver Lake Cree Vs. The Tar Sands (3 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=5&v=p2ii1kXvX7Q>

Write a list of topics/bullet points.

Compare and contrast these videos with the story of the Nauru Island people, in Klein Chapter 5, after you read it.