

NEWS BREAK

Article: What happens before tent camps are cleared

Section: MAIN, A1

Sunday's News Break selects an article from **Sunday, December 3, 2017** of The Seattle Times print replica for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions.

You are encouraged to modify this lesson to fit the needs of your students. For example, some classrooms may be able to use this as a worksheet and others might need to ask and answer the questions in a small group or larger, class discussion.

Please be sure to preview all NIE content before using it in your classroom to ensure it is appropriate for all of your students.

Standards:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1

- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2

- Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

EALR 1.1 CIVICS

- Understands the key ideals of unity and diversity.
 - Explains that the community is made up of people from various cultures.
 - Explains the benefits of diversity for a community, including the increased range of viewpoints, ideas, customs, and choices available.

Objectives: Students will read an article on the homeless problem in Seattle and the new Navigation Team that's trying to help them. Students will think about those impacted, and their own feelings towards homelessness. They will discuss what choices might have led them to becoming homeless and brainstorm core services needed to provide upward mobility.

Pre-Reading Discussion:



- What do you see in this picture? What can you infer?
- Where do you think the picture was taken? Why?
- What do you think the article will be about?
- What are the clues in the picture?

Vocabulary Building:

Read this sentence, what do you think the highlighted words mean using *context clues*? A **context clue** is a word or words that are hints and refers to the sources of information outside of words that readers may use to predict the identities and meanings of unknown words.

Write your guess and then look up the definition and write it below your guess. How close did you come to the correct definition?

“The team recently gave The Seattle Times its database detailing contacts with people in **unsanctioned** homeless camps, but the data was impossible to analyze. The records lacked many data fields and had inconsistent explanations of what offers of shelter were accepted.”

***Unsanctioned* Guess:**

***Unsanctioned* Definition:**

Comprehension Questions:

1. What is the city’s Navigation Team?
2. That dual role leaves the team caught between what groups?
3. The camps, estimated at about _____ citywide, are Seattle’s most visible evidence of poverty and of the city’s inability to address the homelessness crisis.

4. So far this year, the city has removed _____ camps, including 48 sites that were cleared without notice, such as those that popped up on a street, because they presented an immediate danger.
5. What two problems can get a homeless camp closed quickly? What were two examples given in the article?
6. Since the start of the year, the city has received more than a dozen complaints about homeless camps around this area. Citywide, almost _____ complaints about potential homeless encampments have been filed, alerting the Navigation Team to sites that may need to be shut down.
7. How is San Francisco's homelessness team different than Seattle's?
8. During her campaign, Mayor Jenny Durkan expressed support for tent-camp removals if they were accompanied by a surge in what?

Discussion Questions (small/large groups), Journal Prompts or Essay Questions:

- ***Have you seen homeless people? Where?***
- ***What is your opinion of homeless people?***
- ***What are some reasons why people become homeless? Is there a link between some of these issues?***
- ***What do you think the best idea to decrease the homeless problem in Seattle would be?***
- ***Shelter beds are a step in the right direction, but what other core services are needed to help them have upward mobility in their life, like being employed and making enough money for their own apartment or dwelling?***
- ***Why do you think, so many people, after receiving temporary housing, return to camp cities?***

Mark Putnam, director of All Home, which coordinates the region's efforts to reduce homelessness, remains concerned about the focus on the camps and the cleanups. Instead, he said the discussion should be on adding housing "because ultimately that's the solution to the encampment issue."

- ***Do you agree or disagree with Putnam? Why or why not?***

News Break is posted to the Web on Monday. Please share this NIE News Break program with other teachers. To sign-up for the print replica for your class, please [register on-line](#) or call 206/652-6290 or toll-free 1-888/775-2655. Copyright © 2017 The Seattle Times Company

Newsbreak Answer Key: December 3, 2017

Pre-Reading Discussion:

Answers will vary

Vocabulary Building:

Unsanctioned: Not authorized, approved, or allowed

Comprehension Answers:

1. The Navigation Team, is a collection of police officers and outreach workers who are at the fulcrum of the debate over Seattle's growing number of tent communities. Formed in February after a series of haphazard camp removals last year drew sharp criticism from advocates for homeless people, the 22-member team is tasked with both trying to coax homeless campers into shelters and removing encampments the city has deemed unsafe.
2. Residents and business owners who want the city to shut down the camps, and impassioned activists — including some Seattle City Council members — who demand an end to camp removals they've derisively branded "sweeps."
3. 400
4. 165 camps
5. Public-health or safety problems can get a camp closed more quickly. Drake-Ericson is always on the lookout for signs: burrows that indicate a rat infestation, a fire set too close to trees.
6. 5,200 complaints were filed with the city.
7. San Francisco, which has a tent-camp problem comparable to Seattle's, has three such teams: one for outreach, one to close large encampments and one to prevent closed camps from re-emerging. San Francisco's outreach team alone has about 70 people, triple the size of Seattle's entire Navigation Team.
8. Shelter beds

Discussion Questions (small/large groups), Journal Prompts or Essay

Questions: Answers will vary