



New Internationalist

The people, the ideas, the action in the fight for global justice

Fracking

New Internationalist Easier English Ready Lesson:
Upper Intermediate
To use with the 17-page authentic "the fracking files" pdf

This lesson will help you understand
(through reading and speaking):

what

when

the how of fracking

where

why

.....and the reasons why fracking is a bad idea



.....and what we can do about it

“Fracking” is:

- a) “horizontal high-volume slickwater hydraulic fracturing”
- b) a relatively new way of getting oil and gas from underground
- c) a solution to all the world’s energy problems
- d) a huge threat to the environment world-wide
- e) all of the above

When? match these actions with the dates,
then look at **pages 2 & 3** to check

1. 1949 a) slickwater fracturing developed
2. 1991 b) 60% of all new oil and gas wells use
fracking
3. 1998 c) early form of vertical fracturing in
Texas
4. 2006 d) fracking produces around 14% of all
world's gas
5. 2010
6. 2012 e) first horizontal fracking
f) fracking begins in Canada

How?

guess which options are correct, then
check with diagram on page 4

1. The drill makes a hole of 2 / 20 km.
2. The top parts of the drilled hole are covered in plastic and wood / cement and steel.
3. Millions / thousands of litres of frack fluid (water and chemicals) are forced down the drilled hole.
4. The frack fluid is pumped back up for several days / hours to open the hole and allow the gas and oil to flow up.
5. Over 60 / 600 secret chemicals are used in the US.

Where?

Which countries in the world extract gas and oil by fracking?

Check on the map (page 5)
and the table (page 6)

New South Wales, Australia. (Lock the Gate Alliance
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Why?

Discuss - what are the main reasons for fracking?

- a) It creates jobs
- b) Energy companies want to make money
- c) Traditional gas and oil extraction is coming to an end
- d) There is a lot of gas and oil underground that we can get to use
- e) Because our lifestyles need so much energy

Why not?

– match these problems with
the countries (from boxes on pages 9 – 13)

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 1/ Britain | a) Problems with not enough water |
| 2/ Canada | b) Bad effects on the lives of indigenous people |
| 3/ Poland | c) Using good farming land |
| 4/ China | d) Caused small earthquakes |
| 5/ Bulgaria | e) No gas sold yet after big promises |

What other problems are there?

Skim through all 17 pages and list all the other problems linked to fracking

eg. all the dangerous chemicals used

Discuss and compare

What can we do about it?

- what are they doing in these countries?

Argentina

Australia

South Africa

Skim through **pages 15 – 17** to find out

Homework:

Look at **page 17** to find out more about the:

- protests
- legal challenges and
- campaigns against fracking

And for more reading and links

And read the Easier English article about the politics of fracking at:

[http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Will fracking realign the world%3F](http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Will_fracking_realign_the_world%3F)