

## ACTIVITY 2: READ ABOUT THE ISSUES

This activity aims to provide students a better understanding of the two water-quality issues at the heart of this lesson: lead contamination in Flint Michigan's drinking water and the potential storage of nuclear waste in Ontario near Lake Huron.

They will read about these two issues to gain additional information and perspective on them with the goal of reading about each to make text-to-text connections as they study these issues.

In this activity, students will use the **Three Reads Protocol** for analyzing and discussing *the information* in each article with a partner. Afterward, they will use the **Compare and Connect Protocol** for analyzing and discussing *the perspectives* of the two articles together in a group.

First, distribute the articles entitled "[Debate continues over long-term storage of nuclear waste in the Great Lakes](#)" by Andrew Reeves and "[Flint families welcome water crisis charges, seek healing](#)" by the Associated Press, both from *Great Lakes Now*. Give students time individually to read each article, and ask them to jot down 3 things they learned from each article in their notes.

Then, have students pair up with a partner to separately discuss each article using the **Three Reads Protocol**.

Next, have two student pairs join up to form a small group and discuss the perspectives of the two articles using the **Compare and Connect Protocol**.

Last, have each group come up with a summary statement about the most important points from their discussion and ask for a volunteer in each group to share that most important point with the whole group. As student groups share out their most important point, record their ideas on the board and have students copy the list of student ideas down into their notebooks. Finally, have groups discuss one last question from the articles:

**How did your perspective on the issue change because of reading?**

Inform them that they will be using some of the information from these articles and their discussion in a later activity called a **Pinwheel Discussion**.

**Further Learning on the Subject:**

Access this additional special documentary, entitled, "[The Door Flint Opened: America's Drinking Water Crisis](#)" from *Great Lakes Now* as an optional extension activity for students to do further research by watching and discussing it in groups using the **Think Pair Square Protocol** as part of their research.

***Teaching Tip: Use the Student Handouts to help students organize their thinking in writing around each of the lesson protocols.***