

## NEWS BREAK

Article: **Gas prices rise due to a convergence of factors**

Section: **MAIN, A6**

Sunday's News Break selects an article from **Sunday, June 12, 2022** 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 teachers might use this as a take-home assignment and others might read 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 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.

### Objectives:

***Students will discuss how they or their families have been impacted by gas prices and whether their family has made any changes to their regular driving routines. They will also talk about what the breaking point would be for drivers to drive less or take more public transportation? What price per gallon would be the tipping point to leaving cars at home? They'll also discuss the growing trend for electric cars and whether they know someone that owns one. Students will debate the importance of tapping into renewable and sustainable alternative energy sources and why that's so important to our country.***

## **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.

Rising prices at the pump are a key driver in the highest ***inflation*** that Americans have seen in 40 years.

### ***Inflation Guess:***

### ***Inflation Definition:***

## **Comprehension Questions:**

1. There is little evidence that gasoline prices, which hit a record \$\_\_\_ a gallon on Saturday, will drop anytime soon.
2. Rising prices at the pump are a key driver in the highest inflation that Americans have seen in \_\_\_\_\_ years.
3. Everyone seems to have a favorite villain for the high cost of filling up. Who are people blaming?
4. State averages ranged from \$\_\_\_\_\_ a gallon in California to \$\_\_\_\_\_ in Mississippi.
5. Several factors are coming together to push gasoline prices higher. What are they?
6. Analysts say there are no quick fixes; it's a matter of what?
7. Republicans have called on Biden to help increase domestic oil production — for example, by allowing what?
8. However, many Democrats and environmentalists would howl if Biden took those steps. Why?
9. Even if Biden ignored a big faction of his own party, it would be \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ before those measures could lead to more gasoline at U.S. service stations.
10. Some refineries that produce gasoline, jet fuel, diesel and other petroleum products shut down during the first year of the pandemic, when demand \_\_\_\_\_.
11. While a few are expected to boost capacity in the next year or so, others are reluctant to invest in new facilities because the transition to \_\_\_\_\_ will reduce demand for gasoline over the long run.
12. Higher energy prices hit \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ families the hardest. Workers in retail and the fast-food industry can't work from home — they must commute by car or public transportation.

13. The National Energy Assistance Directors Association estimates that the 20% of families with the lowest income could be spending \_\_\_\_% of their income on energy including gasoline this year, up from 27% in 2020.
14. WHEN WILL IT END? It could be up to motorists themselves. How?

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

- *What surprised (or stood out to) you in the article?*
- *At first, I thought \_\_\_\_\_, but now I think \_\_\_\_\_?*
- *What things did you already know from prior experience?*

*Have you been impacted by gas prices (if you drive) or if not, have you heard your parents or other people talking about the rising cost of gas?*

*Has your family made changes to your regular driving routines? Why or why not?*

*What do you think the breaking point would be for drivers to drive less or take more public transportation? In your opinion, what price per gallon would be the tipping point to leaving cars at home?*

*Do you think there is a growing trend for electric cars? Do you know someone that owns one? Would you consider buying one, when you're ready to drive? Why or why not?*

*Why would it be important to tap into sustainable and alternative energy sources? What is our current situation tied to (in regards to reliance on other world countries, etc...)?*

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 online](#) or call 206/652-6290 or toll-free 1-888/775-2655.  
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