

Year 5
Geography
Dams – Holding back the flood
[Week 6]

#### Aim

• I can explain the impact of damming rivers.

### Success Criteria

- I can tell you what a dam is.
- I can give you at least two reasons why dams are built.
- I can tell you the location of one major dam.
- I can identify the advantages and benefits of building a dam.
- I can identify the disadvantages and risks of building a dam.

## What Is a Dam?



What do you think has happened to the river at the points shown?

A dam is any barrier built to hold back water.

Water held behind the dam is usually held in a reservoir.







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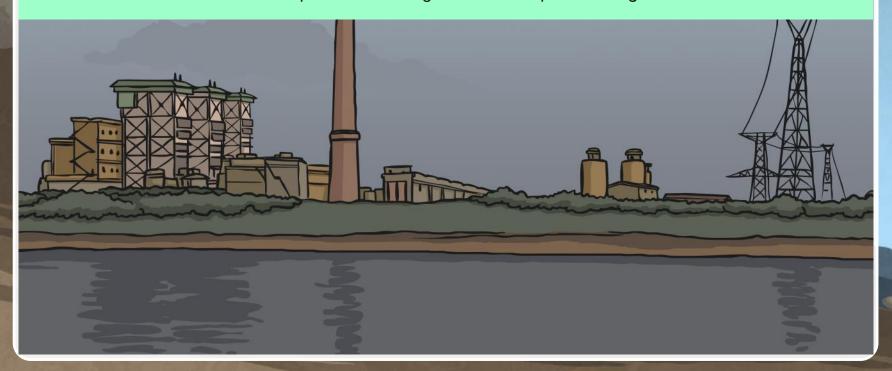
# Why Do We Build Dams?



#### Why might people want to block the flow of a river?

- To control the flow to prevent flooding.
- To generate power.

Watch this <u>video</u> which explains how hydroelectric power is generated.



## Where Have We Built Dams?



## Is It All Good News?

#### Questions

Watch this video showing a controlled breech of a dam.

What might the effects have been if this breech had been unplanned?

- · Severe flooding
- Damage to properties
- Loss of life

# For Better or For Worse?



#### **Activity**

- Read the case study notes about the dam building project.
- Identify the benefits and the risks for each category.
- Discuss whether you think the project should go ahead.
- Be ready to share your opinions and three reasons with the rest of the class.

