

Aswan Dam



When was it built?	1971
Where is it located?	In Egypt, 600 miles south (upstream) from the capital city of Cairo.
Why was it built?	To control the regular flooding of the Nile.
Impact on people	50,000 people in Sudan had to leave their homes to make way for the lake. Water supplies are more reliable. Electricity has been generated.
Impact on animals	Some types of fish (e.g. sardines) have disappeared from the Mediterranean Coast. Rodent populations in sewers have increased. More disease-carrying insects are breeding in irrigation channels.
Impact on the environment	Farming land is less likely to flood. More land is able to be farmed as it is easier to irrigate the land. The water is more salty. Silt from floods no longer fertilise the land, meaning farmers need to buy fertilisers. Erosion has increased.

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The Hoover Dam



When was it built?	1931 - 1936
Where is it located?	In the USA, on Colorado River, between Arizona and Nevada.
Why was it built?	To control floods, provide irrigation water and to produce hydroelectric power.
Impact on people	The then small town of Las Vegas saw its population increase from 5,000 to up to 25,000 as unemployed people flocked to the area in hope of work. 112 workers died during the construction of the dam. Up to 1 million tourists visit annually. Lake Mead (the reservoir behind the dam) provides water for 25 million people.
Impact on animals	4 species of fish native to the river have now become endangered.
Impact on the environment	For 6 years after construction ended, no water reached the Colorado River. The water river's estuary has become more salty, with a much smaller freshwater-saltwater mixing zone.

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Three Gorges Dam



When was it built?	1994 - 2008
Where is it located?	In China, on the Yangtze River.
Why was it built?	To control flooding, to allow ships to travel further inland and to produce hydroelectric power.
Impact on people	2 million people have been forced to relocate. Erosion downstream has led to contaminated drinking water. Up to 2,000 deaths a year, due to the river, have been prevented. More reliable fresh water has been supplied to people and the industries downstream.
Impact on animals	Over 50% of plants growing in the area are already endangered. 27% of fish species found in the river are endangered. The Chinese river dolphin was once found in the area but is now extinct.
Impact on the environment	Rising waters upstream of the dam have flooded ancient ruins and shrines. Fertile farmland upstream has been destroyed by rising water levels. Wetland habitats for birds have been destroyed by the reservoir creation.

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