



ACTIVITY SHEET

January 2009

Why talk about Dams?



Dams are symbols of modernisation. Over 48,000 large dams are in operation worldwide. And more are being built to provide drinking water, irrigate the land, produce hydropower, and prevent floods.

Yet today:

- Over one billion people do not have access to safe drinking water
- More than double that number lack basic sanitation
- Two billion people have no access to electricity.

And those numbers are set to rise. To meet the demand for water and energy, more large dams are being proposed as a key solution.

Name.....

School Name

Class..... Date.....

Gobar Gyan: For a time, dam building slowed, as decision-makers learned of their harmful impacts. But in recent years, the number of new dam proposals has skyrocketed. You might say, 'Yes' I know that. You might also wonder that what have you as student got to do with large dams. Let me ask you a few questions finding answers to which you will discover how your very existence is connected to one or the other of these large dams.

Activity 1:

For those of you who live in a city, You get running water in your bathrooms, you get electricity to run your electrical appliances and ofcourse you buy the best of food you get in the market. Even people who live in the rural areas get electricity for a while and water to grow crops in their fields. Find out where does all this water and electricity come from? Ask your parents, elders, teachers, person at the electric sub station, person at the central water tank and the vegetable vendor in the market. Progress step by step beyond what is the apparent source.

Water:

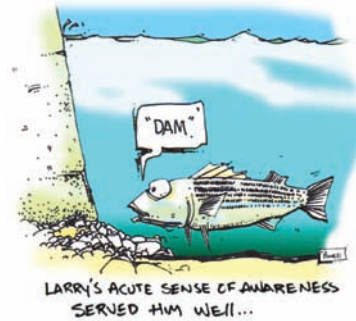


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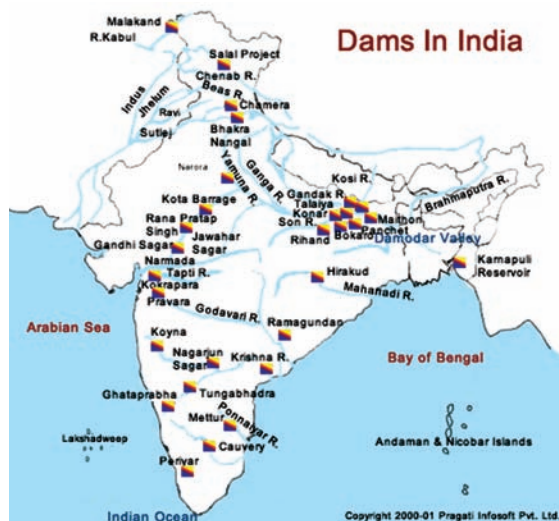
www.gobartimes.org

Electricity:

rockfish
cartoons
2003



Food:



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Dams are associated with two crucial things that run our world, water and electricity and these two are associated with our very existence. Now, there is a lot of talk going around in school and the media that these large dams are bad and we must not build them. In India most of the large dams are works of NHPC (National Hydel Power Corporation) and the Irrigation department.

Activity 2:

Don the curiosity of a researcher. Use the internet and find out more about large dams. Read, both the good things and the bad things that are available on the web. Write down the good and bad being said about dams in the space given below:

Good things:

Bad things:

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If information gets fuzzy and you get confused seek guidance from your teachers and elders. Do not accept their opinion as the final verdict. Find out more and try to built an opinion about big dams based on your own beliefs. Big dams are both good and bad. Their nature appears different to different people. What you think about big dams also defines the kind of person you are. It also tells volumes about your sense of environment.



Activity 3:

Now that you know so much about big dams express your opinion in the space given below. Write down, Why the big dams are good? and Why are they bad? In the conclusion section write down what you think finally, weighing all the pro's and con's, Are they good or bad? Take into count everything i.e. the amount we invest in them, the returns we get, the efficiency percentages they deliver, what happens in case of natural disasters, their impact on environment and people.

Big dams are good:

Big dams are bad:

Conclusion:



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