A Lake Divided

Use shoreline evidence to trace the effects of water policy.

E.P.2.3 "Demonstrate a mastery of geographic concepts and the use of geographic tools to understand the impact of geography on the past and present. Actively engage in asking and answering geographic questions by acquiring, organizing..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the river diversion and the dam project in the passage. Circle two changes in the table, then number two effects on people in the passage to connect decisions, places, and outcomes.

What Happened to the Aral Sea?

(1) The Aral Sea lies between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. Two rivers, the Amu Darya and Syr Darya, once fed this inland lake. A shoreline record from 1960 and later satellite observations provide evidence about its northern and southern basins. The table summarizes what those sources show, but it cannot show exact distances or shoreline shapes.

ARAL SEA SHORELINE EVIDENCE

Year and source	Northern basin	Southern basin
1960 shoreline record	Connected to the south as one lake	Connected to the north as one lake
2000 satellite observation	Separated and smaller	Separated and smaller
2014 satellite observation	Water remained; partly recovered	Eastern basin dry; western basin held water

(2) In the 1960s, Soviet planners diverted much of both rivers' water into irrigation canals, mainly to grow cotton. Less water reached the Aral Sea, and evaporation outpaced inflow. By 2000, the lake had split into northern and southern basins. Its retreating shoreline exposed salty lakebed, and wind carried dust from it into nearby communities.

(3) The loss of lake water damaged fisheries and fishing jobs. In 2005, Kazakhstan built the Kok-Aral Dam to hold more Syr Darya water in the northern basin. Its water level rose, and some fishing returned there. The dam did not restore the southern basin, which receives water from the Amu Darya. Water policy produced different outcomes across the region.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Compare the northern and southern basins in 2014. What different spatial pattern does the table show?

2. Use the 1960 and 2000 sources in the table to explain how the lake changed after the rivers were diverted.

3. How did the river diversion change both the physical environment and people's lives? Use evidence from the passage.

4. How did the effects of the Kok-Aral Dam differ between the northern and southern basins?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A regional council can fund either more efficient irrigation along a river or dust-control planting on exposed lakebed. Choose one project and write three or four sentences predicting a physical effect and a human effect in a specific area. Name two different kinds of evidence you would gather to test your prediction.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the river diversion and the dam project in the passage. Circle two changes in the table, then number two effects on people in the passage to connect decisions, places, and outcomes. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Compare the northern and southern basins in 2014. What different spatial pattern does the table show?	**The northern basin held water and had partly recovered, while the eastern part of the southern basin was dry and its western part still held water.**
2	Use the 1960 and 2000 sources in the table to explain how the lake changed after the rivers were diverted.	**The 1960 record shows one connected lake. The 2000 satellite observation shows two smaller, separated basins after water was diverted from the rivers.**
3	How did the river diversion change both the physical environment and people's lives? Use evidence from the passage.	**With less river water, the lake shrank and exposed salty lakebed. Fisheries and fishing jobs suffered, and dust blew into nearby communities.**
4	How did the effects of the Kok-Aral Dam differ between the northern and southern basins?	**The dam helped raise water levels and bring back some fishing in the northern basin, but it did not restore the southern basin.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would fund more efficient irrigation along the Amu Darya, which feeds the southern basin. If saved water reaches the lake, the southern shoreline could expand and cover some exposed lakebed. Nearby residents might then experience less blowing dust. I would compare satellite shoreline observations over time with river-flow measurements taken downstream of the farms.

Accept predictions that identify a specific area, connect a plausible physical change to a human effect, and name two distinct kinds of evidence. Students should treat predicted outcomes as possibilities, not certainties.