

Lesson Plan – Growing, Growing, Gone

Grade	6 th
Objective	Students will be able to explain the consequences of human settlements and interaction with the environment in the Gobi desert and Yangtze River. Students will be able to explain that most decisions involve trade-offs and give examples with the Three Gorges Dam project.
Duration	1 – 42 minute sessions
Prior Knowledge Needed	<p><u>Vocabulary:</u> Desertification Hydroelectric power Costs Benefits Trade-offs</p> <p>Students should be familiar with China’s population by examining population distribution maps readily available in many atlases. They also should know that China has primarily used coal as an energy source which has contributed to its pollution.</p>
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link for video discussing needs for Three Gorges Dam (3 min., 12 sec. clip) http://player.discoveryeducation.com/index.cfm?guidAssetId=1E13D796-6438-4464-9299-167F774DF5B8&blnFromSearch=1&productcode=US • Link for video on the costs/benefits of the Three Gorges Dam (4min 48 sec.): http://player.discoveryeducation.com/index.cfm?guidAssetId=97FC855B-84A6-4ABA-8E33-E9357C0CAB87 • Link for video on desertification of Gobi desert (2 min., 54 sec.): http://player.discoveryeducation.com/index.cfm?guidAssetId=826FC3F3-C158-4FB3-AA34-2758D26D3F5A&blnFromSearch=1&productcode=US • Book of photos of Three Gorges Dam Project: http://www.vincentborrelli.com/cgi-bin/vbb/107485 • Class set of World Atlases • Each student should have a binder or spiral in which to record vocabulary and respond to the discussion question
Lesson	<p>DAY ONE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Anticipatory set: Ask students if they think a desert can grow? How? Can people influence the growth of a desert? How would you feel if the Governor told you and your family that you would have to move because Ohio is building a dam on Lake Erie which will flood your home? Explain that these are situations that have occurred in modern China and that we will be exploring them in this lesson. 2. Have students look in their atlas for the area of the Gobi desert. Show video clip of desertification, directing students to listen carefully and record notes on the definition and how (or if) people contribute to this. After video is over, discuss their findings and what the Chinese are doing to reverse the desertification. Students may need to revise their video notes. 3. Review students’ perspectives about being forced out of their homes shared at the

beginning of class. Explain that in China, citizens make sacrifices for the common good and the government has the power to enforce policies that would not work in the US. Ask: what would happen here if the government tried to force you to leave your home?

4. Have students find the Yangtze River in their atlas.
5. Ask students to create a T-chart in their spiral with one side labeled costs and the other side, benefits. Ask them to take notes on the positive consequences of the Three Gorges Dam (write under “benefits” column) and negative consequences, under costs.
6. Show both video clips of the Three Gorges Dam project. Hold a whole-class, teacher-directed discussion over the notes taken. (discussion should yield costs of: entire villages being dislocated, loss of both archaeological treasures and Three Gorges tourism. Benefits include: hydroelectric power to replace coal as energy source/reduce pollution, control flooding of Yangtze River) Further discussion topics should allow students to compare the benefits to the costs and determine whether or not they agree with the decision to build the dam.
7. Assessment: Have students write 1 short paragraph for each item below, 2 paragraphs total.
 1. Explain “desertification.” Discuss the causes and their effect on the environment. What is being done about desertification in the Gobi desert?
 2. What impact does the Three Gorges Dam have on the people and the environment in the Yangtze River area?

Assessment

Post-Assessment Rubric

	4 points	3 points	2 points	1 point
Paragraph 1	Answer shows advanced understanding; all parts of the question answered fully.	Clear, concise definition; causes and impact discussed.	Clear definition; only 2 parts of the question addressed	Limited understanding of the definition shown.
Paragraph 2	Answer shows advanced understanding and logical reasoning. Multiple examples of costs and benefits are given	Answer shows an understanding of the concept but may be missing an example of the cost or benefit.	Answer shows some logic but is not clearly stated, or is missing examples.	Answer shows little logic and is unclear.