

Name:

The Aral Sea - Chapter 26

Geography 8

Hour:

1. The Geographic Setting

- a. The Aral Sea is in which two countries?
- b. What country had the Aral Sea in it before 1991?
- c. Until the 1960s, the water in the Aral Sea was _____, or _____.
- d. Although the water used to be fresh, the Aral Sea has now become _____, or salty.
- e. Why are oceans saline?
- f. Very _____ plants can grow in _____ soil.
- g. The Aral Sea used to be Earth's 4th largest _____ lake.
- h. Now, it's roughly _____ percent of its original size.

Geoterms:

- Environmental degradation:
- Groundwater:
- Salinization:
- Water stress:

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Section 2: The Shrinking Sea & Farming

1. What are the requirements for growing cotton?
 - a. What issues did the Soviet Union have when they were trying to grow cotton? What was their solution?
2. What rivers did they use to irrigate the cotton fields?
3. How did the plan to grow cotton work at first?
4. How much of the diverted water was absorbed by the desert ground?
5. When the Aral Sea began drying up, large dry _____ became a salty _____.
6. Summarize how the drying of the sea affected the climate of the area.
7. Why did farmers switch to rice?
8. How did the drying of the sea affect the land?

EQ: How are humans affected by changes they make to their physical environment?

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Section 3: The Shrinking Sea & Fishing

1. Over _____ pounds of fish were harvested from the lake each year.
2. The fish _____ in Moynaq produced up to _____ millions cans of seafood each year.
3. How many people were employed by fish canning in the area?
4. How far away is Moynaq from the edge of the Aral sea now?
5. How did the loss of the fishing industry affect the economy of Kazakhstan?
6. What happened to many families in the region?
7. Moynaq used to have _____ people, now only a _____ thousand remain.

EQ: How are humans affected by changes they make to their physical environment?

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Section 4: The Shrinking Sea & Quality of Life

1. Contrast life in the Aral region from the 1960s to now.
 - a. What have people turned to for drinking water?
 - b. However, much of that water is unfit to drink because it has been polluted by _____, _____, and _____ used on farms.
2. What are “black blizzards”? How does it affect people?
3. What are common issues among pregnant women?
4. What are the three changes researchers believe should be made to this region?
 - a. _____ water should be removed from the _____ and _____ rivers for _____.
 - b. Farmers need to switch to less _____ crops and be more _____ with fertilizers and _____.
 - c. The government needs to construct _____ systems to provide _____ drinking water to _____.
 - i. They also need to build water _____ plants which will treat _____ and _____ to reduce water pollution.
5. Describe two changes that have occurred in the region since 2005.

EQ: How are humans affected by changes they make to their physical environment?