**Water Diversions Webquest**

**Purpose**: Conduct research to analyze the effects of water diversions on surrounding ecosystems and human communities. Compare and contrast the problems and successes of various water diversions and describe possible remediations.

**Introductions:** Humans have been diverting water for irrigation, flood control, and a constant drinking supply for thousands of years. When populations were small, the diversions were small. Over the last 150 years, human populations have grown rapidly and our technical abilities have vastly improved. These two changes, worldwide, have led to many large-scale projects that have altered the environment of sizable regions. This investigation focuses on three major water diversions: The Salton Sea, Lake Chad,

Aral Sea, Mono Lake, Yangtze River, and The Colorado River.

The Aral Sea

**Directions:** Answer the following questions in COMPLETE sentences.

Resources:

* <http://tinyurl.com/o8dabg8>
* http://tinyurl.com/j8erqvg

1. Where is the Aral Sea located?

Source:

2. Which rivers mainly supply the Aral Sea?

Source:

3. Why was the water supply to the Sea diverted?

Source:

4. What resources did the Aral Sea. supply to the local inhabitants?

Source:

5. Describe 3 negative environmental effects of the fading of this sea.

Source:

6. Describe 3 economic impacts in the region because of the water diversion.

Source:

7. When you are finished with your research, turn and talk to your table partners to share out the most important facts from your research.

8) What are some similarities between the Salton Sea and the Aral Sea? What are some differences?

9) What are some similarities between the Colorado River Basin and the Aral Sea? What are some differences?