

The below text was written in 1994 before the Three Gorges Dam was built. The dam was completed in 2006 and the impact has been enormous in China's economic history as well as environmental impact. Research the Three Gorges dam and create a case study fact file that explains any negative effects of the dam's production. Try to find positive effects of the production too. Create a table of positive and negatives. Write a summary paragraph that explains if, overall, building the dam was a good or bad thing. Also, read the text below to see if any predictions were correct.



The Three Gorges Dam project, the largest of its kind anywhere in the world, is to be located near Yichang in Hubei Province. The scheme is China's largest multi-purpose project generating electricity, improving flood control and navigation and providing water. The crest of the Dam will be nearly 2000m long and 185m high. A 595km long reservoir will be created and the turbines will generate 18.2Gw (giga watts) of energy - enough to supply the current needs of most of central and eastern China.

The dam will make Chongqing, with 15 million people, the largest seaport in the world.

Work on the construction of the project began in 1994 and is scheduled to take 20 years and to cost over US\$24 billion. Despite being refused funding by the World Bank, the project is on schedule to be completed in 2014.

To understand the enormity of the Three Gorges Dam we only have to consider the power it will generate relative to other dams on the Yangtse. The downstream Gezhouba Dam at Yichang (opened in 1981) produces 2.7Gw of electricity. Upstream in Henan Province is the Xiaolangdi Dam which opened in January 2000 and produces 1.8Gw of power. Compare these with the 18.2Gw of the Three Gorges Dam and you get some idea of the size of the project. A final comparison would be with the Maheshawar Dam on the Narmada in India, which will produce a mere 0.4Gw of power.

Week 2 – Geography Homework Year 8

Useful resources:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/ztb78mn/revision/7>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yephs7bYQ5A>