Asia and Australia’s engagement with Asia priority in the Australian Curriculum provides a regional context for learning in all areas of the Geography curriculum. It reflects Australia’s extensive engagement with Asia socially, culturally, politically, and economically.

A. WHAT ENCOMPASSES ASIA?

Asia can be defined in geographical terms, but it can also be described in terms of cultural, religious, historical and language boundaries or commonalities.

While it includes West and Central Asia, in Australian schools studies of Asia will pay particular attention to the sub-regions of:

- **North-east Asia**, including China, Mongolia, Japan, North Korea, South Korea and Taiwan
- **South-east Asia**, including Indonesia, Myanmar (Burma), Thailand, Malaysia, Brunei, Singapore, Vietnam, Laos, East Timor, the Philippines and Cambodia
- **South Asia**, including India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the Maldives


B. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The AEF website provides students with a variety of online data display software to investigate and present information about countries of the Asia region. Country-specific data and interactive maps and graphs aim to achieve an appreciation for the diversity of the countries that make up Asia. www.asiaeducation.edu.au

**Geographical skills** such as maps, photographs, satellite images, graphs, tables and statistics helps students develop an understanding of Asia using digital software to research and present information on the diversity of the Asia region.

**Inquiry process**

- Where is Asia?
- What countries make up Asia?
- How has Asia changed over time?
- What are the connections between Australia and Asia?
Resources

- **Satellite map** of countries in Asia. Was Asia bigger than you thought?

- **Worldmapper** Compare the regions that comprise Asia on this map and the countries on your hard copy map of Asia. [http://sasi.group.shef.ac.uk/worldmapper/display.php?selected=1](http://sasi.group.shef.ac.uk/worldmapper/display.php?selected=1).


Activities


2. **Design an infographic** Infographics collate information that is visually pleasing and understandable. It could be used to assess a topic: [http://www.schrockguide.net/infographics-as-an-assessment.html](http://www.schrockguide.net/infographics-as-an-assessment.html)

C. YEAR 7 DAMMING THE YANGTSE AT THREE GORGES

### Asia Education Foundation website


### Key focus questions:

- What impact has the Three Gorges Dam had on the people and the environment?

- What are the most significant human and environmental impacts of the Three Gorges Dam?

- How can information be visually presented to effectively communicate your ideas?

### Teacher notes

[http://www.asiaeducation.edu.au/curriculum_resources/geography/year_7_damming_the_yangtse_at_three_gorges/year_7_damming_the_yangtse_teacher_notes.html](http://www.asiaeducation.edu.au/curriculum_resources/geography/year_7_damming_the_yangtse_at_three_gorges/year_7_damming_the_yangtse_teacher_notes.html)

### Introduction

The Watchers website contain articles on watching the world evolve and transform. The article noted that the ‘The Three Gorges Dam is a hydroelectric dam that spans the Yangtze River by the town of Sandouping, located in the Yiling District of Yichang, in Hubei province, China. The Three Gorges Dam is the world’s largest capacity hydroelectric power station with a total generating capacity of 18,200 MW.’


### 1. Infographic

Source: [http://www.asiaeducation.edu.au/verve/_resources/4015688799_6a0cf3f9d2.jpg](http://www.asiaeducation.edu.au/verve/_resources/4015688799_6a0cf3f9d2.jpg)
2. China’s Three Gorges Dam

The world’s largest hydroelectric project.

- More than 1 million people have been resettled
- About 12 cities, 140 towns, 1,300 villages will be submerged
- Lake behind dam will be 410 mi. (660 km) long


Source: http://thewatchers.adorraeli.com/2011/06/03/china-admits-three-gorges-dam-has-urgent-problems-as-drought-persists/

4. Aerial photographs illustrating change over time

Source: http://www1.american.edu/ted/ICE/china-dam-impact.html

5. Longitudinal profile of the Yangtze River upstream

Source: http://thewatchers.adorraeli.com/2011/06/03/china-admits-three-gorges-dam-has-urgent-problems-as-drought-persists/

6. Diagram: Changes in water levels during drought of 2011

The Three Gorges Dam, the world’s largest hydropower project, hit by worst drought in Central China in 50 years. Water was discharged from the dam to ease the drought.

Source: http://thewatchers.adorraeli.com/2011/06/03/china-admits-three-gorges-dam-has-urgent-problems-as-drought-persists/
7. Photograph 2011 Drought

‘A man walks on a river shoal, which appeared after the water level of the Yangtze River declined, as the city of Wuhan is seen in the background, in Wuhan, Hubei province May 26, 2011. The worst drought to hit central China in half a century has brought water levels in some of the country’s biggest hydropower producing regions to critical levels and could exacerbate electricity shortages over the summer. (REUTERS)’

8. Environmental-conflict link dynamics

The image provides a visual simplified representation of the complex issues surround the Three Gorges Dam

9. Infographic – When dams pollute

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WHEN DAMS POLLUTE

What makes big dams so dirty?
Dam reservoirs are a significant source of global greenhouse gas pollution, including the very dirty gas, methane.

The warming impact of tropical reservoirs can be much higher than even the dirtiest fossil fuel power plants.

Let’s look deeper...

Global contribution of large dams to human caused global warming:

- 4% Other Dam
- 23% Other Dam
- 25 X Carbon Dioxide

Methane has 25 times the global warming potential of carbon dioxide.

- Gases are emitted from the surface of the reservoir, at turbines and spillways, and for tens of kilometers downstream.
- Reservoirs emit carbon dioxide and methane from rotting organic matter from upstream and before filling.
- The worst dam reservoirs emit more carbon dioxide per kilowatt hour than a coal burning power plant.
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Source: http://www1.american.edu/ted/ICE/china-dam-impact.html

Source: http://www.internationalrivers.org/blogs/252/infographic-when-dams-pollute

Three Gorges Dam during construction. Source: Wikimedia Commons
YEAR 7 – THREE GORGES DAM

Activities
Refer to 1
Describe the Three Gorges Dam story. Explain why the infographic is a simplification.

Refer to 2
• Where is the Dam located?
• What were the effects of the dam on people?
• How has the dam changed the landscape?
• What were the environmental impacts?

Refer to 3 and 4
Discuss changes to the Yangtze River.

Refer to 5
• How many dams on the Yangste upstream from the Three Gorges Dam?
• How do dams impact on aquatic species?

Refer to 6 and 7
Read The Watcher’s article on China admits Three Gorges

Dam has ‘urgent problems’ as drought persists – http://thewatchers.adorraeli.com/2011/06/03/china-admits-three-gorges-dam-has-urgent-problems-as-drought-persists/
• Explain the problems of drought on the Three Gorges Dam.
• Describe the changes on the water level in Three Gorges Dam.
• Discuss the problems of sedimentation.
• Explain the problems of the dam located on a seismic fault and area prevalent to landslides.

Refer to 8
Describe the positive and negative effects of the Three Gorges Dam. Refer to environmental and social issues – http://www1.american.edu/ted/ICE/china-dam-impact.html.

Refer to 9
Discuss environmental problems generated by dams. Present findings as a word.

December Issue of the AGTA News is now available – www.agta.asn.au