

China's Three Gorges Dam: CAUSE FOR Celebration or ControversY?



Lesson Plan

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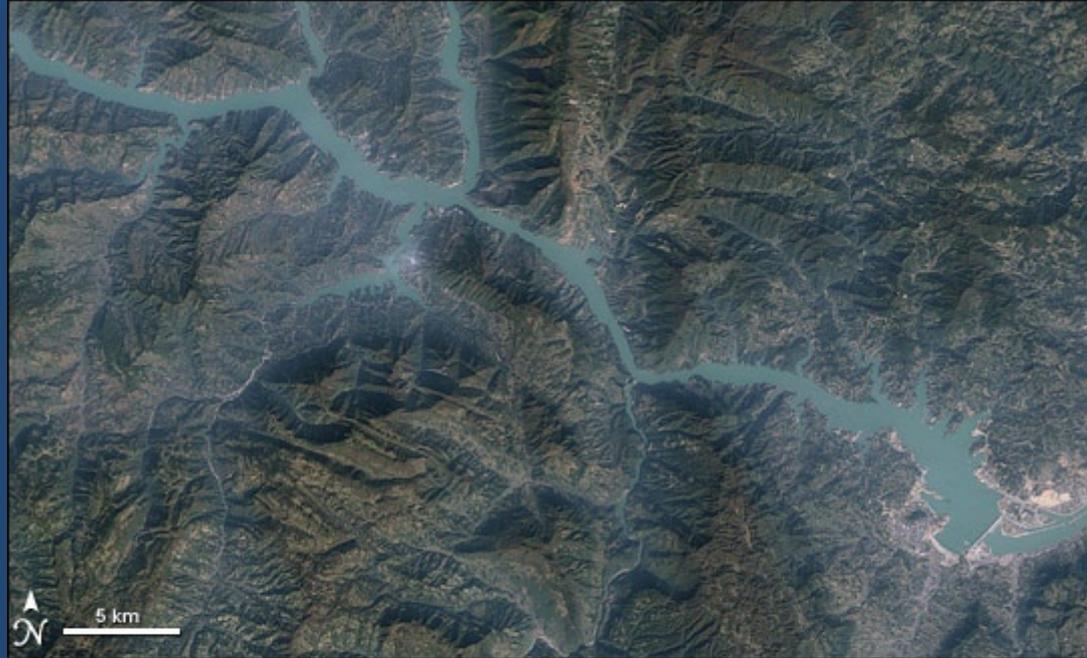
<http://www.cpsok.org>

Many times progress can have both positive and negative effects on both humans and the environment.





Before and After
Landsat Photos
of Three Gorges
Area
1987 & 2006



November 7, 2006



April 17, 1987

What do you observe?



Construction began on the world's largest power station
December 14, 1994.

Map of Three Gorges Hydropower Project (Click to enlarge)

Total Storage Capacity: 39.3 billion cubic meters
Flood Control Storage: 22.15 billion cubic meters
Normal Storage Level: 175 meters

Crest Elevation
185 meters

Dam Length
2309.5 meters

483 meters
Flood discharge section

Largest tonnage
3,000 tons of passenger and cargo ship

Ship lock
Double-way five-step ship lock

Power Station

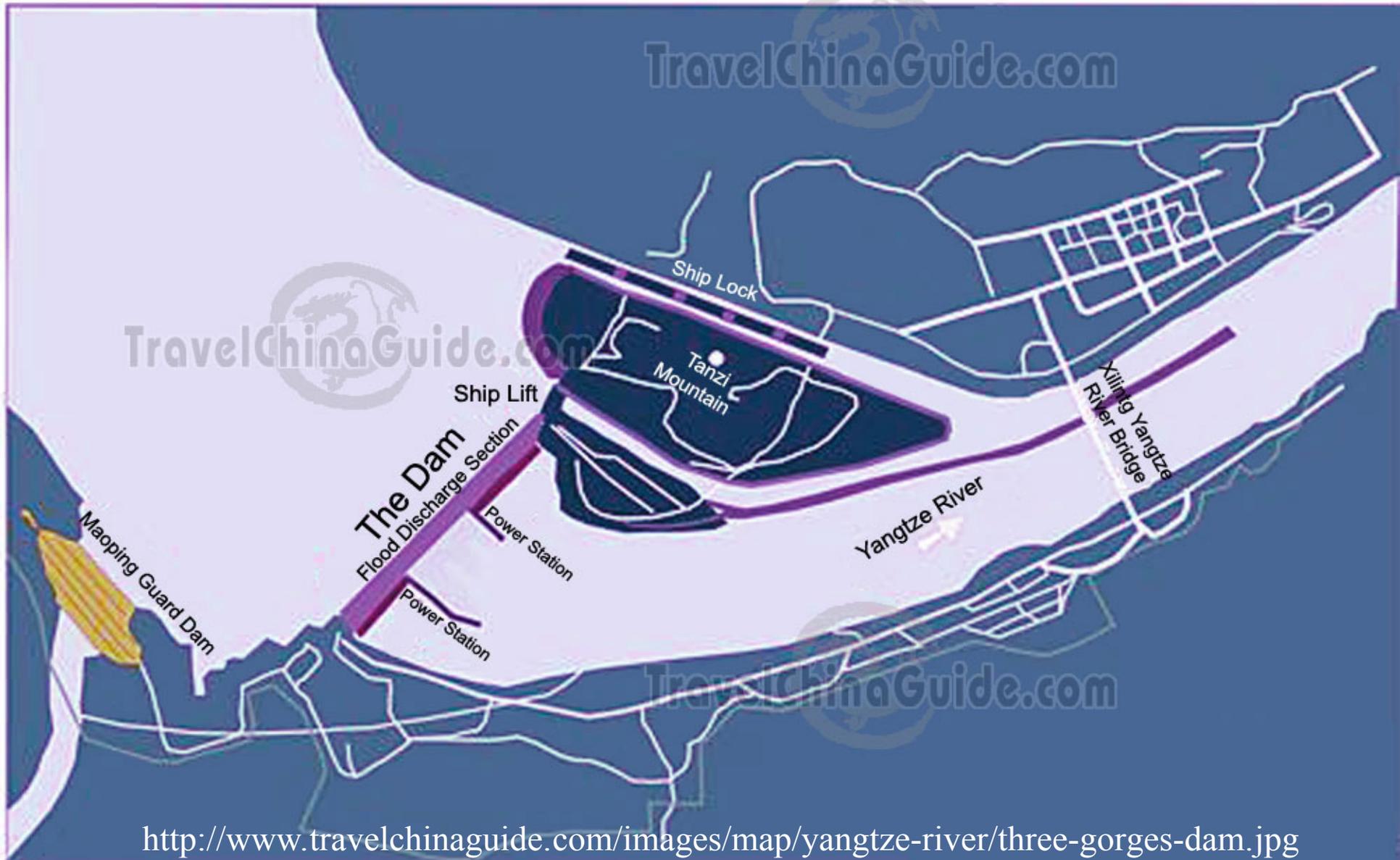
Installed capacity: 18,200MW

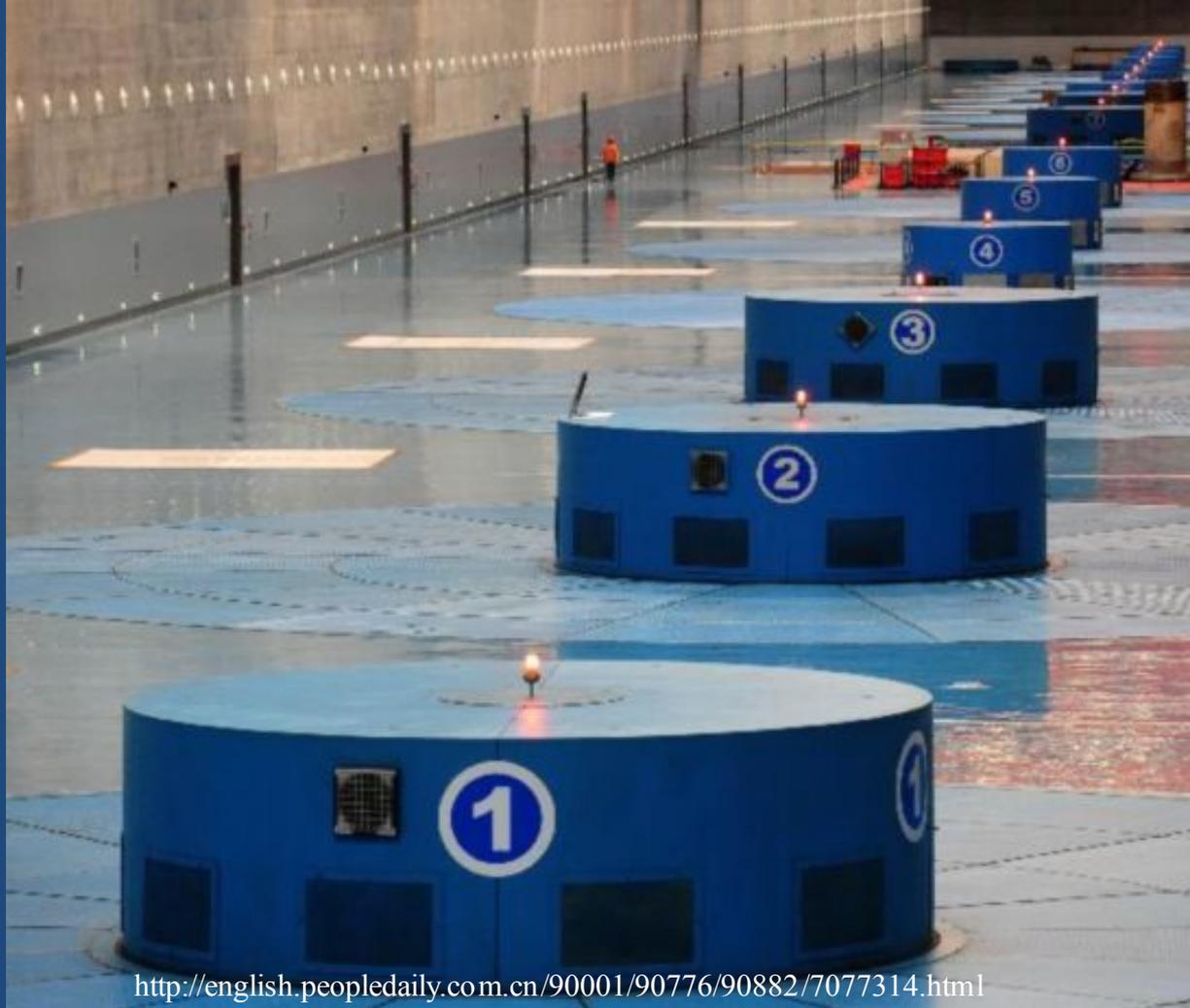
Number of generator sets: 26

Annual energy production: 84.68 billion

kwh of electricity

Three Gorges Dam Project Map (Click to enlarge)





26 Hydro generators produce 18.2 million kilowatt of power.



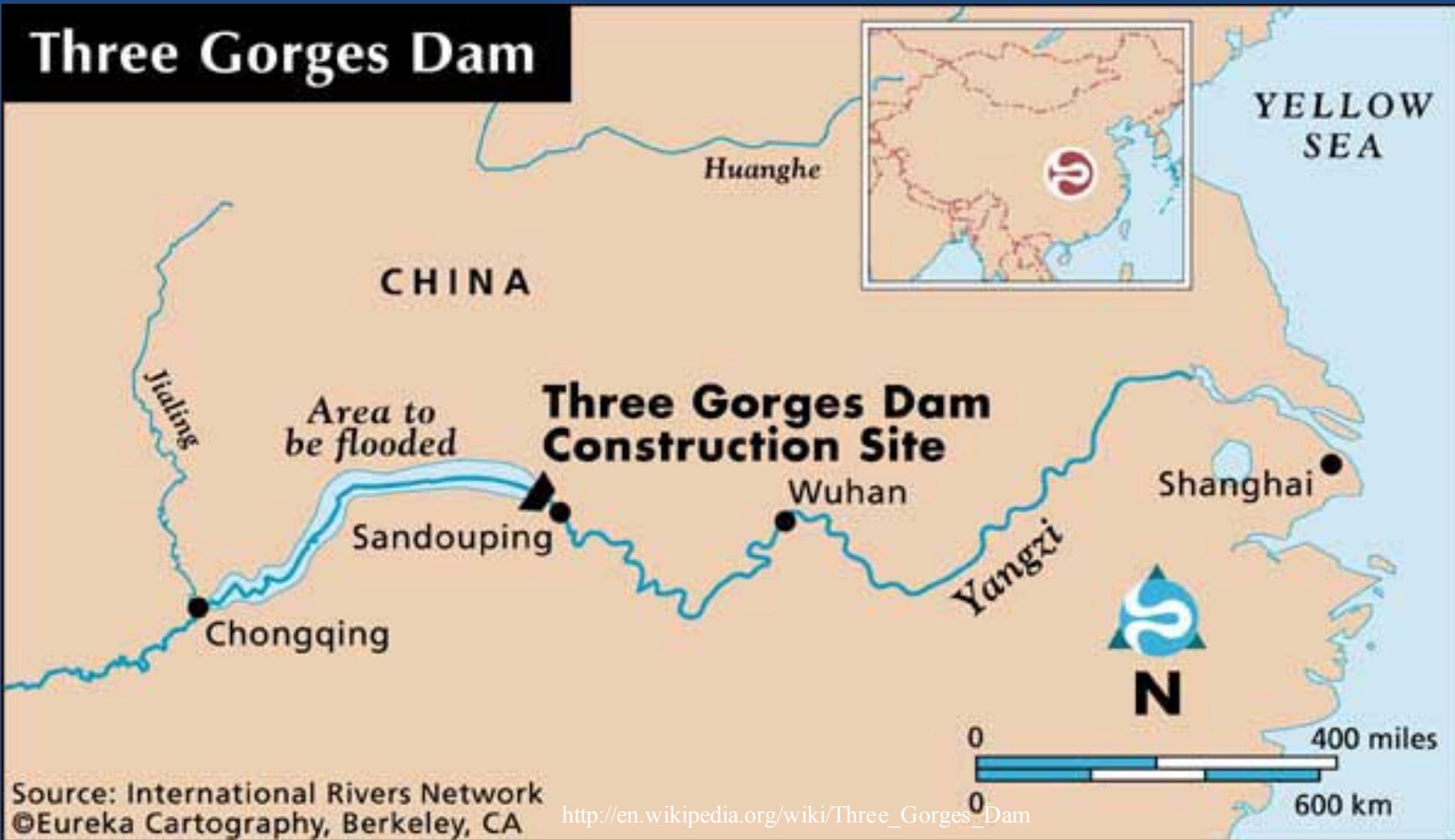
http://wudang.chinadaily.com.cn/2012-07/05/content_15560933.htm

Three Gorges Dam is the world's largest hydropower project and largest base of clean energy.



Originally conceived as a solution to flooding on the Yangtze River, as well as generation of electricity for approximately 10% of the country, construction quickly began to generate controversy.

Three Gorges Dam



It is located on the Yangtze River in China. The Yangtze River (also called the Chang Jiang) is the longest river in Asia and the third-longest in the world.

Over a million people were displaced, a thousand towns and villages were lost to the rising water, numerous antiquities were flooded, and important downstream sediment flow necessary for river and coastal ecosystems was threatened.



Demolition in Guizhou

<https://www.mtholyoke.edu/~lpohara/Pol%20116/social.html>

Man Sitting on Building Ruins

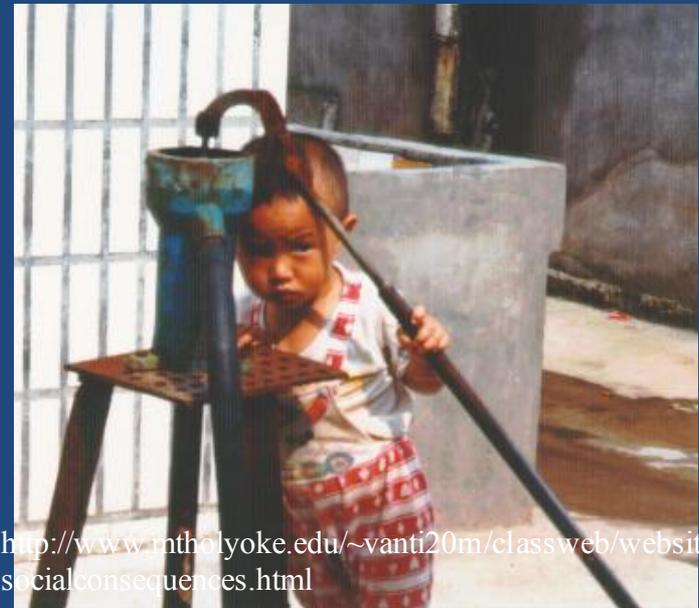


<https://www.mtholyoke.edu/~lpohara/Pol%20116/social.html>

Displaced Families



<http://www.internationalrivers.org/blogs/227/nature-strikes-back-at-three-gorges-dam>



<http://www.mtholyoke.edu/~vanti20m/classweb/website/socialconsequences.html>



<http://www.mtholyoke.edu/~vanti20m/classweb/website/socialconsequences.html>

One of evacuated buildings to be demolished to keep passing ships from snagging bottoms on buildings.





<http://www.eoearth.org/view/article/51cbf2d37896bb431f6aae27/>

Han Dynasty bronze, recovered from the Three Gorges region, now on display at the Museum of the White Emperor.



“Tourists pose beside a stone fish carved into the White Crane Ridge by Zhang Shifan, a local official, in 1813. The fish was removed before completion of the Three Gorges Dam to save it from being washed away.” (Anastasia Taylor-Lind/National Geographic)

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2013/03/fuling-china/taylor-lind-photography>



<http://www.eoearth.org/view/article/51cbf2d37896bb431f6aae27/>

The Yangtze River dolphin is now thought to be extinct.

Declining water quality made worse by the construction of the dam is believed to have been the chief driver of extinction.



Streaming Video – *Up the Yangtze*

Clip 1 – Yangtze Cruise (1 min. 18 sec.)

Clip 2 – The River Swallows Up a Home (1 min. 54 sec.)

OETA PBS Learning Media – Free Online Classroom Media Resources

<http://oeta.pbslearningmedia.org>

From Farming to Tourism



Progress and change on the Yangtze



http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-09/17/content_15761315.htm

Good



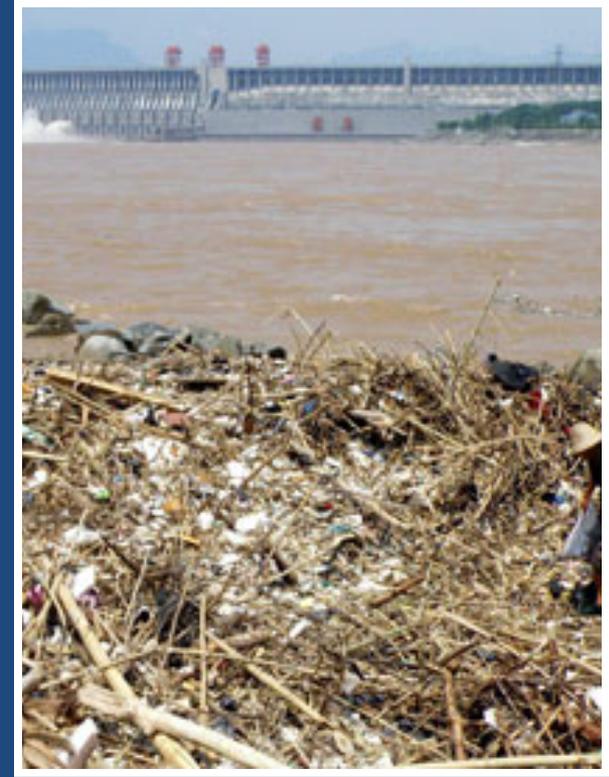
<http://www.frogblog.ie/2011/03/biology-prize-entries-2011-three-gorges.html>

and bad



<http://journal.probeinternational.org/2013/07/19/three-gorges-dam-trashes-yangtze-images-show/>

What do you think?



Building the Three Gorges Dam was a good idea?

or

Building the Three Gorges Dam was not a good idea?

Why or Why Not?

Support your answer with accurate information.