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World Water Day





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Dams

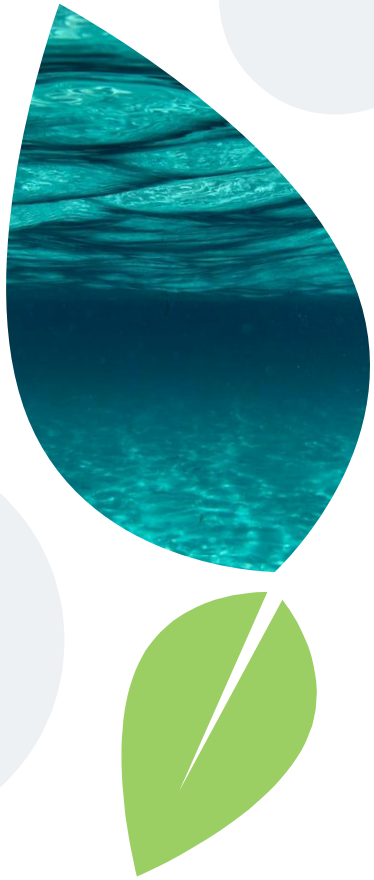
Earth Google





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Water is an indispensable source of life. It is the basis of life. People have tried to control it since ancient times. This is the reason why they constructed dams.





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The first dam was built 5,000 years ago and since then thousands of them have been constructed. However the last 100 years there has been a constant dam construction all over the world.



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Only in Greece more than 130 dams have been built. In our area, Eastern Macedonia and Thrace there are 10 dams.





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The biggest dam of our area is Thisavros dam in the Nestos river. It is 172 metres high, which makes it the highest dam in Greece. It is rockfill and it was constructed between 1986 and 1996.

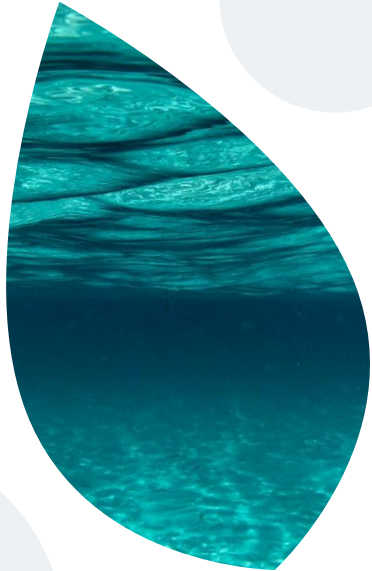
<https://video.link>



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Its purpose is irrigation and hydroelectric power production. Its reservoirs help irrigate about 80,000 hectares and its power station has an installed capacity of 384 megawatts.





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Another important dam is Gratini dam which was constructed between 1999 and 2001. It is an earthfill hydroelectric dam which is 50 metres high.





It is mainly used for cooling the power plant in Komotini, the biggest town in our area.



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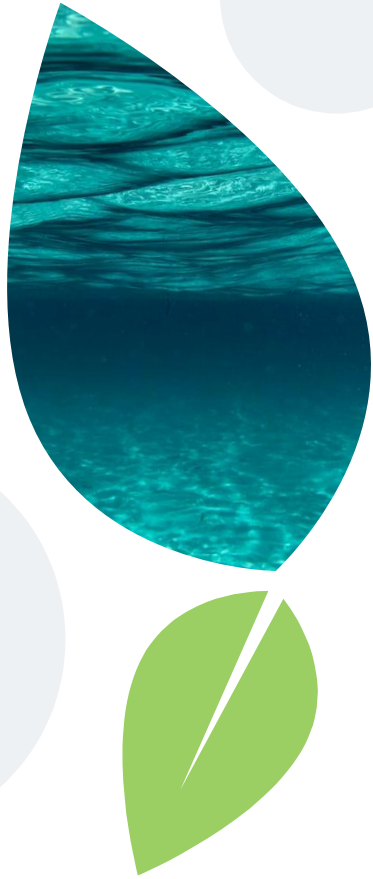


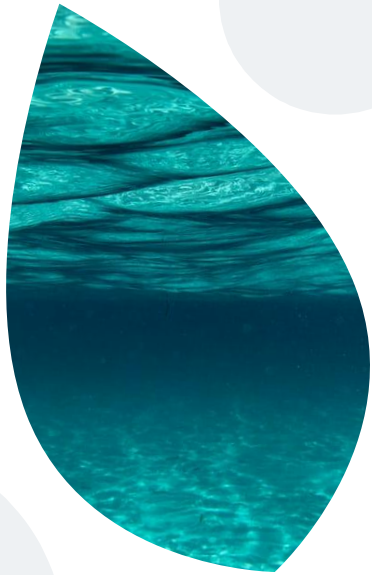


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The positive aspects of Dams are plenty:

- They store water which is needed especially in periods of drought
- They prevent floods
- They provide hydroelectric power which is renewable
- They provide irrigation water to grow crops
- They contribute to a country's economic growth





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- Some of them provide recreation areas

Man-made dams create artificial lakes called reservoirs. They can be used for fishing, boating and other leisure activities.





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However, man's intervention in nature can cause negative effects. So, along with the benefits of the dams come environmental repercussions:

- Riparian habitat loss
- Water loss through evaporation and seepage
- Erosion
- Declining water quality



Farther - reaching Consequences

- Changes in groundwater
- Displacement of human populations
- Earthquakes caused by the water weight in the reservoirs.



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These possible consequences are expected mostly from the gigantic dams which have been constructed in various places in the world. In fact, some of them have been deliberately destroyed. In general, however, the benefits outweigh the drawbacks. Hopefully, the future dams will be built with all the necessary measures to protect the water and the environment we value.



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We would be glad to have you here in Greece next school year and show you around the dams we presented to you and the natural beauties of our country.

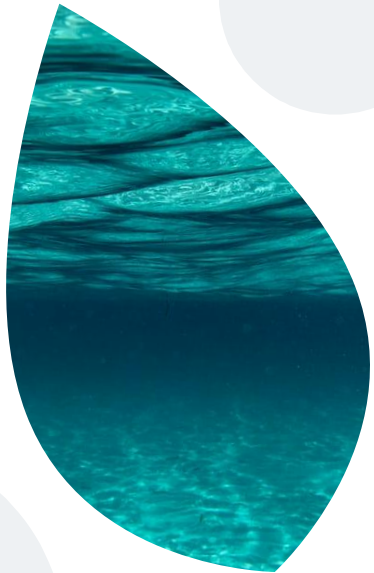
Thanks!

ANY QUESTIONS?





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