

ES20-AS2

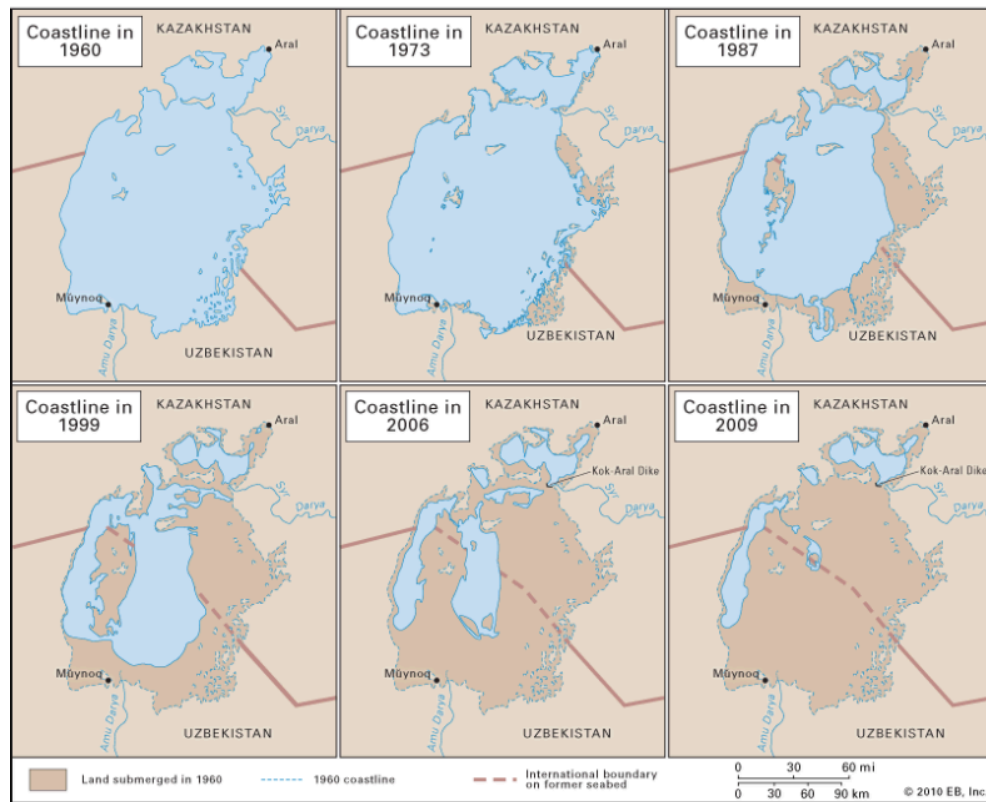
Assess the importance of maintaining healthy water for humans and the environment.

Indicators for this outcome

- (d) Assess how irrigation projects affect food production, water availability, soil salinization and groundwater.
- (f) Analyze the impacts of point source and non-point source pollution on humans and aquatic systems. (STSE, K, A)

Background

The Aral Sea is a landlocked, saltwater lake in central Asia bordered by Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. At one time, it was the fourth largest lake in the world. In the mid-20th century, the former Soviet Union began projects which effected the ecology of the Aral Sea region.



Part One: Investigation

- Find the Aral Sea on a satellite map. Google Earth or Google Maps are suggestions. Explore the area.
- I have included links to videos related to this area. Watch these videos.
- I have also included links to websites which discuss the Aral Sea Crisis. Use these resources to gain an understanding of this ecological event.

Part Two: Written Summary

- Provide a written explanation of the events which resulted in the Aral Sea Crisis. Answer the “**who, what, when, where, and why?**”
- Explain the impact to the environment.
- Define “Soil Salinity.” Also, describe how this “aquatic scenario” has impacted the soil salinity of the Aral Sea region.
- Provide details regarding the social, economic, cultural and ethical issues related to the Aral Sea Crisis.
- Write a personal response to the Aral Sea Crisis. Your personal reaction should clearly state your opinions and/or reflection.

Resources

<http://www.columbia.edu/~tmt2120/introduction.htm>

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/10/141001-aral-sea-shrinking-drought-water-environment/>

<http://www.unep.org/dewa/vitalwater/article115.html>

Videos

<http://rt.com/news/191952-aral-sea-dry-video/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNDjL_q7kHU

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dp_mIKJiwXg