ES20-AS2

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

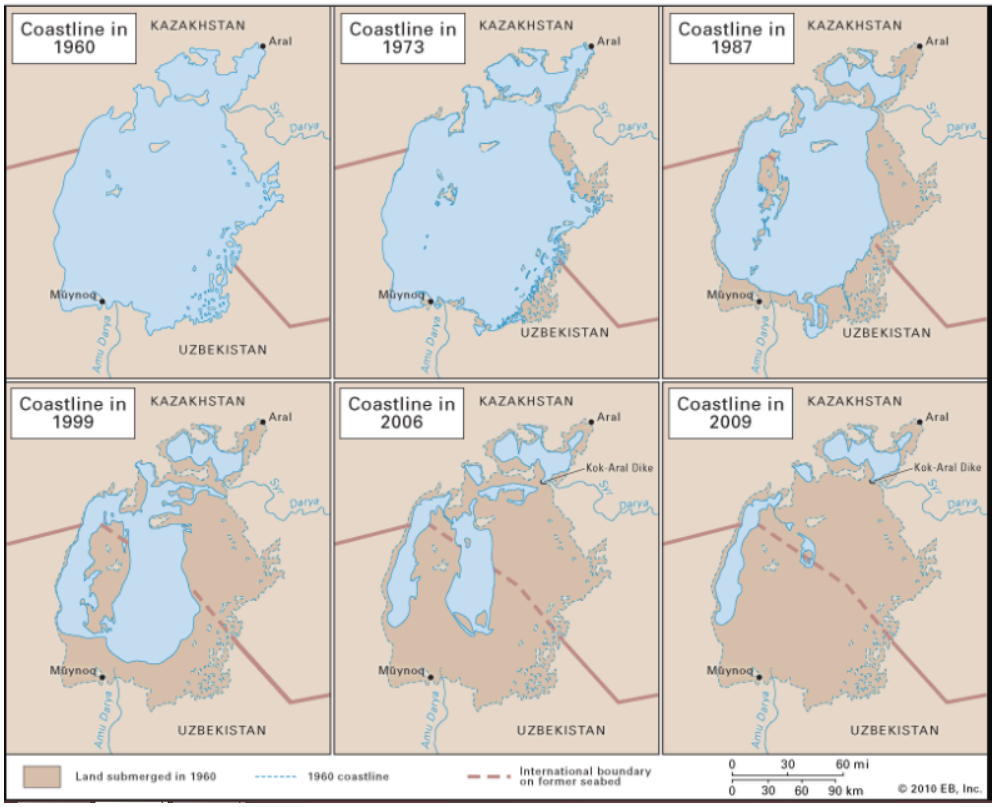
Indicators for this outcome

(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_mlKJiwxg