

**Year 8**

**Name:**

**Teacher:**

**Title: How sustainable is the dam – Part 1.**



**Task 1: Using the two pictures above, what do you think the pictures are trying to show?**

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**Task 2: Read the news article**

After two months of extreme floods have hit China's Three Gorges dam, officials have reassured the public the dam would not breach (break).

Inflows to the world's largest hydro-electric dam reached 75million litres of water a second. By Thursday morning, 11 outlets of the dam ('doors' that open to allow the water to flow) had been opened to discharge 49.2m litres of water a second, the largest release since its construction.

A breach of the dam, a controversial scheme along the Yangtze River, would be embarrassing for China, which took 12 years to build the megaproject, moving millions and submerging areas of land.

Upstream from the dam, officials in the city of Chongqing, evacuated almost 300,000 residents before the flooding. On Thursday, levels along the Yangtze near Chongqing reached heights not seen since 1981, when the country experienced its worst floods in a century, leaving 1.5 million homeless.

In Chongqing, roads, bridges, parks and a main highway in the commercial district were flooded, affecting 260,000 people and damaging at least 20,000 businesses, according to officials.

Images showed flooding had submerged three-metre-high signs and buildings several storeys high. Firefighters were using boats to transport trapped residents.

The flooding threatens to disrupt the country's recovery from the Covid-19 crisis. The outbreak has caused an estimated 179bn yuan in losses and displaced more than 4 million people, according to officials.

The floods have also raised concerns about food security. A report from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences said the supply gap was likely to be about 130m tons by the end of 2025.

**Task 3: Answer the following questions**

1. Before the outlets were opened how many liters of water was flowing through the dam every second?
2. How long did the dam take to build?
3. Describe the impacts of the flooding in Chongqing

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4. Imagine you are a resident in Chongqing. You have already had to move to make way for the dam and now you are homeless due to the flooding. How would you feel?

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5. The Three Gorges Dam, has set a new world record by generating 103.1 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity in 2020. This has helped reduced China's CO2 emissions but do you think this is enough to say it was worth building? You need to consider **all** the impacts you have studied in your answer. Use the back of the paper for more room.

*I think that the Three Gorges Dam producing 103.1 billion Kwh of electricity is/is not enough to say that it was worth building. I think this because...*

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