

Freshwater Resources - Review and Reinforce

Water Supply and Demand

Understanding Main Ideas

Complete the table below by stating whether each situation generally increases or reduces the water supply.

Situation	Affects Water Supply
A drought occurs throughout a region.	1. _____
A city builds a desalination plant.	2. _____
Water is pumped from an aquifer faster than the aquifer can be recharged.	3. _____
A new mining company begins using water to flush out the mines that it digs.	4. _____
A wastewater treatment plant pumps water into shallow ponds to feed an aquifer.	5. _____

Answer the following on a separate sheet of paper.

- How does carrying irrigation water into fields through open ditches waste water?
- Give an example of water conservation in industry.

Building Vocabulary

Fill in the blank to complete each statement.

- The process of obtaining fresh water from salt water is called _____.
- A process of supplying water to areas of land to make them suitable for growing crops is called _____.
- Using a resource wisely so that it will not be used up is called _____.

Freshwater Resources - Enrich

Whose Water Is It?

The Colorado River begins in the Rocky Mountains, flows through the Grand Canyon, and finally empties into the Gulf of California in northern Mexico. Dams have been built along the Colorado River, creating huge reservoirs such as Lake Powell. This river is a very important source of water for cities and towns in several states, including Arizona and California. Much of the river's water is used to irrigate large farms in this dry region of the country. Without this water, farming would be difficult, and people in many cities would not have enough water for business and home use. In most years, though, water shortages are common in the region. The table below provides clues as to why.

Distribution of Water from the Colorado River

Water Supply	Amount (millions of liters)
Average yearly flow of water, 1930-1980	16.1
Water Demand	
Water used near Colorado River	8.0
Water pumped to California	6.3
Water used in Phoenix, Arizona, area	1.2
Water lost to evaporation	1.9
Water absorbed into banks of Lake Powell	0.6
Water lost to shoreline plants	0.6
Water designated for Mexico	1.9

Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.

- How much of the Colorado River water is used by people in the western United States?
- How much water is lost to natural processes (evaporation, absorbed into banks, lost to shoreline plants)?
- What is the total yearly demand for the water in the Colorado River?
- How does yearly demand for the water in the Colorado River compare with the yearly supply of water?
- How would you propose to balance the supply and demand of water from the Colorado River?