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Importing water, exporting drought?



Lesson Plan Lesson1: Globalisation and local water insecurity (approx 40mins)

| Learning | Students: |
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| outcomes | learn about the causes of water insecurity, water stress and water scarcity especially in places in the world that where globalised economic activities place heavy demands on water supplies; understand how over-use of water supplies brings a range of consequences for people and places; consider the meaning of 'virtual water' and think critically about the true level of water demands made by affluent consumer societies. |
| teachers notes | |
| Starter | Connectivity and water |
| | Recognising that consumers in places like the UK place great demands on water supplies in countries where food and goods are sourced from – sometimes at the expense of people living in those countries. A range of case studies are introduced, including the Aral Sea. |
| | A "60 seconds" interactive online fact-file can be explored. |
| Main activity | Using the PDF article 'Water insecurity in a Global Context' |
| | 1) The causes of water insecurity and water stress The main activity (with data to analyse) focuses on the way water is 'embedded' in the production of food and goods. |
| | 2) The consequences of over-used water supplies Attention now turns to the consequences of over-use of water for agricultural export industries – including salinisation of groundwater and biodiversity threats. The Ebro delta is profiled. |
| | 3) Understanding the importance of 'virtual water' The concept of virtual water is explored using agricultural data that help students analyse the enormous demands the UK places on water supplies external to the British Isles. |
| Plenary | What's in a tomato? |
| | Introduce students to the idea that tomatoes brought from Spain to the UK have put a lot of strain on water stores in semi-arid sites like the Ebro valley. |
| | HW: complete the Globalisation and water insecurity assignment |
| Resources | This lesson is fully supported with the following resources: Online: 21CC <u>'60 second' guide to the shrinkage of the Aral sea</u> can be viewed PDF article: 'Water insecurity in a Global Context' illustrating the pressures that 'virtual water' needs impose on the environment of different places Short videos: (i) <u>Robin Farrington from World Wildlife Fund (WWF)</u>, discussing the importance of water as a resource and the UK's water footprint; (ii) <u>Andy Wales</u>, <u>Head of Sustainable Development for SABMiller</u>, discussing the importance of water in the production of beer at SABMiller in South Africa. Word article: Globalisation and water insecurity. Lesson 1 assignment |