



The accompanying lessons are dated but still exceptional. Please note that the size of the Aral Sea has continued to shrink considerably more than stated in these lessons. Have students research the current size of the Aral Sea and the Great Lakes and compare their values with those stated in these lessons.

1. **Lessons include:**

Hemispheres The International Outreach Consortium at the University of Texas at Austin - People and Place Curriculum Resources on Human-Environmental Interactions

Assessment Evidence

1. **Fish or cotton?** Role-playing activity in which students take on the roles of citizens whose lives have been affected by the Aral Sea and discuss the impact the changes in the sea level have had on them.
2. For the Common Good
3. Introduction to the Aral Sea reading and comprehension
4. The Disappearing Sea: Maps of the Aral Sea 1960 and 2000
5. How Great Are the Great Lakes
6. Where Has All the Water Gone?

Water lessons from National Geographic

- **What Happened to the Aral Sea?**
- **The Aral Sea Then and Now**
- **Earth's Water Cycle**

Also included are NASA illustrations showing maps compiled from GRACE data.

PLEASE NOTE: For the Common Good Activity

In the introduction the authors say water is a renewable resource. It is very important to note that there is a set amount of water on the planet so it is finite. Because water is recycled indefinitely in the water cycle it has often been thought to be renewable. However human overconsumption and diversion can deplete water from a watershed. This is happening around the world. The Aral Sea is just one example. Saudi Arabia has depleted their groundwater and it won't be back because it was stored water that has been there for millions of years. Many rivers and lakes around the world have dried up due to overconsumption and diversion. To ensure water will be available for future generations, it is important for people to use it cooperatively and not to sacrifice long-term gain for short-term profits.

These lessons will help your students understand the interrelationships between lakes and rivers. By studying the changes in the Aral Sea, they will understand that:

1. Lakes are affected by both the quantity and quality of water that flows into them from rivers;
2. Damming or diverting rivers, for irrigation and other purposes can have a significant impact on the size and water quality of lakes
3. The negative effects (including environmental, social, economic and health of disappearing natural resources are varied and complex
4. Water is not an infinite resource and must be consumed sustainably