Dams and Diversion

**Hydropower**

**Pros?**

Dams are relatively inexpensive to operate but they are very expensive to build

Doesnot emit greenhouse gasses or air pollutants

Renewable

Improve quality of life of an area

They prevent floods

Create cheap jobs electricity irrigation and drinking water

**Cons?**

Dams alter river habitats in many way

Natural cycles are disrupted

Floodplans do not reviece enough nutrients because they get trapped behind dams

Temperature of the water is changed

Fish have trouble getting up

**Diversions**

Brings water from the Colorado River to dry areas of Arizona multiple uses (drinking water, recreation, power)

**The Aral Sea**

Once the fourth largest lake on earth

It has lost more than 80% of its volume in just 45 years

The two rivers leading into the Aral Sea were diverted to irrigate cotton fields

60,000 fishing jobs are gone

Pesticide laden dust from the lake bed is blown into the air

The cotton cannot bring back the region’s economy

**Will we see future of water wars?**

Freshwater depletion leads to shortages which can lead to conflict

261 major rivers cross national borders

Water is a key element in hostilities among middle eastern