

Step 1: Examine the image your teacher has projected. Then answer these questions:

1. From where do you think this image was taken?
2. What do you think this image shows?
3. This was taken in 1964. Would you expect this area to look any different if the image were taken today? In what ways?

Step 2: Examine the second image your teacher has projected. Then answer these questions:

1. What does the red line represent? What does the yellow line represent?
2. What might have happened to explain the differences between the first image and the second?
3. How might the lives of people living near the Aral Sea—like farmers, fishing crews, and factory workers—be affected by this change?

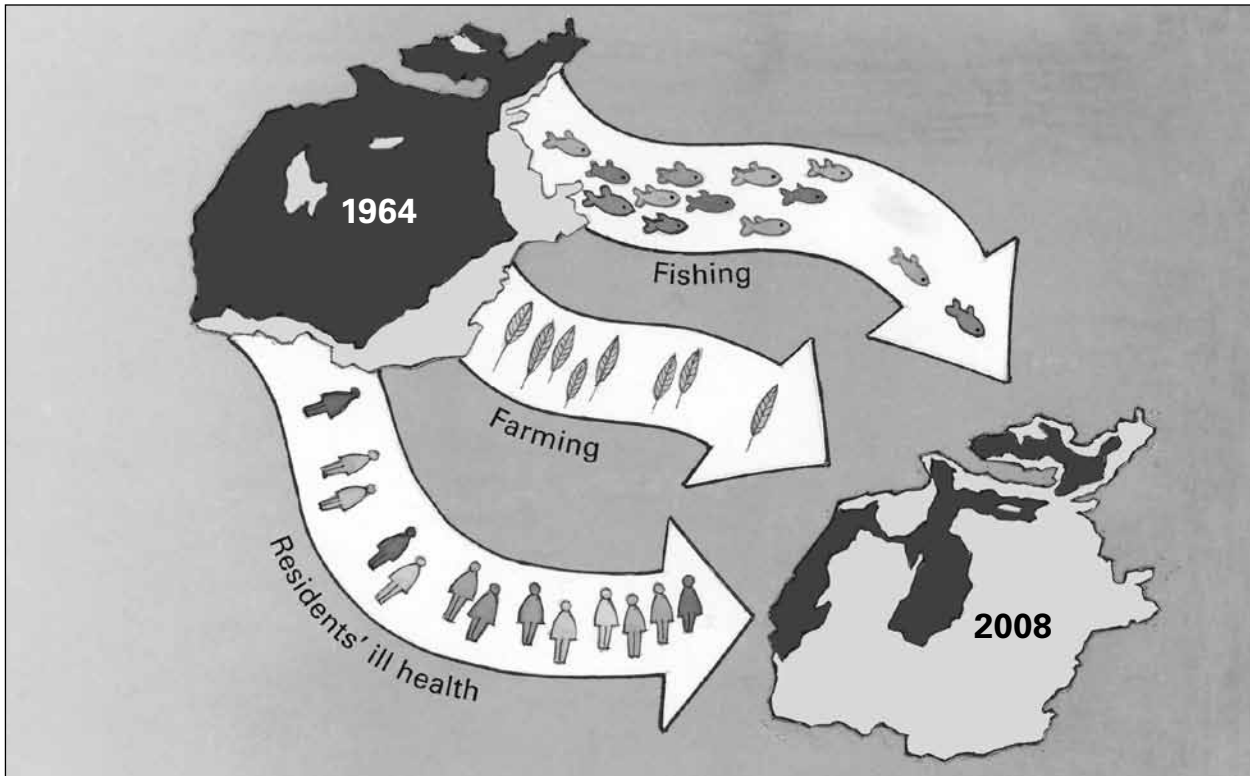
G E O T E R M S

Read Sections 1 and 2. Then create an illustrated dictionary of the Geoterms by completing these tasks:

- Create a symbol or an illustration to represent each term.
- Write a definition of each term in your own words.
- Write a sentence that includes the term and the words *Aral Sea*.

Geoterm and Symbol	Definition	Sentence
environmental degradation		
groundwater		
salinization		
water stress		

Read each indicated part of Sections 3, 4, and 5. Then answer the related question.



3 The Shrinking Sea and Farming

Read Section 3 up to “Salinization Creates a New Desert.” Then answer this question:
What was life like for farmers in the Aral Sea region when cotton was king?

Read the rest of Section 3. Then answer this question:
How have farmers been affected by the shrinking Aral Sea?



4 The Shrinking Sea and Fishing

Read Section 4 up to “The Collapse of the Aral Sea Fishing Industry.” Then answer this question: *What was life like for people in the fishing industry when the sea was rich in fish?*

Read the rest of Section 4. Then answer this question: *How was the fishing industry affected by the shrinking Aral Sea?*



5 The Shrinking Sea and Quality of Life

Read Section 5 up to “Pollution Damages the Health of Residents.” Then answer this question: *What was life like for people of the Aral Sea region when water was plentiful?*

Read the rest of Section 5. Then answer this question: *How has people’s health been affected by the shrinking Aral Sea?*



Americans use more than 400 billion gallons of water per day. More than 135 billion gallons are used for irrigation daily. The average American uses about 180 gallons of water every day for cooking, washing, drinking, and watering. That's a lot of water! But where does it come from?

Step 1: Use one of these sources to find one fact about where the water in your home comes from:

- a parent or guardian
- a water department employee
- a city employee
- the Internet

Write what you discover below. Be prepared to share what you learn.

Step 2: Trace the water that comes from the faucet in your home or school back to its source. Use the information you and your classmates have gathered. Draw a simple map that connects the faucet shown here with the source of your water. Label the important details of your map. Provide a key to explain any symbols you use.

