

## Weighing Costs and Benefits – The Three Gorges Dam



**The Issue:** In 1994, construction began on the Three Gorges Dam in Hubei Province, China. The hydro-electric dam was built with the intention using the Yangtze River to provide electricity to the citizens of China. It was finally completed in 2003 at a cost of 180 Billion Yuan from tax money. It alone provides 5-10% of China’s electrical needs and is currently the largest hydro-electric dam in the world.

**Task I:** Work with a partner and discuss the possible costs and benefits associated with building the Three Gorges Dam. Stretch your mind. Consider social, cultural, economic, and environmental consequences, good and bad.

Costs	Benefits

**Task II:** Put yourself back in to 1993. Would you have supported building the Three Gorges Dam? Why or why not?