



ANSWER KEY

Exercise: 1

Instructions: Answer the questions below.

1. Name each dam.

1) Bonneville Dam 2) Dalles Dam 3) John Day Dam 4) McNary Dam 5) Ice Harbor Dam 6) Lower Monumental Dam 7) Little Goose Dam 8) Lower Granite Dam 9) Hells Canyon Complex 10) Dworshak

2. What time frame were the most harmful dams constructed and which dams are considered the most harmful?

The Dams of the lower Snake River which seem to cause the most problems were constructed between 1962 and 1976.

3. Write about documented impacts of the dams on Idaho salmon and steelhead populations. In what ways are these dams harmful to fish?

The dams are harmful because they serve as a blockade for fish traveling both ways. Dams take their biggest toll on smolts migrating out to sea. Estimates from 55-90% of smolts die as they pass through the reservoirs and turbines of the dams. The dams also block the return of adults to their spawning grounds. They also slow the flow of water which slows the trip for smolts. This lengthens the time smolts are exposed to predators, pesticides, and poor conditions that can lower their survival in the river.

4. List and describe the mitigation efforts practiced at the dams.

To help the salmon through the dams, trucking and barging of smolts around the dams on their way out to sea has been used. Fish ladders have also been constructed for adults to get back to their breeding sites.

5. Briefly state what you feel long term impacts of the dam might be on salmon and steelhead populations if the dams remain in place, and if the dams are removed, and if mitigation efforts are increased.

Answers will vary, but most people will agree that the removal of dams will help the fish populations. The mitigation efforts may or may not save the salmon.