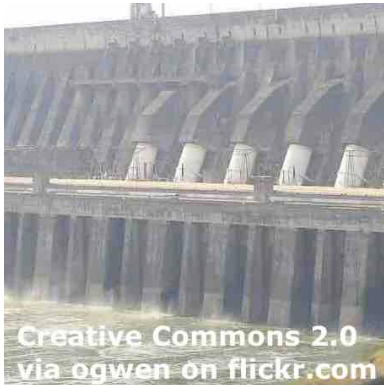


Ethiopia's River Nile dam upsets Egypt

18th July, 2020



A dam on the Blue Nile in Ethiopia is escalating tensions in the region. African Union-led talks between Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam broke down on Monday. There are fears that the filling of the dam could lead to

armed conflict. Ethiopia is constructing the dam to supply electricity to its rural areas. It is the largest hydroelectric dam in Africa and is two-thirds finished. Ethiopia has started filling the dam, which has raised alarm in Cairo. Egypt views the dam as an "existential threat" and is concerned the dam will reduce its water supplies. Most of Egypt's water comes entirely from the Nile, particularly during times of drought.

The Blue Nile originates in natural springs above Lake Tana in Ethiopia. It supplies the majority of the water for the Nile River. The Blue Nile merges with the White Nile near Khartoum in Sudan. The waterway becomes the River Nile from the point of confluence of the two rivers. Ethiopia calls the dam an "existential necessity". Taxes from Ethiopian citizens have largely paid for the dam. Ethiopia's government says the dam is essential as nearly half the country's population lacks access to electricity. Egypt has said it could share electricity with Ethiopia instead of the dam being used. An Egyptian politician said: "One nation's need for electricity is pinned to another nation's need for water."

Sources: independent.co.uk / nature.com / arabnews.com

Writing

Rivers should never be dammed. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

escalating / tensions / fears / armed / conflict / electricity / rural / existential / threat / natural springs / waterway / necessity / citizen / half / population / dam / politician

True / False

- a) A dam on the White Nile is increasing tension in the region. T / F
- b) Some people are worried the issue over the dam could result in war. T / F
- c) The Ethiopian dam will be the largest hydroelectric dam in Africa. T / F
- d) About half of Egypt's water comes from the River Nile. T / F
- e) The source of the Blue Nile is in natural springs in Sudan. T / F
- f) The Blue Nile merges with the White Nile near Cairo. T / F
- g) Ethiopia's taxpayers have paid for most of the hydroelectric dam. T / F
- h) Ethiopia said it could share its electricity with Egypt. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| 1. escalating | a. anxiety |
| 2. broke down | b. meeting |
| 3. conflict | c. bulk |
| 4. alarm | d. collapsed |
| 5. entirely | e. attached |
| 6. originates | f. wholly |
| 7. majority | g. increasing |
| 8. confluence | h. crucial |
| 9. essential | i. war |
| 10. pinned | j. starts |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about dams?
- b) How important are dams?
- c) What damage do dams do?
- d) Are hydroelectric dams good for the environment?
- e) Why is the dam an existential threat to Egypt?
- f) What would the consequences be of conflict in the region?
- g) What do you think of Ethiopia's dam?
- h) What would happen if water wars broke out?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. A dam on the Blue Nile in Ethiopia is escalating | a. threat |
| 2. the filling of the dam could lead to armed | b. of the two rivers |
| 3. supply electricity to its rural | c. of drought |
| 4. Egypt views the dam as an existential | d. springs |
| 5. particularly during times | e. tensions in the region |
| 6. The Blue Nile originates in natural | f. need for water |
| 7. the point of confluence | g. with Ethiopia |
| 8. lacks access | h. conflict |
| 9. it could share electricity | i. areas |
| 10. pinned to another nation's | j. to electricity |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you know about the River Nile?
- Do you think Ethiopia should open the dam?
- Who does the water in Ethiopia's rivers belong to?
- What dams are there in your country?
- Should Egypt share electricity with Ethiopia?
- What advice do you have for Ethiopia's leader?
- What questions would you like to ask Egypt's leader?

Spelling

- tnsgiaelca tensions in the region
- could lead to armed clfotnci
- supply electricity to its ralru areas
- an "elestiaxtn threat"
- Most of Egypt's water comes ritelyen from the Nile
- particularly during times of rohugdt
- The Blue Nile iigseonrta in natural springs
- The Blue Nile sgrmee with the White Nile
- the point of nnucecelfo of the two rivers
- the dam is atssilnee
- half the country's lnpooutpai
- An Egyptian apincioilt

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. i	4. a	5. f
6. j	7. c	8. b	9. h	10. e

Role Play

Role A – Hydroelectric Dams

You think hydroelectric dams are the best way to create electricity. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their forms. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): nuclear energy, wind farms or solar panels.

Role B – Nuclear Energy

You think nuclear energy is the best way to create electricity. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their forms. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): hydroelectric dams, wind farms or solar panels.

Role C – Wind Farms

You think wind farms are the best way to create electricity. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their forms. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): nuclear energy, hydroelectric dams or solar panels.

Role D – Solar Panels

You think solar panels are the best way to create electricity. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their forms. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): nuclear energy, wind farms or hydroelectric dams.

Speaking – Electricity

Rank these with your partner. Put the best ways to get electricity at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| • hydroelectric dams | • biofuels |
| • geothermal energy | • wind farms |
| • coal-fired turbines | • solar panels |
| • nuclear energy | • wave power |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.