



GEOGRAPHY WITH DR MICHAEL WEBBER

TALKING POINTS

KNOWLEDGE:

1. Who coined the term geography?
2. How big is China? How many people live there? How many people have been relocated for the expansion of the Danjiangkou Reservoir?

COMPREHENSION:

3. What is the ultimate idea behind the South-North Water Transfer Project?
4. What are the potential problems with an undertaking such as this?

APPLICATION:

5. What is the ultimate aim of Michael's project?

ANALYSIS:

6. Can you discuss the approaches that Michael is taking? Why is he taking these approaches?
7. What are the wider implications of the project?

EVALUATION:

8. Had you heard of technopolitics before today? If so, did Michael's project tally with your understanding? If not, what do you think of the term? Can you think of any other ways technopolitics might work in other countries? (Michael's hints: Think Airbus; the US Interstate Highway system; the Snowy Mountain Scheme; the European high-speed rail network.)

ACTIVITIES YOU CAN DO AT HOME OR IN THE CLASSROOM

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT MICHAEL'S RESEARCH:

An introduction to the project and the team, together with key papers, is available here: <https://www.researchgate.net/project/The-Technopolitics-of-Chinas-South-North-Water-Transfer-Project>

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE SOUTH-NORTH WATER TRANSFER PROJECT:

This website provides more information about the South-North Water Transfer Project. It contains loads of interesting information, including the mind-boggling diversion of 44.8 billion cubic metres of water per year from the Yangtze River in southern China to the Yellow River Basin in arid northern China.

<https://www.internationalrivers.org/campaigns/south-north-water-transfer-project>

MORE RESOURCES

- This video, entitled A Story of Invisible Water, showcases the South-North Water Diversion Project and is well worth a watch for anybody interested in the ramifications of the project:

<http://sites.asiasociety.org/chinagreen/invisible-water-long/>

- This article in Nature details the rapidly falling amount of water entering the Yangtze River due to climate change:

<https://www.nature.com/news/thawing-permafrost-reduces-river-runoff-1.9749>