

Kinds of Dams

A **dam** is a barrier made across a stream or a river to make the water level higher. There are five main kinds of dams made by people.



Irrigation Dams



Farmers need water to help their crops grow. Watering large areas of land is called **irrigation**. In some places, there is a lot of water during part of the year, and only a little water at other times. Irrigation dams are built so that farmers can have all the water they need all year, even when there hasn't been much rain. When the dam is built, it makes a large pool of water called a **reservoir**. This reservoir holds all the water that the farmers will need.

Water Supply Dams



A water supply dam is built for people, factories, and cities to use. Some areas don't have the right kinds of lakes and rivers nearby for their water. If they didn't build a dam, they wouldn't have water for drinking or washing.