

# NEWS BREAK

**Wednesday's News Break** selects an article from **Monday, October 19** of The Seattle Times e-Edition for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions. **Please remember to always preview the content of the article before sharing with your students.**

**Critics say it's time to remove Snake River dams** (NW Monday, **page B9**).

## **Pre-Reading and Vocabulary**

1. Look at the title of this article. What is the purpose of a dam? What reason(s) can you think of for removing a dam?
2. **Vocabulary: Match the words to the numbered definitions below.**

- A. breached
- B. dam
- C. export
- D. food chain
- E. groundswell
- F. hydropower
- G. mainstay
- H. migrating
- I. momentum
- J. negotiating
- K. oppose
- L. percolated
- M. petition
- N. reservoir
- O. spawning
- P. stymied

1. to move from one area to another at different times of the year
2. a series of types of living things in which each one uses the next lower member of the series as a source of food
3. to spread slowly
4. electricity produced from machines that are run by moving water
5. to get over, through, or around (something)
6. to make a hole or opening in (something)
7. to produce or lay eggs in water — used of animals such as fish or frogs
8. to disagree with or disapprove of (something or someone)
9. a fast increase in the amount of public support for something (such as a political cause or candidate)
10. a written document that people sign to show that they want a person or organization to do or change something
11. a structure that is built across a river or stream to stop water from flowing

12. to stop (someone) from doing something or to stop (something) from happening
13. a very important part of something
14. to send a product to be sold in another country
15. a usually artificial lake that is used to store a large supply of water for use in people's homes, in businesses, etc.
16. the strength or force that allows something to continue or to grow stronger or faster as time passes

### Comprehension

1. How many dams do a coalition of environmentalists, Indian tribes and outdoor enthusiasts want removed from the Snake River?
  - a) Two
  - b) Four
  - c) Six
2. Those who want the dams removed argue that they harm fish and disrupt what for larger species?
3. According to the article, what caused migrating fish in the Snake River to die by the thousands this summer?
4. The dams create \_\_\_\_\_ that make it possible for Lewiston, Idaho, which is 450 miles from the Pacific Ocean, to operate as the farthest inland seaport on the West Coast. **(Fill in the blank)**
5. According to the article, in 2012, 10% of all U.S. exports of what product moved through the Snake River dams?
6. What do opponents contend is happening to the shipping traffic made possible by the dams?
7. Opponents of the dams also contend that \_\_\_\_\_ produced by the dams could be replaced with alternative energy resources. **(Fill in the blank)**
8. How would central Idaho communities that depend on tourism benefit if the dams were removed?
9. Dam supporters contend that salmon runs are recovering, partly due to what that is helping salmon reach spawning grounds?
10. The dams cost \$62 million per year to operate but produce electricity worth more than that – **true or false?**

### Additional Activities

1. Have students watch Seattle Times special report videos about removal of the Elwha River dams at: <http://video.seattletimes.com/1158125306001/special-report-removing-the-elwha-river-dams/>
2. Have students list all of the statements in the article in support of keeping the dams and all of the statements in the article that oppose the dams (for the removal of the dams) on a sheet of paper. Then have students write their own

statement for or against the dams based on the opinion they formed reading the article. Have students use examples from the article to support their stance.

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### **Answer Key to Vocabulary**

- A. 6
- B. 11
- C. 14
- D. 2
- E. 9
- F. 4
- G. 13
- H. 1
- I. 16
- J. 5
- K. 8
- L. 3
- M. 10
- N. 15
- O. 7
- P. 12

### **Answer Key to Comprehension Questions**

- 1. b) Four
- 2. They disrupt the food chain for larger species.
- 3. Higher than normal water temperatures in the reservoirs.
- 4. reservoirs
- 5. Wheat
- 6. They contend that shipping traffic is in sharp decline.
- 7. hydropower
- 8. They would benefit because if the dams were removed fishing seasons would expand.
- 9. Fish ladders
- 10. True