



Irrigation

What is irrigation?

Irrigation is the process where water is moved from one area (where there is a lot of water supply, such as rivers or reservoirs) to another area which does not have much water.



There are different types of irrigation, for example, perennial irrigation (used in Mesopotamia) and basin irrigation (used by the early Egyptians).

Irrigation comes from Latin, meaning "a supplying of water to land," (*irrigationem*).

How was irrigation used?

Engineers in Mesopotamia built humongous dams, to create reservoirs and canals that would carry water across land, so that people without easy access to water could get water for their needs.

As part of the irrigation system, there were many canals carrying water to different parts of Mesopotamia.

Why was irrigation invented?

Irrigation was invented so people living not so near to a water source could drink, water their plants, cook, clean themselves and use boats for transportation.

How did irrigation make life easier?

Since some people didn't live so close to a water source, using irrigation, they could access water easily, to drink, clean themselves, cook and so on. The main difference that irrigation made to their lives was that these people had a regular and dependable supply of water.



How has this invention changed the world today?



Irrigation changed the world today because it allows people to carry out farming which did not depend just on rainfall.

Therefore people are able to farm in more places in the world than they otherwise would have been able to.

As humans moved away from relying on rainwater, more land became available for people to grow crops. This has helped man have a more secure life because he is able to have food regularly.

Our world today would be very different without irrigation - we might all still be hunter-gatherers!



Pictures



Levee: holds the water back

Dam: controls the flow of water



Canal: allows the water to be brought to drier areas

Resource List

1. <http://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-irrigation.htm>
2. Mr. Huynh
3. My GD Book
4. <http://mygeologypage.ucdavis.edu/cowen/~GEL115/115CH17oldirrigation.html>
5. <http://www.google.co.uk/img?hl=en&tab=ii> :
Google Images