

The Impacts of Water Insecurity

Learning Objective:

-**Examine** social, economic and environmental problems of water insecurity



Learning Outcomes:

- Examine** the impacts of polluted water in LICs
- Assess** the impact of water insecurity on food production
- Suggest** causes of conflict in Egypt



A standpipe queue

Video 1-3



What else could they be doing with their time?

Water pollution: The River Ganges, India

The River Ganga (Ganges) is 2520km long and flows through northern India and Bangladesh. It is the most polluted river in the world, with both human and industrial waste.

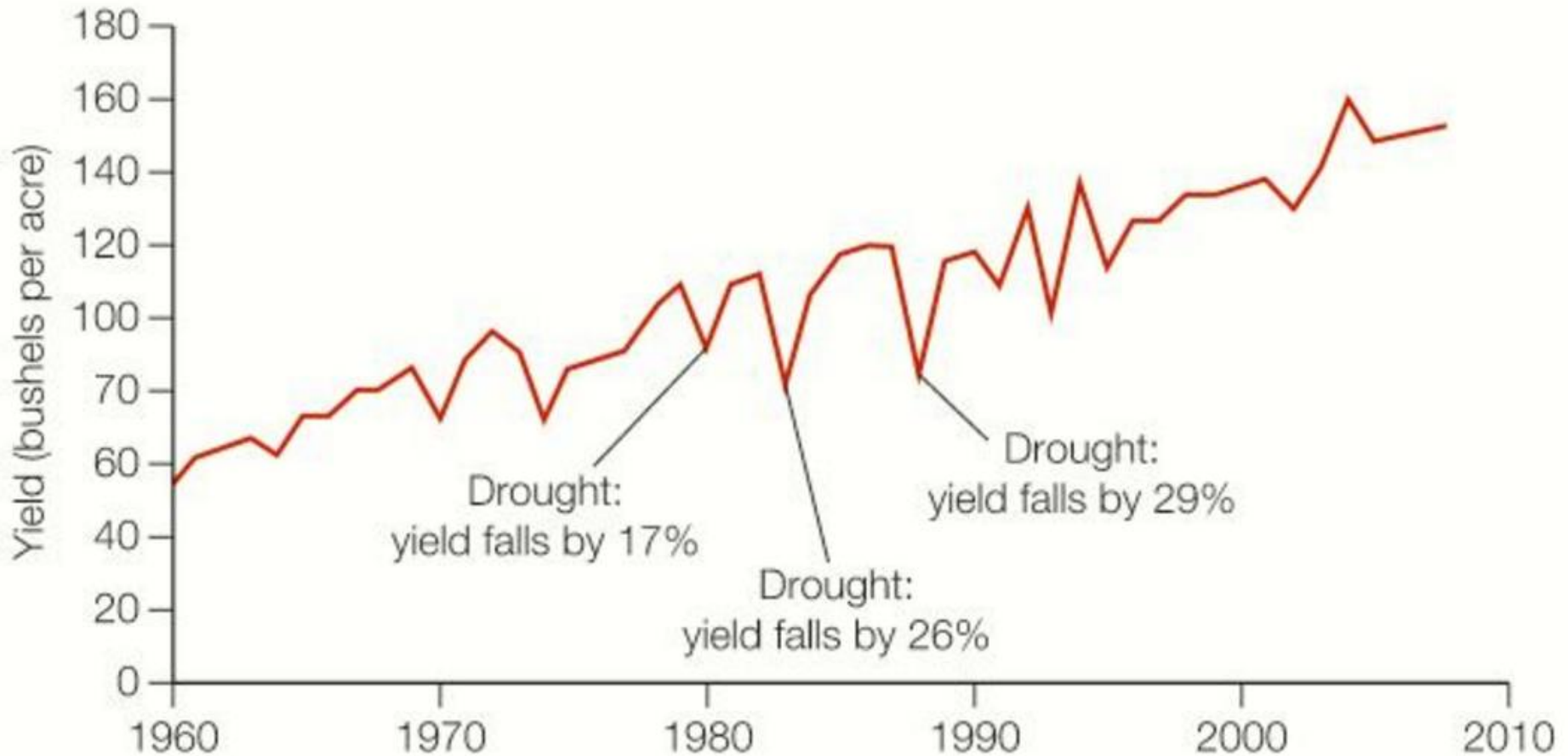
- ◆ Over one billion litres of raw sewage enter the river each day from the cities, towns and villages along its banks.
- ◆ Hundreds of factories discharge 260 million litres of untreated wastewater from factories is discharged into the river daily.
- ◆ The major polluting industry along the Ganges is the leather industry, because toxic chemicals leak into the river.
- ◆ Run off from pesticides and fertilisers is another major source of pollution.

Pollution of the Ganges has become so serious that bathing in the river and drinking its water have become very dangerous.

Sketch the River Ganges, then **illustrate** how the river has become so polluted.

Suggest the **social** and **economic** impacts of water pollution in India?

Crop yields in the USA

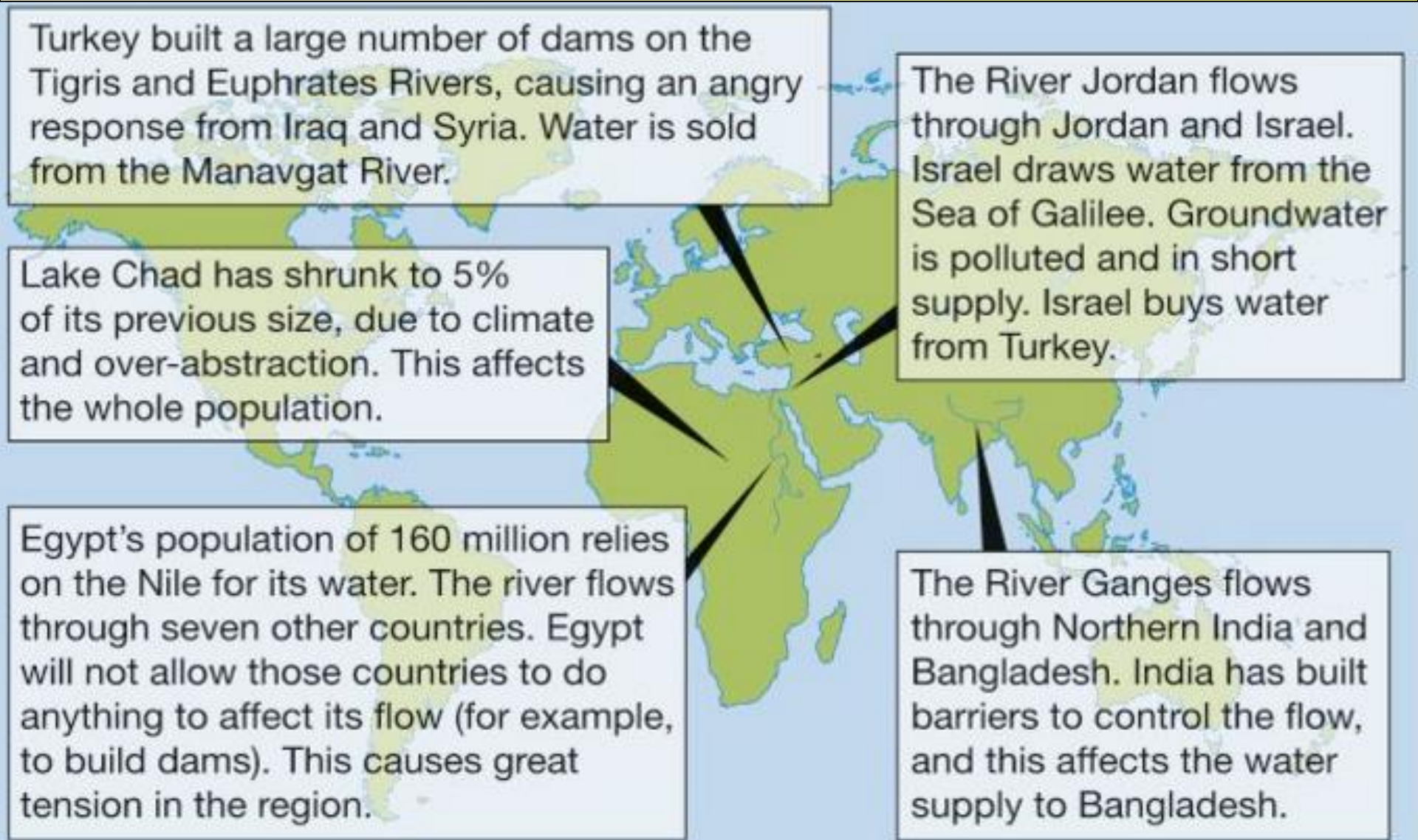


1. Which year had the greatest **fall in yields** due to drought?
2. Which decade saw the worst drought?
3. The USA supplies 30% of the of the world's wheat and rice. Why is drought a major issue in the USA?



How can water insecurity have an impact on other types of industry?

Explain how water insecurity could lead to conflict.



Turkey built a large number of dams on the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, causing an angry response from Iraq and Syria. Water is sold from the Manavgat River.

The River Jordan flows through Jordan and Israel. Israel draws water from the Sea of Galilee. Groundwater is polluted and in short supply. Israel buys water from Turkey.

Lake Chad has shrunk to 5% of its previous size, due to climate and over-abstraction. This affects the whole population.

Egypt's population of 160 million relies on the Nile for its water. The river flows through seven other countries. Egypt will not allow those countries to do anything to affect its flow (for example, to build dams). This causes great tension in the region.

The River Ganges flows through Northern India and Bangladesh. India has built barriers to control the flow, and this affects the water supply to Bangladesh.

Do you agree that future wars might be fought over water resources?

