



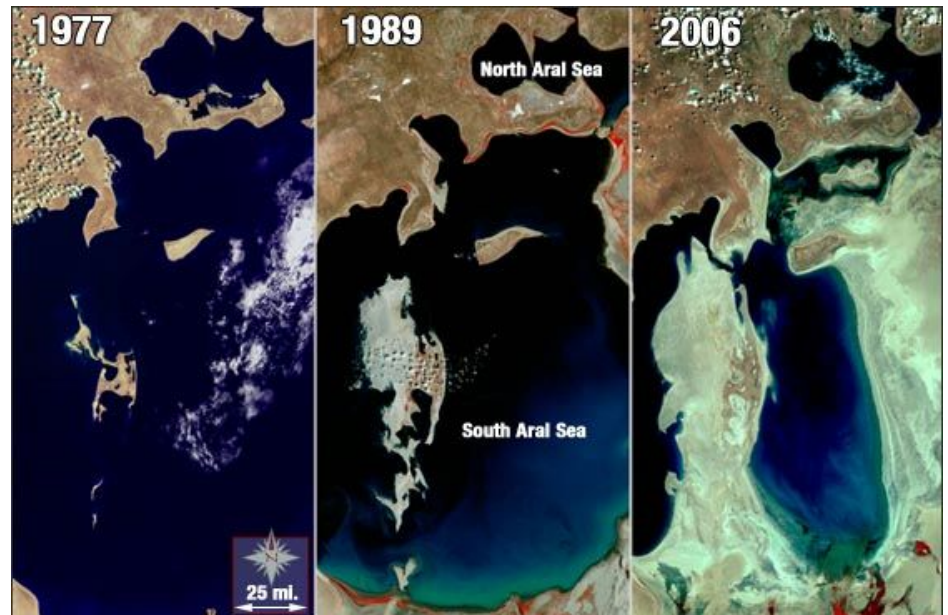
High Kazakh humanitarian technical college

**Unit: Natural Disasters. Subunit:
Prediction of natural disasters**

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Lesson objectives

- ❖ Read and discuss an article about the Aral Sea
- ❖ Identify causes and effects of the Aral Sea crisis.



Read the article below and answer the following questions.

1. **Choose the best title for this article.**

- a) Fishermen and challenges they face
- b) Waiting for the sea
- c) The story of an old man

2. **What is the topic of this article?**

3. **What is the thesis statement of this article?**



It took just 40 years for the Aral Sea to dry up. Fishing ports suddenly found themselves in a desert. But in one small part of the sea, water is returning.

Khojabay is a fisherman who lives in a desert. Almost everyone in his village used to fish for a living but in the 1970s the fish died, and the sea began to dry up. The Aral Sea, in Central Asia, used to be the fourth largest lake in the world, after the Caspian Sea, and Lakes Superior and Victoria. Now barely 10% of it is left. This must be one of the most dramatic *alterations* of the Earth's surface for centuries.

For more than half Khojabay's life, the sea provided one sixth of the fish eaten in the USSR. He became the *skipper* of a fishing boat.

“Catching 100kg was quite normal, and the fish were big and healthy – he remembers one that weighed 7kg. But he also remembers when things began to go wrong. His last catch in 1976, was a net full of dead fish.

As the sea *receded*, the climate began to change.

“We used to grow melons and other crops. We ate them, sold them in the market and made money,” he says. “We grew clover for our cattle and barely for ourselves.”

But the rain stopped. Grass dried up, and the small freshwater lakes that once existed near the sea's edge disappeared. Herds of antelope that used to roam the area *dwindled* to nothing. The summers became blisteringly hot, the winters biting cold. And just getting around became *tough*. In the old days everyone went from one fishing village to the next by boat. Now they get about by car – but there are barely any roads. Instead, sturdy 4x4s bump and shake their way over tracks across the former sea bed.

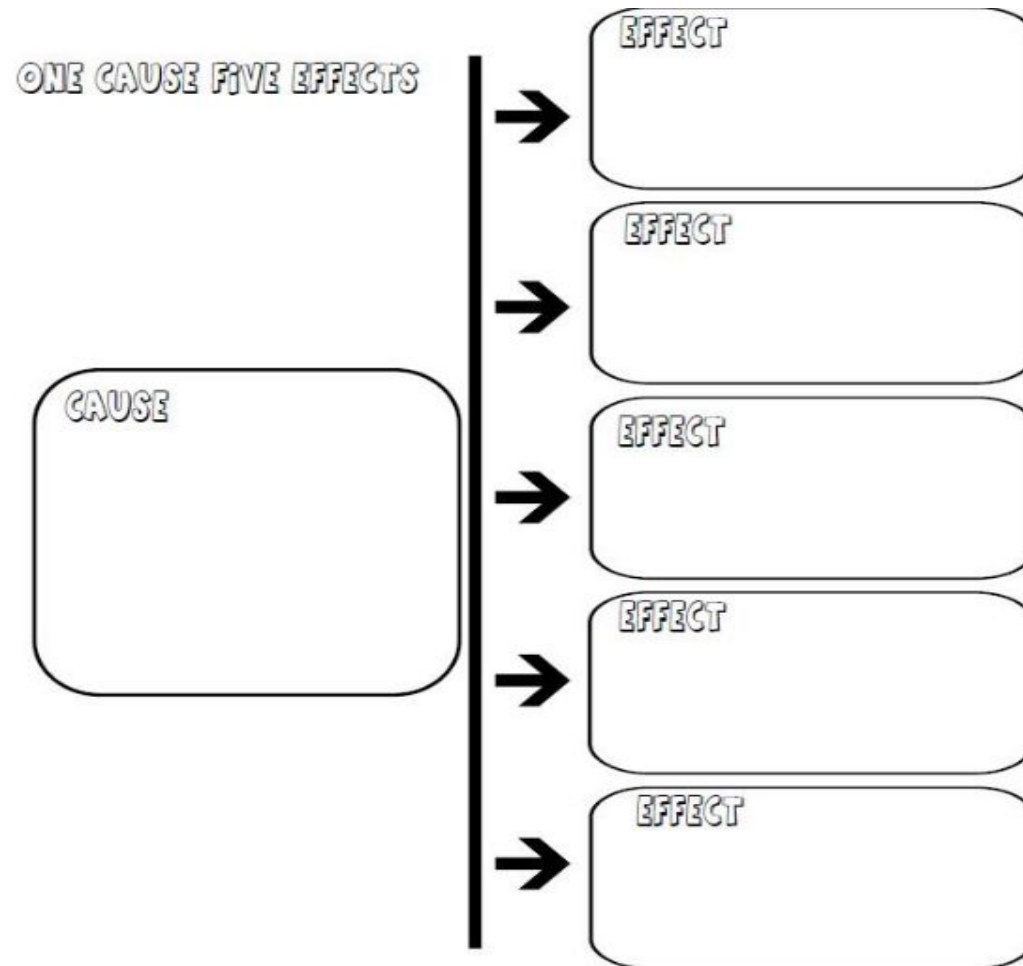
Khojabay still comes out of his house every day, and by instinct looks out where the sea ought to be. He knows he will never see it here again - but he has heard there is a chance that his 15-year-old grandson will.

Handout 2a (Less confident)

Write the corresponding synonyms next to the words from the text.

| Synonyms | |
|---|--|
| captain, changes, decrease, difficult, move back | |
| 1. Alterations | |
| 1. Skipper | |
| 1. Recede | |
| 1. Dwindle | |
| 1. Tough | |

Read the article again. Complete the graphic organizer according to the information presented in the text.



K-W-L

Name _____



K What I know



W What I want to know



L What I learned



Reflection

Now complete this
column

