

# The Jobs Dams Do



## ➤ Grade Levels:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade  
SEEd 3.1.3  
SEEd 3.2.6
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
SEEd 5.1.5  
SEEd 5.3.4

## ➤ Duration: 20 Minutes

## ➤ Science Process Skills:

Observing  
Inferring  
Communicating  
Classifying



This activity is designed to introduce students to the work/jobs that local dams and reservoirs perform.

## Activity 1: Underwater Agency – Dams and Infrastructure

Meet the Underwater Agency's most powerful agent, Madame Dam.

**Time:** 5 minutes

**Materials:** Computer and Projector

*Underwater Agency: Dams and Infrastructure Video*

### Instructions:

1. Introduce students to the topic of the lesson, Dams.
2. Give students a chance to name dams and reservoirs that they know of and share what they know about these important pieces of infrastructure.
3. As a class watch the Underwater Agency – Dams and Infrastructure video (<https://tinyurl.com/MadameDam>).
4. Take a moment and share personal example of interacting with a dam and reservoir. Examples could include recreating on a reservoir, consuming water that was stored in a reservoir, or a time when a dam prevented a flood.

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# The Jobs Dams Do continued...

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## Activity 2: The Jobs Dams Do

Learn more about Upper Stillwater, the real-life dam and reservoir behind Madame Dam. Then explore the different jobs that dams in Utah have.

**Time:** 15 minutes

**Materials:** *The Jobs Dams Do* Student Activity Worksheet  
*The Jobs Dams Do* Teacher Activity Key  
Pens or Pencils

### Instructions:

1. Pass out *The Jobs Dams Do* Student Activity Worksheet to students. As a class read introduction on the worksheet.
2. Then, depending on student skill levels you can have students work independently, work in small groups, or complete this activity as a class.
3. Have students start on the recreation section of the activity worksheet. Help students get started by identifying the word that is 1 Down (Swimming) or the word that is 5 Across (Picnicking).
4. Then have the group move at their own pace through the rest of the activity. If a student completes all of the tasks faster than the rest of the class, encourage them to find all of the solutions on the Water Deliveries Maze or to color the different habitats in the dam/reservoir diagram.
5. Finally, allow students to share something new they have learned about dams and have them identify which dam job's they would enjoy using the most.

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## Discussion Questions

1. Why are dams and reservoirs an important tools for water managers in deserts like Utah?
2. What types of natural disasters can dams and reservoirs help protect communities from?
3. How can dams and reservoirs be used to help balance the needs of nature, agriculture, industry, and households?

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## Diving Deeper

If time allows, use Google Maps to show students the different dams and reservoirs located in their community.

