Aral Sea Crisis

**Directions**: After watching the videos, read the chapter 26 ‘The Aral Sea’ in *Geography Alive!* Pg. 379-386. Then, answer the following questions in complete sentences. You must think about the answers! ---You may work in groups, but you must turn in your own paper!

**Vocabulary, pg. 381**

*Environmental degradation*:

*Groundwater*:

*Salinization*:

*Water Stress*:

*Irrigation*: The watering of land for agriculture (growing crops).

Why have the waters of the Aral receded (dried up)? Who is responsible?

What environmental problems have resulted?

What human costs have been a result (Examples of disease, deaths, economic problems)?

Soviets leaders said that the “Aral had to die as a soldier in the war of progress.” What do you think this means? Do you agree or disagree?

Have you heard of the Aral Sea Crisis before? If you have not, why do you think this is the case?
What has been done already to save the Aral Sea? Is it working?

What are the 4 ‘thirsty’ crops described on pg. 387?

What areas of the world are most likely to experience water stress?

Answer in one paragraph (3-5 sentences). Remember, do not use "I"!

Water is arguably the most important natural resource in the world. As the human population increases, particularly in arid and semi-arid environments, so does the demand for fresh water.

Sources such as Lake Baikal in Russia and the Great Lakes in North America might soon be at risk of also being depleted, as demand continues to grow. What can we learn from the Aral Crisis?