

VCE GEOGRAPHY: More Than a River: The Murray-Darling System and its People.

This DVD is available from the Murray-Darling Basin Commission. Visit the website www.mdbc.gov.au and choose *Publications* on the front page and once in the *Publications* section choose *General Categories*, followed by *About MDBC*. The DVD is free.

Key terms:

Irrigation: is the replacement or supplementation of rainfall with water from another source in order to grow crops. In contrast, agriculture that relies only on direct rainfall is sometimes referred to as dryland farming.

Riparian Zone: the band of land beside a stream or other water body. A well-vegetated riparian area is important for a number of reasons. The root systems of streamside plants provide stability for the soil, helping to prevent erosion. The overhanging plants provide cover for protection, shade to maintain cool water temperatures, and food for fish and wildlife. Streamside plants also help to filter surface water flows to water bodies, especially sediments.

1: As you watch the film, identify some of the following:

Geographic Characteristics (Images) of the Basin region and the subregions	Conflicts between users. Identify the stakeholders
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2: What **spatial interaction** exists between the MDB and the rest of Australia?

3: Why were paddle steamers important to the Murray?

4: Why did they cease to be important?

5: What impact did the paddle steamers have on the environment of the Murray?

6: What **spatial interaction** exists between the river and the floodplains?

7: Complete the following table:

Location	Water Use/Issues	Effects of use
Yarrawonga		
Deniliquin		
Kyabram		
Echuca		
Gunbower Forest		
Condamine River		
Cubby Station		

Bourke		
Broken Hill		
Mildura		
Banrock Station		
Renmark		
Morgan		
Goolwa/Coorong		

8: Management Techniques Used in the MDB

Technique	Purpose
Dam (Hume Dam)	
Locks	
Horseshoe Lagoon (Albury)	
Irrigation Channels	
Salt Interception Schemes	

Barrages (Goolwa)	
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9: Examples of Optimism / Plans for the Future

Strategy	Purpose
Charlie Carp Factory	
Banrock Station Winery	
Lindeman's Winery	
Living Murray Initiative (2002)	

10: What is the significance of each of the following?

River Red Gums _____

Murray Cod _____

Snags _____

Variability of Flow _____
