

Aswan Dam Debate

Watch this video about the Aswan Dam:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XQemwpwqwtA>

The Nile is still very important in Egypt today, both for transport & for irrigation of the land. However the Nile no longer floods the land each year to keep the soil fertile (remember how important this was for the people in Ancient Egypt); the amount of water flowing downstream today is controlled by the Aswan High Dam, so there is a constant supply of water & no risk of flooding or drought.

We are going to hold a debate to decide whether or not the building of the Aswan High Dam was a good idea.

You may argue for or against the construction of the dam. Make sure you write your points to consider in your book. You could take on roles of farmer, doctor, fisherman, displaced person, construction worker, tourist boat operator, archaeologist, etc. as well as the people in authority involved in making the decision.

Task 1:

Write the following subheading and include some of your ideas in bullet form:

Pros for building the Aswan Dam: (Why you SHOULD)

-
-
-

Cons for building the Aswan Dam: (Why you SHOULDN'T)

-
-
-

Now, pick a side! Tomorrow, you will begin to write your persuasive debate.

Task 2:

Today, you will begin to write your debate. Draw on all your knowledge on Ancient Egypt so far to write a persuasive debate. Remember: you must persuade the reader to do something about your opinion!

Example:

Hello, my name is ----- and I am a farmer in Egypt. I think building the Aswan Dam was a ----- idea because...

I also believe...

Features of a debate:

- Has a question as a title
- Usually starts with an opening statement introducing the issue
- Arguments for or against
- Concluding what you want the audience to do/what action to take
- Written in third person, present tense and formal tone of voice