**About Uganda**

Uganda is a country in central Africa. It is a land-locked country but contains many lakes and rivers.

It has ecosystems that are home to a large number of different species (they have a high biodiversity). One method of protecting these species is to have protected areas where people cannot hunt or build. Uganda has 60 of these areas, including ten national parks which are open to visitors.

Uganda is one of the poorest countries in the world but the government has plans to increase the amount of money Uganda has. One way is by increasing the amount of electricity it generates. Currently, 80% of electricity is provided by hydroelectric power, generated using dams built on rivers. The rest is provided by two fossil-fuel power plants. However, only 12% of the population has access to electricity. The rest depend on wood and charcoal for fuel, which they get from local forests.

**Your task**

The Ugandan government wants to build a new hydroelectric dam. It could increase access to electricity, but it could also have negative impacts on local people and the environment.

Use the information on this page plus the links below to carry out research to write a balanced argument.

This includes arguments for and against the building of the new dam. You should consider environmental, economic and social impacts.

**Useful websites**

Ecotourism or hydroelectricity in Uganda? goo.gl/FmwjRq

Arguments against a dam in Uganda www.isimbadam.com

https://www.oxfordsparks.ox.ac.uk/content/conserving-nature
Key Stage 3

Dam dilemma

Student worksheet

How to write a balanced argument

1. Write the dilemma or question you are discussing at the top.

2. Do your research on the topic. Write some arguments for and against.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Should we...</th>
<th>Arguments for</th>
<th>Arguments against</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type of issue</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>About ecosystems</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economic</td>
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<td>About money</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

3. Write your argument:

   Paragraph 1: Some background information

   Paragraph 2: Environmental arguments for and against

   Paragraph 3: Economic arguments for and against

   Paragraph 4: Social arguments for and against

   Paragraph 5: Summarise the arguments. You can put your own opinion here if you like.

**Sentence starters:**

- There is evidence that...
- An opinion is...
- However...
- Firstly...
- Finally...
- Research suggests...
- Consequently...
- Although...
- Therefore...
- On the other hand...
- Furthermore...
- For this reason...
- On the contrary...
- Also...
- As a result of this...
- In contrast...
- In addition to this...

**Be careful:** for information to be scientific evidence it must be from an expert on a subject e.g. a scientist specialising in this area or research published in a scientific journal.