

Environmental Issues- Asia

Polluted Waters

Yangtze River

There are large quantities of waste from garbage, factories and toxic materials that are being dumped every day into China's longest river, the Yangtze. This is having extremely negative consequences for its aquatic life (river animals) and fish, according to the first annual health report on the Yangtze River. This river which is the world's third longest river has become a real example of natural disaster, worsening of water quality and loss of biodiversity.

The Three Gorges Dam is found along the Yangtze River.

Ganges River

The Ganges River, often referred to as "the mother river," is a holy river, yet 300 million gallons of waste go into the Ganges each day.

The majority of the Ganges pollution comes from organic waste such as sewage, trash, food, and human, as well as animal remains. India's population boom (overpopulation) has unfortunately been followed with inappropriate waste-control infrastructure. There has been very little effort made to build new sewage systems that do anything other than channel the polluted water back into the river.

Human and animal remains also pose serious environmental and health threats. The Hindu religion has a sacred practice of depositing human remains into the Ganges River. These remains are usually only partially cremated and therefore pose not only environmental, but also serious health threats to local populations, especially when combined with the carcasses of thousands of dead cattle that are also dumped into the river each year.

This level of water pollution makes an ideal breeding ground for many water-borne diseases like cholera, hepatitis, typhoid and amoebic dysentery which are spreading among the 350 million who live along its shores or bathe in its waters. According to some estimates, 80% of all health problems and one-third of all deaths in India are a result of different water-borne diseases.

In 1985 the Indian government launched a plan to clean up the river, calling it the "Ganges Action Plan". The original idea was to clean up the river in selected areas by installing sewage treatment plants and threatening to fine and take legal action against industries that were polluting the river. This plan turned out to be one great failure because it tried to adapt Western style solutions to what turned out to be a non-adaptive region. Since then more than \$ 300 million has been spent to repair or create new sewage and infrastructure, but with few results for the continuing problem.

1. Write in your own words the causes for the pollution in the Yangtze River.
2. Write in your own words the causes for the pollution in the Ganges River.

3. What are the effects of the water pollution in these rivers?

AIR POLLUTION

The ASIAN BROWN CLOUD is a layer of air pollution that covers parts of South Asia. It is created by a range of airborne particles and pollutants from such things as wood fires, car exhaust fumes, factories smoke stacks, biogas burning and industrial processes. Biogas 'bio gas' is animal dung that is used as a fuel for cooking in the more rural areas. Massive overpopulation in countries like China and India make the problem even worse. The cloud is associated with the dry winter monsoon winds (November to April) during which there is no rain to wash pollutants from the air.

The consequences of this air pollution have led to respiration, lung and breathing problems. People in Asia are often seen wearing surgical masks to cover their nose and mouth to avoid inhaling the polluted air.

POLLUTION CAUSES NEGATIVE ISSUES FOR THE ECONOMY AND THE PEOPLE.

4. In your own words what are the causes of the air pollution?

5. What are the consequences?

FLOODING

Flooding is mainly caused by the wet monsoons and limited water control in the rivers. The rivers rise during this wet season and overflow. The consequences of this flooding are a loss of life, damage to buildings and infrastructure and crops being washed away. Landslides can also result.

Reminder- Monsoons are large wind masses that occur seasonally. There is a wet season and a dry season. North to South=DRY--Wind moves over Himalayas- moisture is lost - resulting in dry winds.

South to North= WET- Wind moves up from the ocean and results in heavy rains. Monsoons- Have the most influence on Asia's climate.

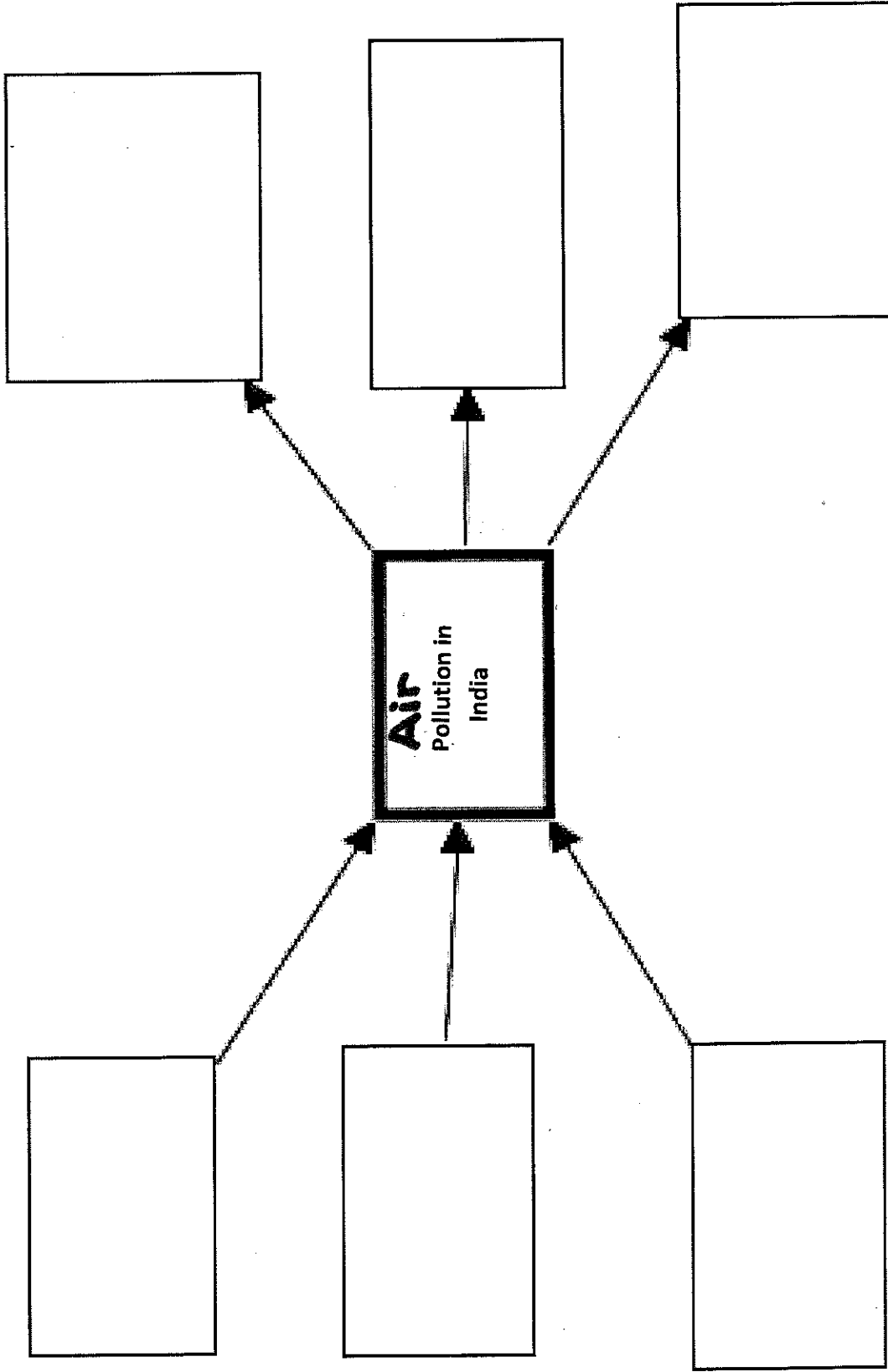
WHY PEOPLE LIVE WHERE THEY LIVE?

- People live close to water and fertile plains- rivers/ coast lines/ oceans/ seas/ bays etc. Water is a FACILITATOR. Helps grow crops. Supports trade/ transport.
- Live away from mountains and deserts. Hard to farm/ trade difficult. Farming on mountains is done by terracing the hillsides (making it like stairs!)

Most people live in eastern China- near the rivers/coast, away from the deserts and mountains that are in the west. The resources are located in the east as well. Therefore, most of the industries have developed in the eastern region of China.

EFFECTS

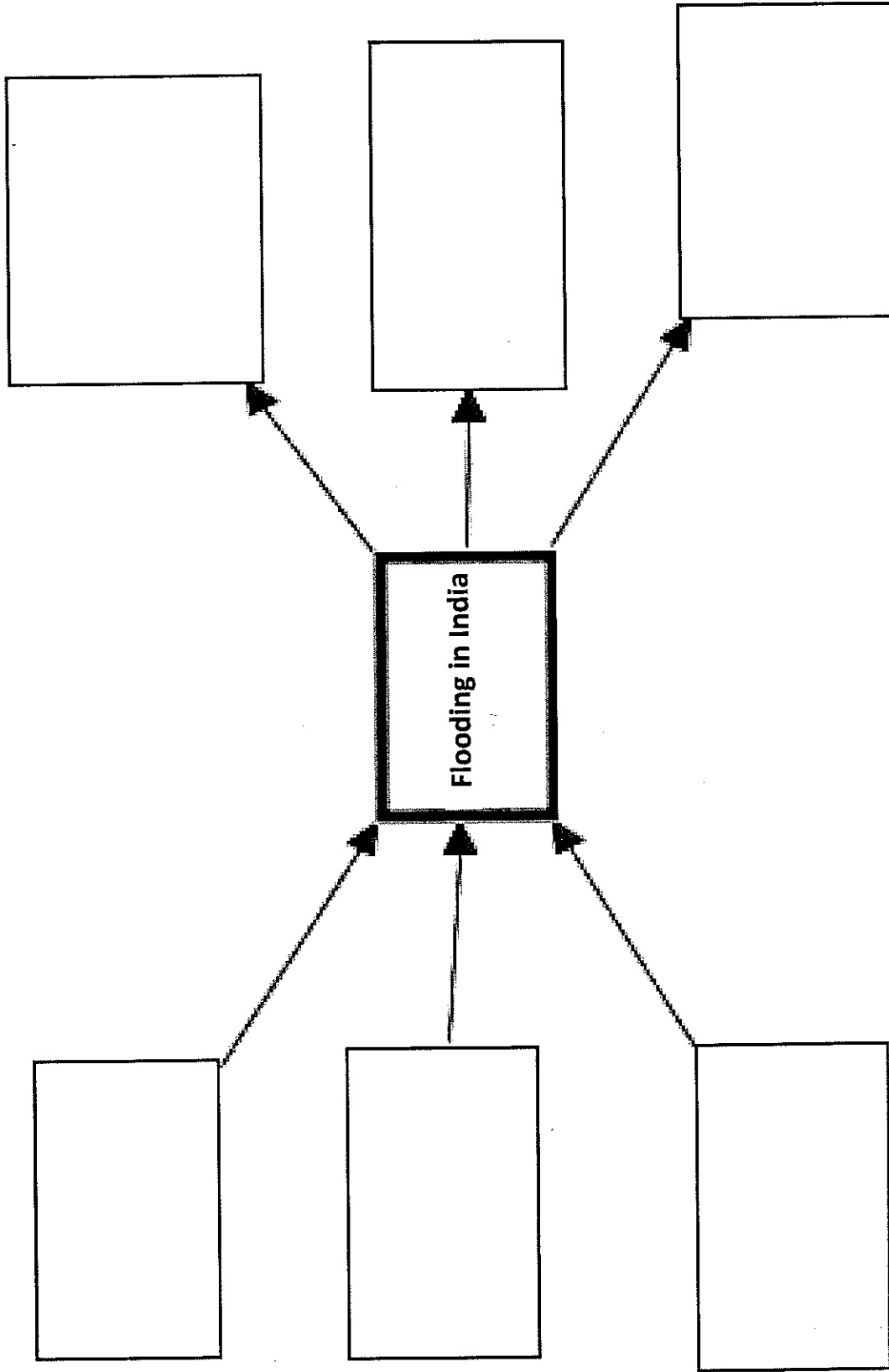
Causes and Effects of Pollution in India



CAUSES

EFFECTS

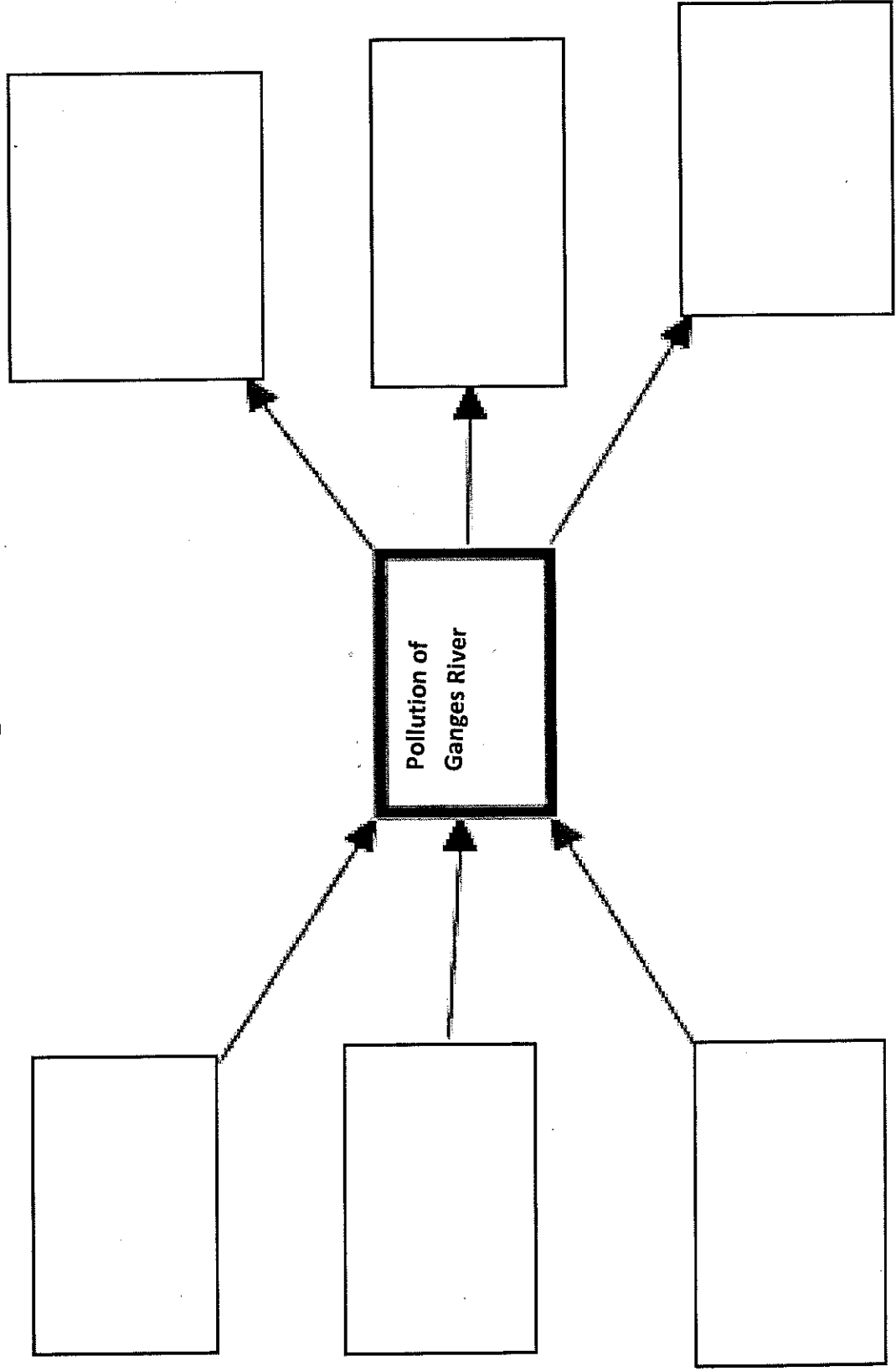
Causes and Effects of flooding in India.



CAUSES

EFFECTS

Causes and Effects of Pollution on the Ganges River.



CAUSES