

THE THREE GORGES DAM

China is a distant and ancient land, full of history and culture, but often unknown to Western countries. Over the years, there was a succession of lords who ruled that distant kingdom, there were countless battles in that place, but over time the land found some stability.

China is the most populous country in the world, but not many years ago, all those people were living below the poverty line. However, over the past century, it has become the Asian giant, the second economic power in the world.

This economic miracle has led to improvements in the country's infrastructure, and among its projects is one that particularly catches the eye: The Three Gorges Dam. The Three Gorges Dam is a hydroelectric plant located on the Yangtze River in China. It is the largest hydroelectric plant in the world in terms of both area and installed capacity. The project has cost more than any other construction project in history, around \$75 billion.

At its maximum capacity, the dam holds the water at 91 meters above the river level (approximately the height of the Statue of Liberty from the ground to the torch). This is equivalent to a weight of water similar to that of 420 million blue whales concentrated in a small enough area to alter the Earth's axis by two centimeters, as indicated by NASA experts. This has caused days to become slightly longer (although hardly noticeable).

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1.- What river is the dam built on?

2.- What is the dam used for?

3.- What effects has the construction of the Three Gorges Dam had?

