

THE TRUE DEAD SEA

Megaprojects are huge and complex construction projects that challenge the limits of engineering and architecture. These massive structures can range from imposing skyscrapers to giant dams and colossal bridges.

Throughout history, we have witnessed impressive megaprojects, such as the mysterious pyramids of Egypt. Contrary to theories suggesting that they were the work of aliens, it would be more reasonable to imagine that they were megaprojects designed and carried out by talented individuals, whose wisdom was lost over time.

However, we must consider that these types of constructions can alter the environment. Throughout history, there have been other grand pharaonic projects that could have been a true catastrophe. Did you know that there was a project to build a dam in the Strait of Gibraltar and thus drain the entire Mediterranean Sea? Fortunately, it was not carried out. Nevertheless, in history, there was a megaproject that caused the disappearance of a sea: the Aral Sea.

In the 1960s and 1970s, the Soviet Union diverted the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers, which fed the Aral Sea, to irrigate extensive cotton fields in Central Asia. This massive water diversion drastically reduced the water flow, leading to the disappearance of the Aral Sea and the desertification of the region.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1.- What is a megaproject?

2- How did the cotton megaproject affect the Aral Sea?

3- Do you think it is important to consider the environment before undertaking these projects?

