


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Investigating Hydroelectric Power Dams with My World GIS Investigation Sheet

Hydropower is energy that comes from the force of moving water. Most hydroelectric power plants are developed at dams. In this activity, you will use My World GIS to study and analyze hydroelectric power dams. You will

1. Query and analyze features of US hydroelectric power dams.
2. Query and analyze features of the 10 most powerful US hydroelectric power dams.
3. Create a new layer containing Pennsylvania hydroelectric power dams.
4. Query and analyze features of Pennsylvania hydroelectric power dams.

Read **all** instructions on your handout and answer **each** question.

1. What is the name of the **oldest** dam? \_\_\_\_\_  
**Helpful hint:** Sort the YEAR COMPLETED column in ascending order.
2. Which year was the oldest dam completed? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the name of the **most recently** built dam? \_\_\_\_\_  
**Helpful hint:** Sort the YEAR COMPLETED column in descending order.
4. How many dams were completed between **1990-1997**? \_\_\_\_\_  
**Helpful hint:** Sort the YEAR COMPLETED column in descending order.
5. What is the name of the tallest dam? \_\_\_\_\_  
Helpful hint: Sort the HEIGHT ft column in descending order.  
Which state is it located in? \_\_\_\_\_  
What is its height? \_\_\_\_\_
6. How many dams are between 300 and 500 feet high? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What region of the US do you see dams highlighted in bright pink? \_\_\_\_\_
8. **Zoom In**  **closely** to that area and count how many dams are on the Columbia River? \_\_\_\_\_  
Use the Dams on Columbia River data table to check your answer.
9. What is the size of the **largest dam reservoir** on the Columbia River? \_\_\_\_\_
10. How many different **watersheds** have dams on the Columbia River? \_\_\_\_\_
11. How many **different rivers** are the top 10 most powerful dams located on? \_\_\_\_\_
12. How many **dams** are located on the Columbia River? \_\_\_\_\_
13. Which states have more than one of the biggest power generating dams?  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. Which is the **most powerful** dam? \_\_\_\_\_
15. What is the dam's **capacity in megawatts (MW)**? \_\_\_\_\_

16. How many hydroelectric power dams are in Pennsylvania? \_\_\_\_\_

17. Which is the **oldest** dam? \_\_\_\_\_

**Helpful hint:** Sort the YEAR COMPLETED column in ascending order.

18. Which is the **most recently** built dam? \_\_\_\_\_

**Helpful hint:** Sort the YEAR COMPLETED column in descending order.

19. Which is the shortest dam? \_\_\_\_\_

What is its height? \_\_\_\_\_

**Helpful hint:** Sort the HEIGHT ft column in ascending order.

20. Which is the tallest dam? \_\_\_\_\_

What is its height? \_\_\_\_\_

**Helpful hint:** Sort the HEIGHT ft column in descending order.

21. How many different watersheds have dams? \_\_\_\_\_

22. How many hydroelectric power dams are on the Susquehanna River? \_\_\_\_\_

23. Which dam has the biggest reservoir? \_\_\_\_\_

**Helpful hint:** Sort the RESERVOIR acre feet column in descending order.