

Task 1: Read and translate the text. Write out unknown words into your vocabulary:

Rivers and Lakes of Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan has 8,500 small and large rivers with the Ural, Emba, Syr Darya, Irtysh, Ischim and Tobol as the largest. 48,000 lakes complete this water paradise. Very impressive are the numerous fresh and salt water steppe lakes and the only inland sea in the world (2,340 km of Caspian Sea Coast). They make Kazakhstan unique as a water destination. Major lakes are the Aral, Balkhash, Saisan, Alakol, Tengiz and Seletengiz.



Lake Balkhash

There is a legend saying that a rich man, Balkhash, had a beautiful daughter, Ili. Once, Balkhash held a feast and promised to give the winner of the contest his daughter as a wife. Ili loved the shepherd, Karatal. She helped Karatal win the contest of the grooms, but Balkhash didn't want to give Ili to him. And so the young lovers ran away. As the angry father could not catch the fugitives, he turned them into rivers and himself into a lake between them ...



Big Almaty Lake

Upon studying a map of the Zhungar Alatau foothills, you might think that if there is a Big Almaty Lake, then a small one should exist somewhere nearby. But this is not the case. Big Almaty Lake has no close relatives, so to speak. It is one of a kind. It is proudly referred to as the closest mountain lake to the outskirts of Almaty ...



Irtysh River

The black Irtysh River flows into Zaisan Lake in the east, after coming from China. The river flows through exotic desert landscapes. Its right bank is steep and abrupt. The left is gently sloping with sandy beaches. River flood plains are overgrown with forests, consisting of great popular trees and shrubs. This is the kingdom of bears, roe deer and pheasants ...



Kolsay Lakes

The Kolsai Lakes are one of the treasures of the Northern Tien Shan. These three picturesque mountain lakes, set among steep pine-clad slopes, are nestled into a spur of the Kungei Alatau. This is a wonderful place for hiking, camping and mountain biking. The lowest lake, at 1818m, stretches for 1 km. It is accessible by road and there are comfortable guesthouses and campsites ...

Answer the questions:

1. What is the amount of rivers in Kazakhstan?

2. **Why, according to the legend, lake Balkhash is situated between the rivers Ili and Karatal?**
3. **Are there any lakes around Big Almaty Lake?**
4. **Where is a Big Almaty Lake located?**
5. **Where does Irtysh River come from?**
6. **What is the left bank of Irtysh lake like?**
7. **Who inhabit in the forests?**
8. **What activities can you do near Kolsay Lakes?**
9. **Where can you stay if you come to Kolsay Lakes?**
10. **Where are Kolsay Lakes located?**