

My country. Our world.
Saving the Aral Sea

1. Complete the text with six of the verbs. Then listen and check your answers.

SB English Plus 8 page 16 ex.1 track 1.16

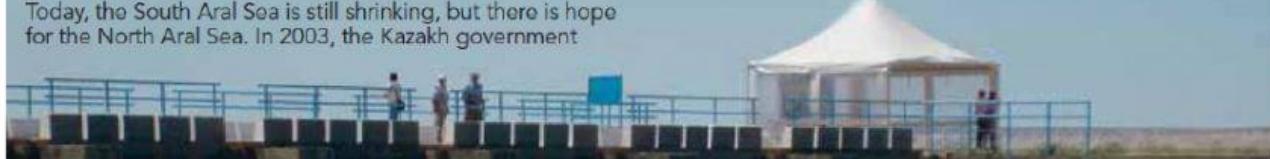
Saving the Aral Sea

Lakes and seas are disappearing around the world, partly as a result of climate change, but mainly because of human activity. Less than seventy years ago, the Aral Sea was one of the biggest lakes on Earth. It had an area of about 68,000 km². Then in the 1960s, people built canals to ¹ ____ cotton fields in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. They used ^{a large amount of} water from the Syr Darya and the Amu Darya, the two big rivers which flow into the lake. As ^{both} rivers got smaller, the Aral Sea started to ² _____, too. By 1997, it was only 30,000 km² – less than ^{half} its original size. Some areas completely dried up and the lake ³ _____ into ^{several} parts. The biggest are the North Aral Sea in Kazakhstan and the South Aral Sea which crosses both Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

Today, the South Aral Sea is still shrinking, but there is hope for the North Aral Sea. In 2003, the Kazakh government

and the World Bank started working on a project to ⁴ _____ the northern part of the lake. The first step was to build the Kok-Aral Dam between the northern and southern parts of the lake. The dam was completed in 2005. Additional structures built on or around the Syr Darya allow more water from the river to ⁵ _____ into the lake.

The project was very successful and the North Aral Sea is slowly coming back to life. Water levels have begun to ⁶ _____ in recent years. When the lake shrank, it became very salty and ^{all} the 24 freshwater fish species disappeared, but now ^{a small number of} species are back. Fishermen are hoping that one day there will be ^{plenty of} fish in the water again.



<i>restore</i>	<i>litter</i>
<i>irrigate</i>	<i>flow</i>
<i>shrink</i>	<i>increase</i>
<i>split</i>	<i>harm</i>

<i>1</i>	
<i>2</i>	
<i>3</i>	
<i>4</i>	
<i>5</i>	
<i>6</i>	

2. Read and listen to the text. Write true or false.

- 1 The Aral Sea was the largest lake in the world.
- 2 The North Aral sea is in Uzbekistan.
- 3 The Kok-Aral Dam separates the North and South Aral Seas.
- 4 Today, there are no fish in the North Aral Sea.
- 5 Local people think it is possible to save the lake.

3. Choose the correct words.

- 1 There is a large _____ of rubbish on this beach.
- 2 It's only two o'clock. We've got _____ of time.
- 3 _____ my parents are scientists.
- 4 There are _____ small lakes in this area.
- 5 I haven't got any money. I sent _____ of it.