

What is Dam, Definition and Uses of Dams

What is Dam

Definition of Dam is as an obstruction constructed across a stream or river. At the back of this barrier water is collected forming a pool. The side on which water is collected is called upstream side and the other side of the barrier is called downstream side. The pool of water which is formed upstream is called a Reservoir.

Uses of Dams and Reservoirs

Following are the uses of Dams

- The water collected in the lake can be used for recreation, as a reservoir of drinking water or it can be supplied to the surrounding farm land through canals for irrigation.
- The energy of this collected water can be used to turn a mill to grind wheat or to turn the blades of a turbine to generate electrical power.
- In times of floods, uses of dams can serve as protections for the towns and cities downstream of the river.
- Apart from these advantages dams are very significant in times of war. As they help in planning war strategies and in controlling the advancement of enemy forces.