

Physical Geography of Russia

Russia and the Independent Republics





-The land area of Russia and the Republics covers three times the land area of the United States

-This area contains four regions:

-Northern European Plain

-West Siberian Plain

-Central Siberian Plateau

-Russian Far East

Northern European Plain



Northern European Plain

-Stretches from the Western border of Russia and the Republics to the Ural Mountains

-Contains chernozem, the world's most fertile soil



Northern European Plain

-Nearly 75% of the 290 million people living in Russia and the Republics live in this region

-Three of the largest cities of Russia and the Republics are located in this region:

-Moscow

-St. Petersburg

-Kiev

West Siberian Plain



West Siberian Plain

-Located between the Ural Mountains and Yenisey River

-Some consider the Ural Mountains to be the dividing line between Europe and Asia

-Others consider Europe and Asia to be a single continent called Eurasia

Central Siberian Plateau



Central Siberian Plateau

-Located between the Yenisey River and Lena River

-Contains plateaus with average heights of 1,000 to 2,000 feet

Siberian
cats!!!!!!!1!!



Central Siberian Plateau



Russian Far East



Russian Far East

-Located east of the Lena River

-This region contains volcanoes, both active and inactive

Additional Regions

-Transcaucasia: a regions that consists of the countries of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia

-Central Asia: region that includes the countries of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan

Lakes of Russia and the Republics

-Two of the largest lakes in the region are the Caspian Sea and the Aral Sea

-Both are actually saltwater lakes

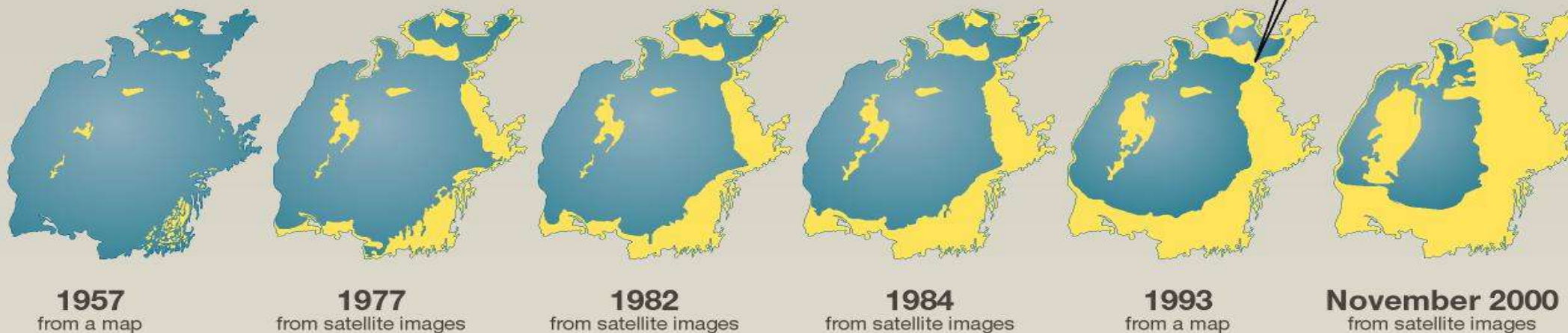
-Since the 1960s, the Aral Sea has lost 80% of its water volume due to irrigation projects

-Lake Baikal in Russia is the deepest lake in the world

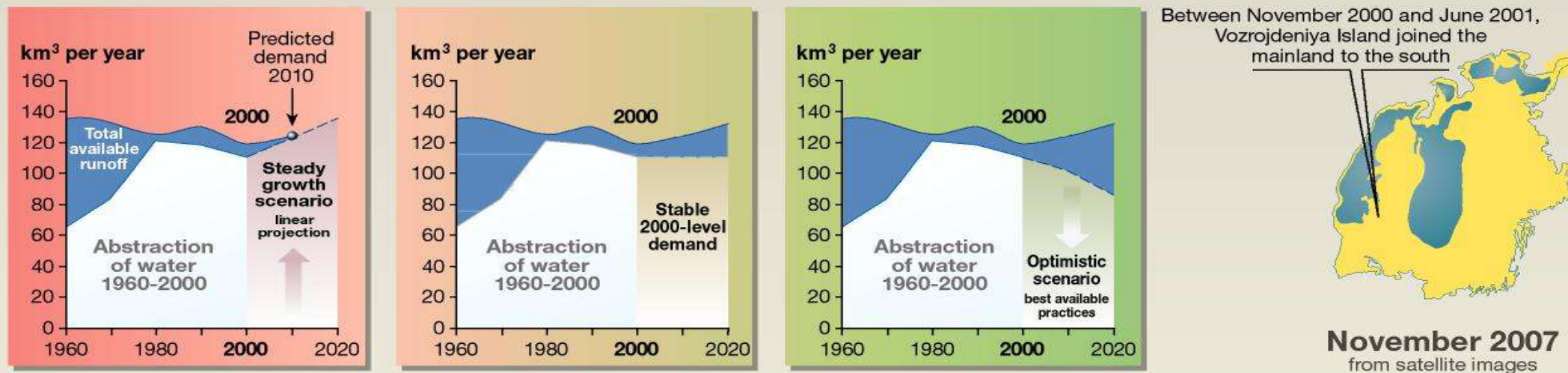
- Runs 400 miles north to south

- Holds 20% of the world's fresh water

What has happened...



What could happen...



Sources: Nikolai Denisov, GRID-Arendal, Norway (especially for the graphics below); Scientific Information Center of International Coordination Water Commission (SIC ICWC); International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS); The World Bank; National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA); United States Geological Survey (USGS), *Earthshots : Satellite images of environmental change*, United States Department of the Interior, 2000.

Natural Resources of Russia and the Republics

-This area contains reserves of coal and natural gas as well as deposits of iron ore

-Russia's forests contain one-fifth of the world's lumber

-Many resources are located in Siberia, an arctic/subarctic region of Russia

-Conditions in this region make it extremely difficult to extract resources