

Class:

Name:

Date:

The Onondaga Lake Watershed from the Mid-1700s to the Present

In the left hand column of the chart below are major causes of environmental damage to Onondaga Lake. For each cause of environmental damage, list its specific environmental effects in the right hand column.

Major causes of environmental damage to the lake	Specific environmental effects
Salt production	
Dredging of lake's outlet	
Development of lakeshore	
Industrial pollution	
Municipal sewage pollution	



How Have People Interacted with Onondaga Lake Through History?

Directions: Use the chart to answer the questions below.

Historical Interactions with Onondaga Lake	Present Day Interactions with Onondaga Lake
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sacred and historic site ● Link to travel, trade, and communication routes ● Source of food (animals and plants were harvested) ● Source of ice and drinkable water ● Recreation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Swimming ○ Boating ○ Lakeshore attractions ○ Sport fishing ● Source of raw materials for industry and for sale at markets (Examples: salt, fish) ● Waste disposal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sacred and historic site ● Link to travel routes ● Recreation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Boating ○ Lakeshore attractions ○ Sport fishing ○ (Swimming in Onondaga Lake is not encouraged because of unhealthy levels of pollution.) ● Waste disposal ● Strict limits on the amount of local fish that people can eat because the fish have been contaminated with toxins

What are some differences between the ways that people interacted with Onondaga Lake in the past and the ways they interact with the lake today? _____

How do you think those changes have affected the people living in the lake's watershed? _____

