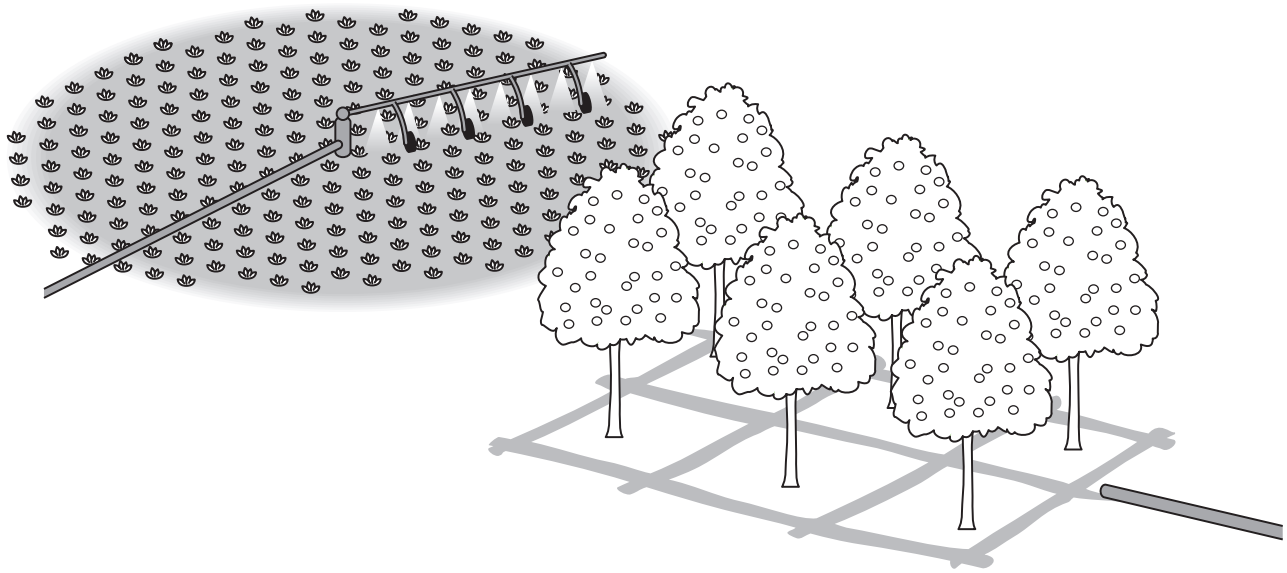
6 A

Name:..... **Form:**.....

See **pages 14 and 15** of *The Water Book*

Big users!

Farmers, power stations and factories are the biggest users of water – not homes.



Q1. What is it called when farmers use water to help their plants to grow?

✎ .....

Q2. Some ways of watering fields use large amounts of water. Name the two ways shown in the diagram above.

1 ✎ .....

2 ✎ .....

Q3. What does a gas, oil or coal power station use water for?

✎ .....

Q4. The biggest users of water need to make sure they have water when it is needed. Where do they store their water?

✎ .....

6 A Answers, Notes, Background

See **pages 14 and 15** of *The Water Book*

Answers

1. **Irrigation.**

2. **Flood irrigation (right) and spray irrigation (left).**

3. **Cooling the generators.**

4. **In reservoirs.**

Notes

Most children will not have given much thought to who else might use water besides themselves. So this page is designed to provide some examples of the users that consume most of the world's water.

The examples and illustrations are chosen because they are simple and easy to see. But it is important to point out to children the scale of these operations. Get them to look, for example, at the size of the dam in Picture 1 in the textbook (it is a dam on the Colorado River in the USA).

It also makes sense to think of reservoirs as huge storage tanks, and in this context it follows on from the previous spread.

The UK does not use as much water for irrigation as many other countries, and for this reason children may not be very familiar with it. But most will probably have seen the cooling towers of a power station. The cooling towers are condensers. Water is fed in at the top in the form of a hot spray. As it falls down over the slats in the tower, the water is cooled by water passing up the tower. This is an interesting example of part of the water cycle, for a little of the water evaporates as it falls. At the same time, by exchanging heat with the air, it warms the air and this causes it to rise. The rising air then pops up from the top of the towers and cools in the surroundings. The cool air then forms clouds.

Water is only added to top up that which evaporates. This is about three per cent of the total in circulation in the power station. However, some power stations do without towers and use river water. When they do this they may use nearly all of the river – although, of course, they send it out again almost at once.