

Critical Thinking Skills Activity

The logo for 'networks' features the word in a bold, lowercase sans-serif font. A stylized graphic of intersecting lines, resembling a network or starburst, is positioned behind the letter 'o'.

Andes and Midlatitude Countries

Predicting Consequences

Learning the Skill

Predicting consequences is an essential skill when studying geography. As you read, you need to ask questions, such as "What would likely happen under these circumstances? What are the possible outcomes if these actions continue?" When predicting consequences, you carefully analyze situations or events, add that analysis to what you already know, and then use a combination of logic and imagination to make a mental model about the possible outcomes. Predicting consequences becomes easier with education, practice, and life experience. For example, the first time you ride a bike to school, you may not know how long it will take or what the ride will be like. But with experience, you will be able to predict the consequences of actions, such as leaving at a certain time means you avoid traffic, or riding fast means you arrive at school sweaty.

Practicing the Skill

Directions: Read the passage and answer the questions.

Chile is a major player in the world's salmon farming industry. In 2007 the country exported 1.3 million tons of fish (1.2 metric tons), making it the world's second largest producer of farmed salmon after Norway. Success, though, has created its share of problems. In Chile the fish are raised in giant cages that are kept in coastal ocean water. Fish raised in cramped cages pollute the ocean floor. Living crowded together amid their own waste also makes the fish prone to illness. Critics of the farms say that the fish are given large amounts of antibiotics and other chemicals to keep them from getting sick. However, these medications were not enough to prevent disaster. In 2007 a viral disease swept through Chile's salmon farms, almost wiping out the entire industry. Between 2008 and 2010, salmon exports shrank significantly. Many Chileans who worked in the salmon industry lost their jobs.

In 2008 it was determined that salmon eggs imported from Norway were the source of the infection. Salmon producers took action. By 2010 a vaccine had been approved, and new laws regarding salmon farms had been passed. Regulations controlling the importation of salmon eggs and ensuring sanitation have successfully controlled the disease.

1. a. What was the consequence in 2007 of importing salmon eggs to Chile?

Critical Thinking Activity *cont.*



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b. What might have been the consequence if Chile had exported salmon eggs during 2007 to 2009?

2 a. What was the consequence of the salmon virus on salmon farm workers?

b. What might have been the consequence of this on the workers' families?

Applying the Skill

Directions: Answer the questions.

1. Salmon are ravenous predators and are not native to the South Pacific. What are possible consequences of salmon escaping from Chilean fish farms?

2. When people eat salmon treated with antibiotics, the drugs may be passed on to them. What is one possible consequence of this?

Juan Carlos Cardenas is the director of Centro Ecoceanos, an organization that works to protect marine life. For years, the center has been working to improve the production methods of Chile's fishing industry. The center teaches local fisheries how to catch more fish using traditional methods. It also conducts research and educates the public about how fish farms affect ecosystems. Cardenas says there is still much work to do. He is encouraged that consumers are learning about the health risks associated with eating cage-bred fish. Cardenas hopes that if people buy fewer farmed fish, the lower sales will force the fish industry to make changes in how it operates.

3. List three possible consequences if Cardenas's efforts are successful.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____