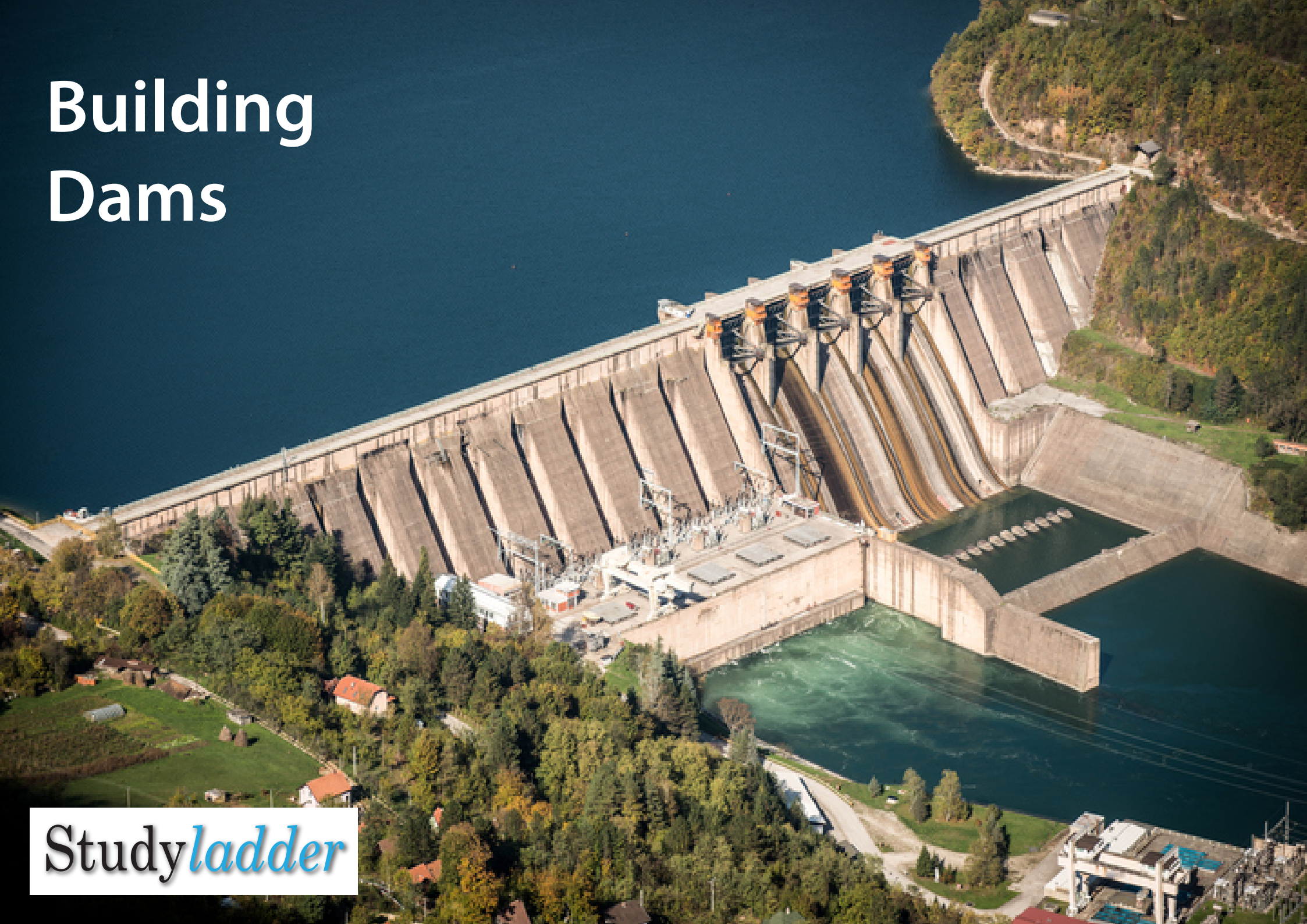


Building Dams



Reservoirs

When a dam is built on a river it floods the area behind it. The body of water that is created in the catchment area is called a reservoir.

Reservoirs are used to supply communities with fresh drinking water. The water is sent to a treatment plant to be filtered and treated to kill bacteria to ensure that it is safe to drink. Then it is transported through large pipes to regional communities.

In periods of low rainfall the water level in the reservoir will drop. This exposes the land around the border of the reservoir. There can be a dramatic difference in water levels. Sometimes you might see exposed dead trees when dam levels are low. These trees would be covered with water when the reservoir is at full capacity.

Study *ladder*



Dams are not only built to provide a supply of water for the population. They are also built as a means of generating hydroelectric power.

Hydroelectric power stations, located at the foot of a dam house turbines that generate electricity. Water from the dam is dropped from great heights to turn the turbines.

Hydroelectric power is a form of green energy. Generating hydroelectricity does not produce emissions that contribute to climate change. It is considered a clean method of power production.

