Brianna Rocquemore

6-2-13

World History 1 Honors/4th period

Mr. Laitio

 Human environment interactions have affected the world in numerous ways. Human environment interaction is the interaction between humans and their environment, usually this causes a change within the environment or within the human population. Just about every place on Earth has gone through some kind of change that was caused by human-environment interaction, and so has just about every civilization on Earth. The type of interaction determines how dramatic the environmental changes are. Different interactions include, but are not limited to, humans making travel on land easier, humans making travel through water easier, and people trying to “tame” or dry up major rivers/streams.

 Human civilizations have been attempting to make land travel easier for centuries. However, back in the day, people didn’t have the idea to blast through a mountain, or build roads. In the past, they might have just got strong men to move boulders out of the way in order to make a straight path to their destination. But over time, people discovered that going through something was a lot easier and quicker than going around it. So this is when they started to blast away mountains and other natural, environmental obstacles. Even though people eventually discovered this solution, it still took thousands of years for them to figure this out. Some of the most used tunnels in the United States weren’t even built until the mid 1900s.

 Not only have humans sought to make land travel easier, but they’ve also found out how to invent faster water travel as well. When civilizations first started seeking a way to cross rivers/streams, they had to find the safest part of the water to cross at. This required a lot of time and energy, and people soon grew tired of having to exhaust themselves before even crossing the water. Also, since trade was becoming very popular, they needed to find quicker ways to make use of the water. They soon began thinking of ways to get around this time-consuming problem. This was when humans constructed bridges, which allowed them to cross the water while keeping their goods and property completely dry and intact. But with the river height still being a problem to people, they soon invented locks and dams in order to conquer this problem as well. This enabled them to make boat travel easier too. But in some cases, simply gaining control of the rivers/streams weren’t enough.

 With the human population expanding rapidly, they needed more and more living space for families. Soon, the human population started spilling over towards rivers and large bodies of water again. But living around the water still didn’t allow the population to have enough space, and during the hurricane season, being so close to the water proved disastrous in some areas. People’s homes were flooded, items were destroyed, and humans and animals died. This was when humans started moving or drying up the bodies of water. This solution seemed to work for awhile, however the rivers/lakes wanted to flow in their natural path, and so this solution was also a problem in the long run. It caused problems because the moving or drying up of large bodies of water needed constant attention and work. All of this work required a lot of money to back it up, and sometimes it wasn’t always available.

 As you can see, there are many forms of human environment interaction. Over the years, humans have sought easier land and water travel, and solutions to accommodate their rapidly spreading population. These interactions between humans and their environment have had positive as well as negative impacts on both the environment and the human population. The impacts will continue to influence both the world around humans, and people themselves, in years to come.