

Water...
an element of destruction



Vajont



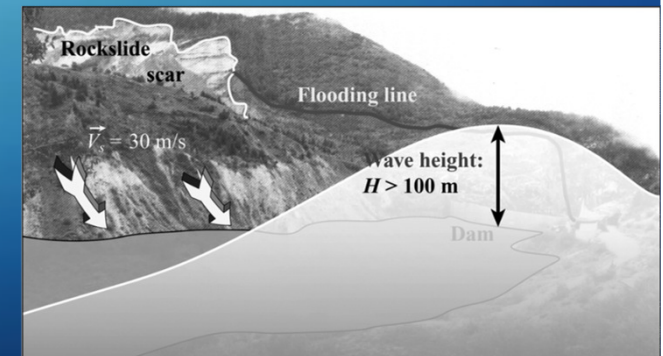
The **Vajont Dam** is in northern Italy, in Pordenone (Friuli-Venezia Giulia). It is one of the tallest dams in the world, with a height of 262 m. The construction started in 1956 and was used to bring hydroelectric energy to Venice.

It is now disused due to the accident that happened on the 9th of October 1963.

The Vajont disaster

On the 9th of October 1963, a piece of Monte Toc (the mountain where the dam was built) collapsed inside the water reservoir creating a megatsunami. It collapsed because the materials the mountain was made of was crumbly. At 10:39 pm, a massive 2 km long landslide fell into the water creating an earthquake. Geologists found that it was all due to a human error.

The water submerged the city causing 1.917 deaths and 1.300 people were reported missing, also creating about 258.228.543 euros of property damage.



Venice

Venice is a city in northeastern Italy and it is built on a group of 118 small islands separated by canals and linked by over 400 bridges. The islands are in the shallow Venetian Lagoon.

This city is visited by 30 million people a year and it is a UNESCO World Heritage. It is very famous for its carnival.



High water in Venice

High water is a natural phenomenon that usually happens during autumn and winter. It doesn't however affect the everyday life of Venetian people.

Events with a tide level higher than 140 cm are considered exceptional and people are alerted with sirens.



MOSE

MOSE is the mobile dam system meant to protect Venice from high water preventing the Adriatic Sea from spreading into the Venetian lagoon in case of high tide. It is used when tides exceed 130 cm. Its construction started in May 2003, it still hasn't been completed but it should be finished by the end of this year. Since October 2020 there have been some completely successful trials.

