

Name _____

Date _____

Grand Banks Cod Free Response

The phrase tragedy of the commons, first described by biologist Garrett Hardin in 1968, describes how shared environmental resources are overused and eventually depleted.

a. Clearly explain how two industrial and/or technological advances helped the Grand Banks become one of the best real life examples of the tragedy of the commons.

b. How did Canadian government subsidization of fisheries help contribute to the decline of the Grand Banks cod? Why does the study of the Grand Banks cod fall within the realms of environmental science rather than just being considered a localized ecological problem?

c. Today, the Barents Sea off the coast of Norway has one of the largest, healthiest stocks of cod in the world. Explain two ways the government of Norway prevented the tragedy of the commons experienced by fishers of the Grand Banks?

d. What is meant by the term maximum sustainable yield? Explain how the overfishing of cod can cause the established government harvest quotas to misrepresent the fishes' overall economic productivity?
