

Lesson 903 – The Lower Colorado River: Dwindling Lifeblood of the Southwest

<https://intheamericas.org/works/903-the-lower-colorado-river-dwindling-lifeblood-of-the-southwest/>

Learning Objective	Discussion Questions	Lesson Activities	Vocabulary
Students will learn about the importance of the Colorado River and the water shortage in the Southwest.	<p>The video uses the analogy that rivers are like veins and arteries. Explain why they are the life blood of our planet.</p> <p>Do you agree that rivers should have the right to remain free from contamination and the right to conservation? Should there be laws that enforce this? Why or why not?</p>	<p>Create a flow chart that illustrates the original four reasons why dams were created and the issues that they were supposed to solve.</p> <p>In the video it is stated, “If there was a river that needed a voice, it was the mighty Colorado.” Create a poem, speech, or story in the voice of the river, incorporating the ideas from the video that rivers have rights.</p>	<p>acre</p> <p>circuitous</p> <p>contested</p> <p>elevation</p>
Social Studies Standard	<p>Explain why Las Vegas is a model for water efficiency. What specific measures have they taken to address water demands and resources?</p>	<p>You have been hired to fix the water problems in a city similar to Las Vegas. Create a water resource plan and list the first five steps you will take in your conservation effort. Explain why each is important.</p>	<p>extractor</p>
Science, Technology & Society: B, E	<p>What are some proactive or innovative solutions to provide water for the 40 million who depend on the Colorado River?</p>	<p>Select 2-3 dams that you think are the most important and plan a learning station activity that will teach others about the history and purpose of each dam.</p>	<p>irrigation</p> <p>marvel</p> <p>meander</p> <p>myriad</p> <p>turbine</p>

Forty million people rely on water released from Lake Mead, on the Colorado River not far from Las Vegas. That booming city, renowned for vice, is also a world leader in water conservation. Far downstream huge canals de-water the river, as farmers look to technology to maintain their productivity, Californians deliver water to their vast population and farmland, and Mexico receives its entitlement. The once-great river and vast wetlands face a dried-out channel.