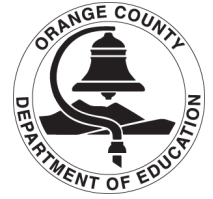




California Water Story Classroom Activity



SYNOPSIS

This introductory activity will help students achieve a better understanding of water as a historical and contemporary issue in California.

OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

- identify significant historical groups and how they used water.
- identify some of the major issues and problems California faces with water.

MATERIALS

- “California Water Story” Video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OzIe7tS1SgQ>)
- Map of California (<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/eei/unitdocs/maps/waterforlife.pdf>)
- California Waterways Map (http://www.water.ca.gov/education/docs/CA%20Waterways%20Map_worksheet_tabloid-4.pdf)
- Pictures of features mentioned in the video
- Student Worksheet
- Poster board or other media to share group work

FOR THE TEACHER

Purpose: Use of the video, map, and suggested questions will facilitate a better understanding of water as a historical and contemporary issue in California. Having this knowledge will maximize your students’ experiences with other water lessons and programs such as those with Inside the Outdoors.

The video* emphasizes the following areas which are critical to understanding water in California:

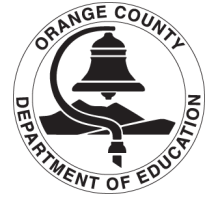
1. significant historical groups
2. interest groups
3. major water issues/problems
4. ways to conserve and find new sources of water

The map of California, which is from the Education and Environment Initiative, is a great resource to identify many of the geographical areas mentioned in the video. You can also use the pictures of some of these areas. We recommend that you watch the video prior to showing it to the class in order to become familiar with the subject matter.

*The video is a little dated, but has great information about the history of California water and is still very relevant.



California Water Story Classroom Activity (cont.)



Pre-Viewing Preparation

1. Divide your students into six groups
2. Assign each group one of the following:
 - Significant Historical Groups
 - Major Water Issues/Problems
 - Key Geographical Areas
 - Interest Groups (Contemporary)
 - Ways to Conserve/New Sources of Water
 - Water Projects/Legislation
3. Instruct your students that they will have an assignment while they watch the video. Ask them to list as many of the individuals and their importance or concepts they see or hear in the categories to which they have been assigned. (See teacher prompts for a list of some discussion points). You can use the student handout for note taking.
4. Show the video, “California Water Story” to your students.

Post-viewing Group Discussion

1. After completing the video, have the students share with their group the concepts they learned and record their answers (~10 minutes). They can record their answers on poster board or some other type of media that will allow them to share with the class.
2. When the groups have finished recording, have a spokesperson quickly review it for the class.
3. At this point, you may want to comment about this video as an example of how historically significant and complex the issue of water is in California.
4. Use the questions below to review the video and stimulate discussion:
 - a. Today, what major factor must also be considered along with maintaining reliable water supplies?
The environment
 - b. Signatures are being collected for a proposed ballot initiative that would split California into three separate states. What do you think of this proposed ballot initiative? Would it help or hurt California’s water situation? Why or why not?
Most likely, it would hurt the situation by making a complex and emotional issue even more difficult, although it might force the “states” into a more concrete negotiating mode. The most obvious outcome would be that “Northern California” would wield significant weight in terms of water resources. Additionally, intrastate issues would become interstate issues. The stakes for each individual state would be higher. Decisions would now be based upon such things as separate political systems, economies (different business and agriculture impacts), and distribution of populations and resources other than water.
 - c. Is this statement true or false? Water management planning is something that should only be done on a local level. Why or why not?
False. Water management planning, because of its interrelated factor and interests, must be done on both the state and the federal levels.

EXTENSIONS

- How has water changed or become more complicated in the last 20 years?
- Research ways the local water agencies are working to become more self-sufficient in their water sources (i.e. groundwater replenishment systems)
- How can technology help solve some of our water issues? (i.e. toilet to tap, desalinization) How can these technologies be harmful to the environment?

California Water Story (Teacher Prompts)

<p>Significant Historical Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Native Americans Spaniards Settlers Farmers Europeans Rancheros Gold Miners Immigrants 	<p>Major Water Issues/Problems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cycles of drought Flooding Environmental impact on fish and wildlife Population growth Groundwater overdraft Precipitation in the north/arid in the south Project construction costs
<p>Key Geographical Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Owens Valley Southern California Imperial and Coachella Valley San Francisco Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Cascade and Sierra Mountains Los Angeles Colorado River Yosemite National Park (Tuolumne River) Central Valley Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley Feather River 	<p>Interest Groups (Contemporary)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farmers/agricultural groups US Federal Government Recreation groups Cities/urban areas/consumers State of California (Dept. of Water Resources) Environmental groups
<p>Ways to Conserve/New Sources of Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal water conservation Drip irrigation Water marketing Desalination Reclaimed Water Water-wise irrigation Cloud seeding Rain barrels 	<p>Water Projects/Legislation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Los Angeles Aqueduct Colorado River Aqueduct Central Valley Project (Federal) Mokelumne Aqueduct San Luis Reservoir Kern water bank All-American Canal Hetch-Hetchy Reservoir California State Water Project (CA Aqueduct) Environmental Protection Legislation (fish and wildlife habitats)

California Water Story

Significant Historical Groups	Major Water Issues/Problems
Key Geographical Areas	Interest Groups (Contemporary)
Ways to Conserve/New Sources of Water	Water Projects/Legislation