

Dams in Arizona

Building dams is one way in which people change their natural environment. A dam is built across a river to stop the flow of the water. People build dams for different reasons. Some dams are built to help stop floods in wet years and make sure there is enough water to grow crops in dry years. Other dams were built to move water from a river into canals to irrigate farm crops. Dams are also built to make electricity. Other dams are built to hold water for a town or city's use or to make a lake for recreation.

People in Arizona have been building dams for hundreds of years. The first dams were small dams built by Native American tribes to move water from rivers into their fields to grow crops. As more people moved into Arizona and started farming and using water, more dams were built. Many larger dams have been built in the last 100 years. Most of these dams were built to prevent flooding, provide water for crops and cities, or make electricity. Large lakes created behind the dams have provided fun activities for Arizona residents. These are some examples of the good effects of changing the natural environment by building dams.

There are also harmful effects of dam building. The dams' lakes flooded land and the homes of many animals when it was built. The water temperature of the river after it leaves the dam is colder than it was before, and some fish and water animals can no longer live there. Some Arizona rivers have very little water in them below the dams. The fish, birds, and plants that used to live in or around these rivers are no longer there. The people living along these now-dry rivers sometimes had to change their way of living. These are ways in which the natural environment changed when the dams were built.

Arizona Dams
Student Worksheet

Name _____

1. Give 2 reasons why people build dams.

2. Who built the first dams in Arizona?

3. What are 2 positive effects of building dams?

4. Which is not a negative effect of dam building?

- a. Some rivers below the dams no longer have water flowing in them
- b. Animals' homes were destroyed when the dam was built
- c. People use the reservoir for recreation
- d. The water temperature of the river changes

Use the map, Important Dams in Arizona, to answer questions 5 – 10.

5. Name the 4 dams on the Salt River.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____

6. Write the dates of construction of the following Colorado River Dams.

Glen Canyon Dam _____

Hoover Dam _____

Davis Dam _____

Laguna Dam _____

7. Which of the following lists puts the numbers above in order from **greatest to least**?

a. 1964 1936 1949 1909

b. 1909 1936 1949 1964

c. 1936 1949 1964 1909

d. 1964 1949 1936 1909

8. Which Colorado River dam was built the earliest?

9. Listed below are the dates of construction of the Salt River Dams. Put the numbers in order from **least to greatest**.

1927 1930 1912 1925

10. Write the dates of the 3 Gila River Dams from earliest (**least**) to latest (**greatest**.)

11. Compare the dates of the 2 Verde River Dams. Use > or <. Write the names of the dams.

(_____ Dam) 1946 ____ 1939 (_____ Dam)

Arizona Dams
Key to Student Worksheet

1. Any 2 of the following: (2 pts.)
 - Control water
 - Stop floods
 - Water for crops
 - Make electricity
 - Water for cities and towns
 - Make lake for recreation purposes
2. Native Americans (1 pt.)
3. Any 2 of the following: (2pts.)
 - Stop flooding
 - Water for cities and crops
 - Provide electricity
 - Recreation opportunities
4. c (1pt.)
5. In any order (4pts.)
 - Theodore Roosevelt Dam
 - Horse Mesa Dam
 - Mormon Flat Dam
 - Stewart Mountain Dam
6. (4 pts.)
 - Glen Canyon Dam - 1964
 - Hoover Dam – 1936
 - Davis Dam – 1949
 - Laguna Dam –1909
7. d (1 pt.)
8. Laguna Dam (1 pt.)
9. 1912, 1925, 1927, 1930 (4 pts.)
10. 1921, 1928, 1959 (1 pt.)
11. Horseshoe Dam 1946 \geq 1939 Bartlett Dam (3 pts.)