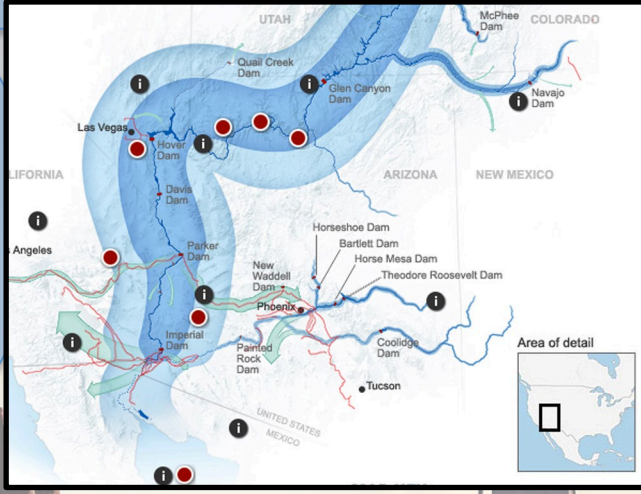


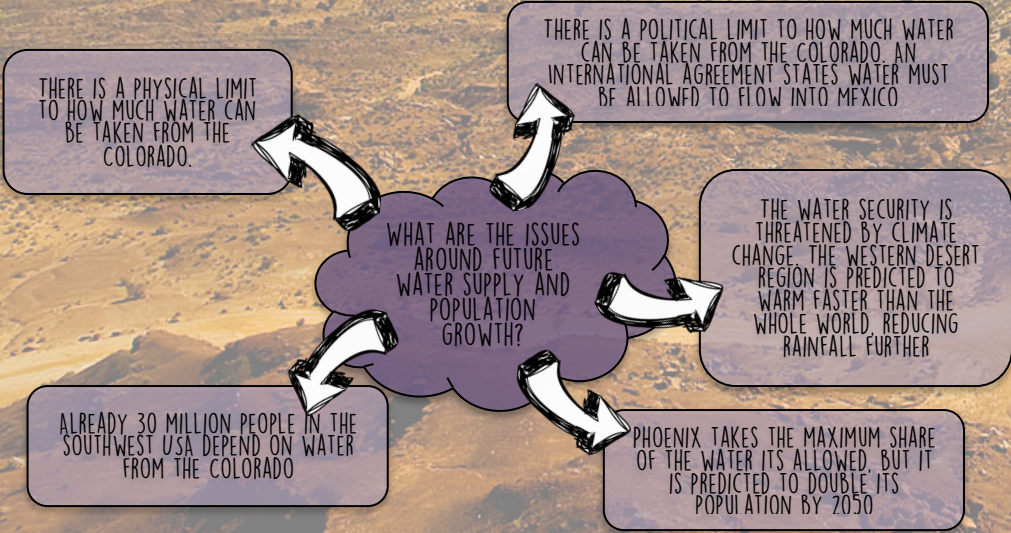
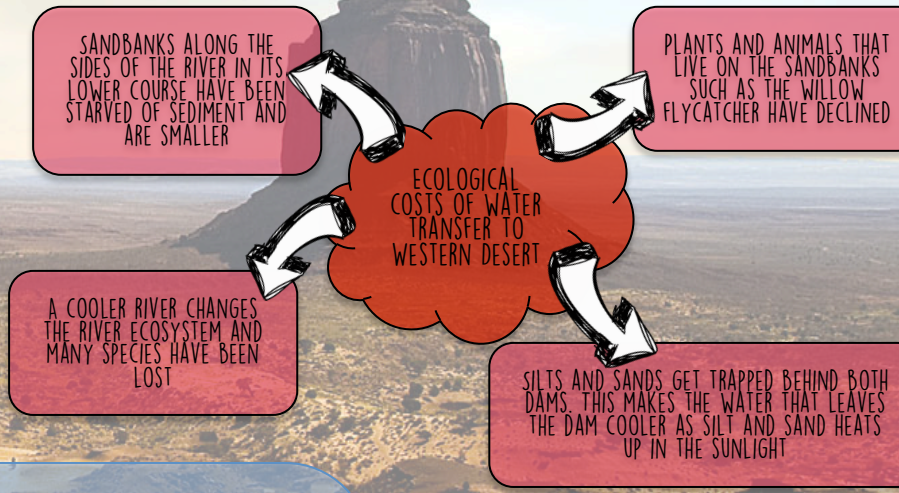
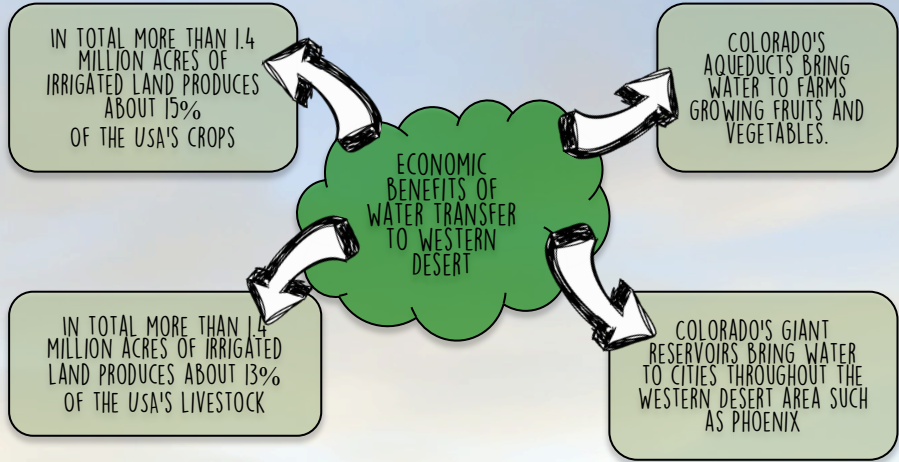
The Western Desert's Water Crisis.

UNTIL NOW CITIES IN THE WESTERN DESERT HAVE PROSPERED THANKS TO MASSIVE WATER TRANSFERS. VAST VOLUMES OF WATER HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED FROM THE RIVER COLORADO, BUT THERE ARE LIMITS TO WHAT CAN BE ACHIEVED. FURTHER POPULATION GROWTH MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE.

TWENTIETH CENTURY MIGRANTS COULD SEE PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITIES IN THE WESTERN DESERTS SUNNY SKIES. FARMING AND TOURISM WOULD FLOURISH IF THEY COULD TACKLE THE ISSUE OF WATER SHORTAGES. THE SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM WAS THE RIVER COLORADO. THE MASSIVE 2,300-KILOMETRE RIVER BRINGS MELT-WATER FROM THE ROCKIES AND WIND RIVER MOUNTAINS ACROSS THE USA AND DOWN TO MEXICO.



THE SNOWMELT BRINGS HUGE VOLUMES OF WATER IN THE SUMMER; THE COLORADO HAS A VERY LOW FLOW BETWEEN SEPTEMBER AND APRIL. IN THE MOST EXTREME YEARS OF THE EARLY 1900S, THE COLORADO'S DISCHARGE WAS 13 TIMES HIGHER IN THE MID SUMMER COMPARED WITH WINTER.



IN 1935, WORK BEGAN ON THE HOOVER DAM, WHICH STORES THE EQUIVALENT OF TWO YEARS RIVER FLOW IN LAKE MEAD. THE GLEN CANYON DAM WAS THEN BUILT IN 1963. TOGETHER THE TWO DAMS AND THEIR RESERVOIRS SMOOTH OUT THE COLORADO'S FLOW THROUGH THE YEAR AND REMOVE ITS FLOOD PEAKS AND BRING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS.

RESERVOIR WATER IS PIPED ALONG AQUEDUCTS, INCLUDING THE US\$4 BILLION CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT, WHERE REQUIRED IT FEEDS THE HOMES, FARMS AND GOLF COURSES OF THE WESTERN DESERT. THE WATER TRANSFER HAS BROUGHT MANY BENEFITS BUT ALSO COSTS.

