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The Role of Water in the Early Development of Nevada

Comprehension Questions

*Westward Expansion*

What role did the Humboldt River play in the westward movement?

Where were the first two trading stations in Nevada?

What is irrigation diversion?

*Lake Tahoe*

What did the Lake Tahoe and San Francisco Water Works Company want to do with the water in Lake Tahoe? Was Nevada Attorney General, George A. Nourse, in favor of their proposal? What happened to the proposed legislation?

*Comstock Lode*

How was water important to the Comstock Lode?

*Reclamation Act & Newlands Project*

Who was Francis Newlands? What role did he play in the Nevada water story?

*Tahoe Basin Snowpack*

What is the purpose of the snow survey system, how does it help us to better use the water in Lake Tahoe?

*Colorado River*

What was The Colorado River Compact of 1922 and how did it help Nevada?

*Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe and Pyramid Lake*

How was the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe and the fish of Pyramid Lake affected by the construction of Derby Dam on the Truckee River?

*Truckee River Compact*

What does the Water master do?

What does the Truckee River Compact insure?

What are the four objectives of the Truckee River Operating Agreement?

The Role of Water in the Early Development of Nevada

Comprehension Questions

ANSWERS

*Westward Expansion*

What role did the Humboldt River play in the westward movement?

The Humboldt River played a key role in the westward movement by providing the pioneers coming across Nevada access to water for themselves and their animals.

Where were the first two trading stations in Nevada?

The first trading station was known as Mormon Station, where Genoa sits today. The second station was in southern Nevada, Las Vegas.

What is irrigation diversion?

Irrigation diversion is when water is diverted from one source such as a river into another source, a canal to move water to fields for crops.

*Lake Tahoe*

What did the Lake Tahoe and San Francisco Water Works Company want to do with the water in Lake Tahoe? Was Nevada Attorney General, George A. Nourse, in favor of their proposal? What happened to the proposed legislation?

The Lake Tahoe and San Francisco Water Works Company was established by Colonel Alexis Waldemar von Schmidt and five other investors. They wanted to export water from Lake Tahoe to San Francisco. They said the 6-foot dam they planned to build at the Lake Tahoe outlet would store enough water for both states, and that two thirds of Lake Tahoe was in California so they had superior claim. The Nevada Attorney General claimed that Nevada’s agricultural and mining industries were totally dependent on the Truckee River which got its water from Lake Tahoe. State and federal legislators killed the legislation.

*Comstock Lode*

How was water important to the Comstock Lode?

Water was extremely important to the Comstock Lode because it was needed for the mining camps, the milling operations, and other mining activities.

*Reclamation Act & Newlands Project*

Who was Francis Newlands? What role did he play in the Nevada water story?

Francis Newlands was State Representative who wanted the federal government to help with irrigation and reclamation projects. He was able to get the support of President T. Roosevelt to pass the 1902 Reclamation Act which used proceeds from the sale of federal land to build reservoirs to help control flooding and allow for irrigation.

*Tahoe Basin Snowpack*

What is the purpose of the snow survey system, how does it help us to better use the water in Lake Tahoe?

The snow survey system measures water content in the Tahoe Basin snowpack. It helps the Tahoe dam operators to better regulate the release of water to prevent flooding and water waste.

*Colorado River*

What was The Colorado River Compact of 1922 and how did it help Nevada?

The Colorado River Compact of 1922 was a deal between 7 Western States and Congress. It divided the Colorado River into upper and lower basins and split .7.5 million-acre feet of water per year. Nevada was allocated 300,000-acre feet per year which was enough water to serve the population at that time.

*Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe and Pyramid Lake*

How was the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe and the fish of Pyramid Lake affected by the construction of Derby Dam on the Truckee River?

The Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe is located below the Derby Dam and they were promised by the U.S. government that they would have enough water to maintain their fishery at the mouth of the river. The dam cut water flow, the lake dropped 87 feet by 1967 and it prevented the cui-ui and Lahontan cutthroat trout from migrating upstream to spawn.

*Truckee River Compact*

What does the Water master do?

The Water master administers federal court decrees that pertain to the Truckee River and the Carson River. He/she makes sure the law is being followed when it comes to water issues.

What does the Truckee River Compact insure?

That downstream users will have enough water without causing damage to the shoreline of Lake Tahoe.

What are the four objectives of the Truckee River Operating Agreement?

The 4 objectives of the Truckee River Operating Agreement are to: 1. Enhance conditions for the threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout and endangered cui-ui. 2. Increase drought protection for the Truckee Meadows. 3. Improve Truckee River water quality. 4. Enhance stream flows and recreational opportunities in the Truckee River Basin.