

# Chapter 11 – A Case Study in Water Use: The Colorado River

## Source



The beginning of a River

- Starts in the Rocky Mountains

## Tributaries



Rivers that join other rivers

- Green River
- Jan Juan River
- Gila River
- Brings “reddish” colored silt (soil) to the river for which the river was named

## Anasazi and Hohokam



Early Native American farmers in the Southwest that first settled the Colorado River basin

- Raised corn, beans, and squash in fields in the **desert** (place where there is little rain)
- Most likely they left when there was a **drought** (time of little or no rain)

## Colorado River Compact



Agreement dividing the water of the Colorado River

- Divided water in 2 parts
  - o Upper Basin: Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico
  - o Lower Basin: Arizona, Nevada, and California
  - o DID NOT include Mexico

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### Dams



Wall built across a river to hold back water

- Glen Canyon Dam
  - o Closest to the line that divides the upper and lower Colorado River Basin
- Have hurt wildlife by destroying their natural **habitats** (place where an animal lives)



### Conservation



The careful use of a resource

- As more people settle in the Colorado river basin there may not be enough water for everyone
  - o Water shortages may become a serious problem
- How are people trying to help?
  - o Recycling **wastewater** (water that goes down the drain)
  - o Low-flow toilets
  - o Fixing leaky faucets
  - o Take shorter showers