A River of Time!

Use the Timeline and Word Bank to help you fill in the blanks in this Western water story!

Some call it “western gold”— we call it water! While Feb. 14 is the 100th birthday of Arizona’s statehood, people have lived around here for thousands of years, flowing like waves over the landscape and leaving behind layers of cultures and civilizations. Travelers followed rivers, staying close to the essential water.

The Hohokam Indians were some of the first people to settle in central and Southern Arizona. The Hohokam were ___________________. Using hand tools, they built more than 500 miles of canals to bring water to their crops! The moved away around A.D. 1450, perhaps due to an extended drought!

Their descendants, the O’odham and other tribes, now live in Southern ___________________ and Northern Mexico. Many O’odham people still live where their ancestors did, and some still use traditional methods of farming!

Spanish ___________________ began to travel into the area in the 1500s, from the south. Some of these explorers were looking for ___________________ and land to claim. Father Kino and other missionaries representing the Church of Spain began arriving in the 1600s.

Between 300 to 400 years ago, people began to migrate in from the north. The Navajos and Apaches were some of the first. In the 1800s, Mormon farmers, ___________________, and other settlers from the north and east began to arrive in greater numbers.

As more settlers moved in, they built elaborate structures to transport water to farms and cities. In 1911, Roosevelt Dam was completed. It was the first of six ___________________ that are now part of the Salt River Project. It generates ___________________ power (electricity made with water power).

Many more large dams have been built along the Colorado River. The Central Arizona Project (CAP) canal, completed in ___________________, actually lifts water from Lake Havasu to higher elevation cities!

Water managers also add CAP water to underground aquifers, where it is stored for people throughout the Southwest. The process is called water banking.

Today, Arizona’s population is growing rapidly, but its water supply is limited. Cities, farms and businesses are seeking ways to conserve water so that there will be enough for everyone. What do you think the story of Arizona’s water and people will be 100 years from now?

WORD BANK
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