



Hoover Dam Backgrounder

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The Hoover Dam is a testimony to America's ability to dream big and accomplish amazing things, even in the midst of adverse conditions. Built during the Great Depression, 21,000 workers and their families came to Black Canyon to tame the Colorado River. It took less than five years in harsh conditions to build the largest dam of its time. Eight decades later, Hoover Dam still stands as an engineering marvel.

- Construction began on the Hoover Dam in 1931.
- Named after America's 31st president, Herbert Hoover, who played a large role in bringing the nearby states into agreement about water allocations, settling a 25-year controversy.
- It is the highest concrete dam in the Western Hemisphere, at more than 725 feet above the Colorado River.
- A total of 3,250,000 cubic yards (2,480,000 m³) of concrete was used in building the dam, along with 1,110,000 cubic yards (850,000 m³) of concrete in the power plant and other structures. There is enough concrete in the Hoover Dam project to pave a two-lane road from New York City to San Francisco.
- With 17 generators producing 4 billion kilowatts of electricity a year, Hoover Dam is one of the country's largest hydroelectric power facilities.
- Lake Mead, the largest man-made reservoir in the United States, can store up to 9.2 trillion gallons of water.
- The maximum water pressure at the base of Hoover Dam is 45,000 pounds per square foot.

- In 1994, the American Society of Civil Engineers named Hoover Dam one of America's Seven Modern Civil Engineering Wonders. It is a National Historic Landmark.
- Completed in 2010, the Mike O'Callaghan-Pat Tillman Memorial Bridge offers spectacular views of the dam and its surroundings approximately 900 feet above the Colorado River and links Nevada to Arizona via U.S. Route 93.
- Located 30 miles outside of Las Vegas, Hoover Dam attracts more than 1 million visitors each year.