Colorado River Round Table

Groups:

Indigenous Peoples – Nevaeh, Luka

Nature – Violet, Linden

Recreation – Riane, Lylia, Neiva

Municipalities – Ruby, Kylin

Electricity – Emily, Caleb

Agriculture – Peyton, Matty

Industry – Jaime, Jack

Mexico – Max, Erick

Resources:

[How a 100-year-old miscalculation drained the Colorado River](https://www.vox.com/2022/9/23/23357093/colorado-river-drought-cuts)

[Where the Colorado River crisis is hitting home](https://www.npr.org/2022/09/22/1124150368/where-the-colorado-river-crisis-is-hitting-home)

[Inherit the Dust](https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/inherit-the-dust-colorado-river-phoenix-arizona-drought-climate-crisis)

[Western States Are Fighting Over How to Conserve Shrinking Water Supply](https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/western-states-are-fighting-over-how-to-conserve-dwindling-water-180980612/)

[Drastic Cuts to Colorado River Water Use Show Depth of West’s Drought](https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/drastic-cuts-to-colorado-river-water-use-show-depth-of-wests-drought/)

[US west ‘megadrought’ is worst in at least 1,200 years](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/feb/15/us-west-megadrought-worst-1200-years-study)

[Lake Powell Is Losing So Much Water, It May Not Be Able to Generate Hydropower in 2 Years](https://gizmodo.com/lake-powell-is-losing-so-much-water-it-may-not-be-able-1847730709)

[There's a 1-in-3 chance Lake Powell won't be able to generate hydropower in 2023 due to drought conditions](https://www.cnn.com/2021/09/23/weather/lake-powell-power-generation-outlook/)

[This stunning timelapse shows the megadrought’s toll on the West’s largest reservoir](https://www.vox.com/22392710/southwest-water-drought-arizona-nevada-california-colorado-river-lake-mead-climate-change)  
[Western states chart diverging paths as water shortages loom](https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/western-states-chart-diverging-paths-as-water-shortages-loom)

[The shocking numbers behind the Lake Mead drought crisis](https://www.cnn.com/2021/06/17/us/lake-mead-drought-water-shortage-climate/index.html)

[Lake Mead – The Largest Reservoir in the United States – Drops to a Record Low](https://scitechdaily.com/lake-mead-the-largest-reservoir-in-the-united-states-drops-to-a-record-low/)

[First federal water shortage declared for Lake Mead](https://www.reviewjournal.com/local/local-nevada/first-federal-water-shortage-declared-for-lake-mead-2421487/)

[Can the Southwest Survive With Less Water?](https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2021-opinion-us-drought-southwest-arizona-water-crisis/)

[Depleted by drought, Lakes Powell and Mead were doomed from the beginning](https://www.washingtonpost.com/weather/2021/09/10/lake-powell-mead-drought-history/)

[Can the Colorado River keep on running?](https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/partner-content-colorado-river-preserving-stressed-water-resources)

Your assignment is to prepare for a round table discussion about what a renegotiated water compact should include. Instead of states you will be representing "user groups" (agriculture, municipalities, power generation, recreation, environmental organizations, Indigenous governments)

Consider all of the following for the round table discussion...

1. How much will groups have to share?
2. For what purpose should the water be used? Will it be sustainable in the face of growing populations and uncertain climate?
3. How can we make our water use sustainable? Are there any conditions that need to be met before different user groups can use the water?
4. The original pact for the river was made in 1922. What changes have occurred that would support changes in the pact today?
5. Are all the many uses of the Colorado River compatible? If not, what should the priorities be and why?
6. Are there fair ways to move water from one use to another?
7. Which stakeholders have the power to make these changes?

Remember that the river is a system where all the water is allocated and there is less water available as a whole. Giving more water to any one area or user group means less water available for everyone else.