



A Note to Educators

The damming of the Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite National Park is a complex story that spanned many years. The Capitol Visitor Center uses this story to help students understand the work of members of Congress – who listen to a variety of perspectives, often conflicting, and then make decisions. Hopefully, students will see value of the opinions from both sides, grapple with the facts and potential outcomes and be able to make their own decisions about how to vote.

Black and white archival footage and still images retrieved from the National Archives, the Library of Congress, Prelinger Archives, The New York Public Library, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Additional footage courtesy of C-SPAN, iStock (viafilms, Dan Jespersen, vesperstock, JaimeByrd), Adobe Stock (Olyvia, Marina Zlochyn), the National Park Service, and the Architect of the Capitol.

Music courtesy of Artlist.io (Ian Post, Francesco Dandrea, Lance Conrad).

All of the perspective videos are from real people. Citations to the historical documents can be found with the transcript document.

Videos featured in the Capitol Visitor Center Virtual VOTE! program

San Francisco Before the Fire

Library of Congress, “A trip down Market Street before the fire,”

<https://youtu.be/uINgSqEU26A>

<https://www.loc.gov/item/00694408/>

San Francisco Earthquake and Fire, April 18, 1906

Library of Congress, “San Francisco earthquake and fire, April 18, 1906,”

<https://youtu.be/FOwWmt9NBM0>

<https://www.loc.gov/item/00694425/>

Yosemite Valley, ca. 1924

U.S. National Archives, “Yosemite Valley, Ca. 1924,”

<https://youtu.be/85i4xePMh1M>

National Archives Identifier: 91146

Let’s See Yosemite, 1938

U.S. National Archives, “Let’s See Yosemite, 1938,”

<https://youtu.be/Eqr0qN4IVgl>

National Archives Identifier: 11659

Additional links for further research

<https://www.archives.gov/research/motion-pictures/newsreels>

<https://www.archives.gov/research/motion-pictures/natural-resources>

<https://www.archives.gov/research/motion-pictures/catalog-film-sound-video#mov>

<https://www.loc.gov/rr/mopic/>

<https://www.loc.gov/loc/lcib/0210/prelinger.html>

<https://www.nps.gov/media/video/view.htm?id=7952AEDB-06C6-40EF-B960-B6B454B1CE71>

<https://bawsca.org/water/supply/hetchhetchy>