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 Jesperson, vesperstock, JaimeByrd), Adobe Stock (Olyvia, Marina Zlochin), 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 Citations to the historical documents can be found with the transcript document.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/Eqr0qN4IVgI
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/icib/0210/prelinger.html
https://www.nps.gov/media/video/view.htm?id=7952AEDB-06C6-40EF-B960-B6B454B1CE71
https://bawsca.org/water/supply/hetchhetchy