

4th Grade Research Report

Day 180

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Hoover Dam

One day exactly 100 years ago a man named Mr. Davis had the best idea that anyone has ever had in the past 100 years! In other words, Davis proposed a huge dam, to block the Colorado River. When the government heard of Davis's great idea, they wanted to try it out. So from 1931-1936, they built a hydroelectric dam, the tallest in the world, which became a popular tourist destination and even a war target at times!

This is SHOCKING! The Hoover Dam makes electricity. It has 17 gigantic generators. You have to walk up a flight of stairs just to get to the top of one of them. A generator is bigger than my room. They make power enough for 750,000 homes. That's a lot of power!

Did you know that the Hoover Dam is a super huge monument? In the Boulder Canyon located in the Grand Canyon, it's 660 feet thick at its base; that's 2 football fields! It's also 726 feet tall, which is bigger than the Washington monument, and 45 feet wide at its top! I'd feel like an ant if I went there.

I've built with Legos before, but the Hoover Dam is no childish matter. It was built from 1931 to 1936. It also took 13 months to blast out 1.5 billion cubic yards of rock for the tunnels. There is 4.5 million cubic yards of concrete in the Hoover Dam. That's enough concrete to make a 4 foot sidewalk around the Equator!

Imagine: A towering dam, and behind it a lake called Mead. This is the largest reservoir in the United States of America. Lake Mead holds enough water to flood all of New York 1 foot deep. It also provides water for 2,000,000 acres of land. That's a lot of tears in the desert.

It was originally named after the 31st president, Herbert Hoover, but then people started calling it the Boulder Dam. You see, when Herbert Hoover tried to get reelected, he lost the election, so a lot of people didn't like him because of that. But eventually everyone just decided to call it the Hoover Dam.

If you think the Hoover dam is cool, it's about to get a lot cooler. The U.S.A. government decided to highly guard the Hoover Dam during WWII, for if this dam was destroyed, there goes nearly half the water and power of the entire country. So the government placed 9 U.S. Marials in guard of the dam and also made all the blueprints private. One day a U.S. Martial saw a couple taking a lot more pictures than usual, and he saw the husband yelling at the wife that she got in

some of the pictures and that he'd have to take them again. This made the government worry even more, and didn't let anyone carry any bags or purses, (in case there were weapons in them). Then one day some U.S. spies discovered some German agents in Mexico City planning an attack on Hoover Dam. This made the government act on the extreme and add flood lights, a wire net and etc. Then one other day a rifle bullet almost hit a patrol boat near Hoover Dam, but missed and hit the water instead. The government couldn't take it anymore. They added gates, barriers, doors and a military post. It was worth every effort to protect this national historic landmark.

Franklin D. Roosevelt said at the dedication, "I came, I saw, and I was conquered, as everyone will be who sees for the first time this great feat of mankind." Maybe someday you'll go to the Hoover Dam; in that case you will already know everything about it. You read my paper.

Hoover Dam Bibliography

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