ABSTRACT

The years following the 1891 flood advanced the primary focus of valley leaders became the push to build a dam at the valley's outlet to the Sea of Cortez, the Salt River. The flood of February 1891, causing widespread damage and leaving the city without a rail connection for three months, underscored the need for flood control. However, it was not until the drought of the early 1900s that leaders realized the long-term benefits of a dam and began planning for its construction. The decision to build Roosevelt Dam in 1907 was a result of the drought and the desire to control the flow of the Salt River. The dam was designed to provide water storage for agriculture and urban development, not flood control. However, the dam has had unintended consequences, including changes in the landscape and the loss of the river as a natural feature. The elimination of the river has changed how valley residents view the Salt River and its floodplain. In the past, the Salt River was a vital water source and floodplain for agriculture and urban development. However, the dam has changed the river's course, and the floodplain has been transformed into a desert landscape.

INTRODUCTION - THE FLOOD OF 1901

A disastrous flood on the Salt River and its tributaries on 28 February 1901 killed 16 people, caused widespread damage, and highlighted the need for flood control. The flood was a result of the winter of 1898-99, which was characterized by heavy rainfall and snowmelt. The floodwaters washed away the banks of the river, leaving large amounts of debris and sediment in its path. The flood also caused widespread damage to crops and farmland in Western Maricopa County. In the Phoenix metropolitan area, physical damages, net income losses, and property damage were estimated at $500,000. The flood also underscored the need for a dam to control the flow of the river and prevent future floods.

EARLY PREHISTORIC AND AGRICULTURAL EVENTS

The area around Tempe Butte has been occupied by humans for at least 10,000 years. The earliest evidence of human occupation in the area is a Paleo-Indian site dated to 10,000 years ago. The site is located on the south side of Tempe Butte, and it is believed that the site was used as a hunting and gathering area.

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CONCLUSIONS

The construction of Roosevelt Dam in 1907 altered the landscape of the Salt River and its tributaries, the Verde River. The dam has had unintended consequences, including changes in the landscape and the loss of the river as a natural feature. The elimination of the river has changed how valley residents view the Salt River and its floodplain. In the past, the Salt River was a vital water source and floodplain for agriculture and urban development. However, the dam has changed the river's course, and the floodplain has been transformed into a desert landscape.

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