

**Lesson:** Hetch Hetchy: Dam Removal?

**Class Periods:** 3-4

**Date:**

## Objectives

- Identify and describe the various components of the San Francisco water and power system.
- Understand arguments pro and con for removal of the dam and reservoir at Hetch Hetchy.
- Identify both positive and negative impacts of dam removal from the perspectives of both proponents and opponents.
- Compose an argument for a public forum arguing for or against dam removal at Hetch Hetchy.

## Materials/Equipment

- computer access to [Dam Removal?](#) reference materials
- video projector
- class access to computers

## Lesson Outline

- Introduction to the existing San Francisco water & power system
- Debate preparation
- Class debate
- Group evaluation
- Build class discussion around the **To Start You Thinking** questions in the [Dam Removal?](#) activity and the accompanying **Hetch Hetchy** map.
- Divide the class into several groups pro and con. Group members can assign tasks as suggested in the [Dam Removal?](#) activity. Responsibilities for each group member are provided through the **Putting the Pieces Together** graphic - just click on each role. The list of bibliographic references provides a **starting point** for research. A search on the topic will provide a wealth of more recent materials.
- Have each group complete their **Responsibilities & Evaluation** sheet with each member agreeing to their roles and responsibilities.
- Group work studying resources and preparing debate materials.
- Allow each group 5 - 10 minutes to present their position supported with maps and other visuals as needed and an additional 5 minutes to address questions raised by classmates.
- Each group needs to complete their **Responsibilities & Evaluation** sheet with each member assessing their own contribution and that of others in their group.

## Assessment

The final piece of this activity is for each student to weigh in on the issue personally. They will write an opinion piece (e.g. - a letter to the editor or a Congressional leader, a newspaper op-ed article, blog post, etc.) following the **evaluation guidelines** for the assignment arguing for or against dam removal and supporting their position with any of the evidence gathered as part of the debate.

