

# Measuring Snowpack

Snow in Phoenix? A winter storm warning about blizzard conditions for Tucson? Recent weird winter weather in the West actually helps our water supply for spring!

Seven Western states share water from the Colorado River, which is also the water source for Central Arizona Project (CAP). The river flows through more than 1,400 miles of mountains and deserts, providing water to Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Nevada, California, New Mexico and Arizona.

River water is a RENEWABLE resource, meaning that nature replenishes it through rainfall and snowmelt year after year.

## Let It Snow!

Winter storms bring much-needed snow to the West. High up in the mountains, scientists measure snow to figure

out how much water may be released into rivers and soil when the snow melts in the spring. Even if you live in a place without snow, your water may come from SNOW-PACK that melts way up high in distant mountains!

And while two freaky February snow storms cancelled some classes in the West, up in the mountains they added to the snowpack, which was running a bit below average at the end of January



Year 1    Year 2    Year 3    Year 4    Year 5

## More Ways to Learn About Water

1. For the illustration above, use a ruler to measure the snowpack for each year (1/ 2 inch = 1 foot).
2. Figure out the AVERAGE amount of snowpack for all five years:
  - Add up the amounts from all five years.
  - Then divide this total by the number of years (5).
  - $(\_ + \_ + \_ + \_ + \_) \div 5 = \ ?$

3. Make a bar graph on the chart below to show the yearly snowpack.
4. Draw a horizontal line across your graph to show the average snowpack for the five years.

## Make Your Snowpack Bar Graph Here

