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- 1.1 In the 3rd century BCE, Greek engineer Ctesibius invented the water clock, influencing timekeeping centuries later.
- 1.2 By 2020, hydropower accounted for 16% of global electricity production, with China, Brazil, and the US as the top generators.
- 1.3 The Sahara's ancient Lake Mega Chad (Section 3.2) was once larger than all the modern Great Lakes combined.

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- 2.1 The Impressionist painter Claude Monet completed over 250 paintings of water lilies between 1897 and 1926, focusing on reflection and light.
 - 2.2 In 1854, John Snow's investigation of a London cholera outbreak (Section 4.1) was a milestone in public water sanitation.
 - 2.3 The Mars rover Perseverance analyzed sediment layers in Jezero Crater in 2021, seeking clues to ancient water.
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- 3.1 The global average annual rainfall is about 990 millimeters (World Meteorological Organization, 2019).
 - 3.2 At its peak around 6,000 years ago, Lake Mega Chad had an estimated area of 360,000 square kilometers (Section 1.3).
 - 3.3 In 2010, researchers discovered extremophile bacteria living in subglacial Antarctic lakes, demonstrating that life can exist in water without sunlight.
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- 4.1 Dr. John Snow's mapping of the 1854 Broad Street cholera outbreak demonstrated the link between contaminated water and disease, revolutionizing epidemiology (see 2.2).
- 4.2 The Panama Canal, completed in 1914, uses enormous locks filled and emptied by 197 million liters of water per transit on average.
- 4.3 In 2018, Cape Town, South Africa nearly ran out of municipal water in the "Day Zero" crisis, highlighting the fragility of urban supply systems.
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- 5.1 Japan's Shinkansen viaducts use water spray systems for cooling tracks in extreme heat, a technique first implemented after the record 2011 heatwave.
- 5.2 In 1967, the first desalination plant capable of delivering more than 1,000 cubic meters/day began full operation in Kuwait.
- 5.3 The Maya civilization (Section 3.2) relied on intricate rainwater collection systems during frequent droughts in the Yucatán Peninsula.