Outline:

Why did I choose to focus on the SW and the Colorado River?

* Define lake Mead as being a general and measurable representation of the Colorado River as a whole.
* Introduce Las Vegas and Phoenix as cities uniquely positioned to offer interesting water usage data due to their reliance on a single source for a majority of their water.
* Discuss the data I found
* Stress the need for these cities to limit water use moving forward and mention Cape town as a cautionary tale. Mention that water is undervalued and used as if it isn’t a finite resource.

3 sets of graphs.

* Lake mead water levels dating back to 1935 when it was created by the construction of the hoover dam. Line graph
  + Dam construction forever alters the course of rivers in order to provide water and power to people and makes the use of that water more observable
  + A noticeable and steady decline in water level is observable starting in the 80’s as population began to increase drastically

A screenshot of a cell phone

Description automatically generated

* Water usage for Arizona and Nevada. Bar graph
  + Data for overall water usage shows that both Phoenix and Nevada account for an overwhelming amount of surface water consumption compared to the rest of their state, which makes their reliance on Colorado river (lake Mead) interesting to observe.

A screenshot of a cell phone

Description automatically generated

* Surface water use for both cities starting in 1985. Line graph
  + Data shows the use of surface water increasing exponentially over time
  + This correlates with the noticeable drop in lake Mead water levels at the same time

A close up of a map

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