

Student activity:

Cut out the following cards and sort them into advantages and disadvantages of the Imperial Valley large scale agricultural development.

<p>180000 people in the Imperial Valley receive approximately 70% of California's total allocation of water from the Colorado River. The remaining 20 million people in Southern California receive about 30%.</p>	<p>There are 479000 acres of farmland producing a \$2 billion annual harvest.</p>	<p>Crops can be grown all year round. Agriculture runs 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Irrigators work for 20 hours a day.</p>
<p>98% of Imperial Valley's water is used for farming.</p>	<p>Farmers in Imperial valley are exempt from the current water conservation that the rest of California is seeing.</p>	<p>For every 100 jobs in agriculture and the food industry in California, an additional 94 jobs are generated throughout the state.</p>
<p>In 2006, enough carrots were grown in Imperial Valley to provide 75% of the Earth's population a serving (a quarter of a pound) - that's nearly 5 billion people!</p>	<p>It is estimated that more than 2/3 of the vegetables consumed in the United States during the winter months are grown in the Imperial Valley.</p>	<p>With every acre-foot (326000 gallons) of water that arrives in the Valley, one ton of salt is carried into the area.</p>
<p>The lush fields of Imperial County provide habitat to hundreds of thousands of birds every year. Of the 800 or so bird species found in the United States, over 400 have been spotted in the Imperial Valley.</p>	<p>If restrictions on agricultural water usage are put in place, this could lead to an increase in food prices, as farmers output may decrease (they may only be able to produce one crop a year).</p>	<p>Increasing the efficiency of irrigation from the All-American Canal and the creation of Drop 2 Reservoir (used to capture more water for the Imperial Valley), has meant that Mexico is receiving less water than previously.</p>
<p>The Imperial Valley in California is often referred to as "the winter salad bowl of America" due to its mild winters. Vegetables and salads are grown in the winter.</p>	<p>The All-American Canal delivers water entirely by gravity from the Imperial Dam (20 miles North of Yuma). So no energy is needed to transfer this water.</p>	<p>The hot summers in the Imperial Valley are too hot to grow salad vegetables, so alfalfa or hay is grown instead. It is either grown for export or sometimes to feed the 379000 cattle that are ranched there.</p>
<p>Due to the high salt content of the Colorado River water and the high salt content of the soil, fields must be periodically leached to keep salts below the root zone.</p>	<p>Hydroelectricity plants are located all along the route to take advantage of any elevation drops and create renewable energy to be used by people in the area.</p>	<p>Silt and minerals runoff into the drainage system and can cause flooding downstream.</p>

