

Lesson1. For Teachers: Please have the students read the sentences one at a time and correct their pronunciation of each sentence then have them repeat after you. Wait until after they read the sentence (use the number in place of the missing word) to have the students choose the correct answer to fill in the blank. When the students finish the article, move on to the further questions.

3[B] – **The Water Wars of Southern California**



Version3 G1 14-1

1. Writer and environmentalist Marc Reisner said Los Angeles was established “where common sense dictated that [a city] should never be.” In fact, the growth of Los Angeles was made possible by two powerful figures who, in the early twentieth century, secured a stable and ample water supply for the city. The way they accomplished this, however, caused a storm of controversy.

Further Questions*Ask student to answer the question on their own at first. If the student can't answer correctly, have him look at the last page and read the “example answer” for the question. Have the student try to memorize the answer, if it's too long or difficult, you should divide the sentence into 2 or 3 parts to make it easier to remember. Once they have memorized the answer, the teacher should ask the question one last time so that the student can practice answering. Also if you find any mistakes, please mark the page and let me know ASAP.

2. **1) What is odd about the location of Los Angeles?**

It was established where common sense dictated that a city should never be.

3. **2) How was the growth of Los Angeles made possible?**

It was made possible by two powerful figures who, in the early twentieth century, secured a stable and ample water supply for the city.

4. The two men were William Mulholland, the head of the Los Angeles Water Department, and his friend Frederick Eaton, a former mayor of Los Angeles. Eyeing the Owens Valley, a relatively poor agricultural area 200 miles to the north, as a water source, Eaton and Mulholland began buying up land in order to gain control of water rights throughout the valley. The local farmers had an agreement among themselves to pay collectively for the maintenance of their shared irrigation system. However, as Eaton and Mulholland acquired property and water rights, and membership in the collective dwindled, outlays for irrigation rose to unsustainable levels. Faced with impossible expenses, most of the farmers were forced to abandon their properties and livelihoods. By 1913, most of the flow of the Owens River was being diverted to Los Angeles.

Further Questions



5. **3) What did Eaton and Mulholland do in Owens Valley?**

They began buying up land in order to gain control of water rights throughout the valley.

6. **4) How did Eaton and Mulholland get the farmers to sell their land?**

Eaton and Mulholland acquired property and water rights and membership in the collective to pay for the maintenance of the irrigation system dwindled. Faced with impossible expenses, most of the farmers were forced to abandon their property rights and livelihoods.

7. For decades, historians have framed this as a clear-cut case of government corruption. Reisner says Eaton and Mulholland “employed chicanery, subterfuge,

spies, bribery, a campaign of divide-and-conquer, and a strategy of lies” to achieve their ends. Before the two began buying up land, the federal government had actually initiated a project to increase irrigation potential in the Owens Valley, which would have benefited farmers there. Eaton allegedly posed as a representative of this project when seeking to purchase land from farmers. He also used his friendship with a highly placed federal-government official to gain inside information on water rights in the valley, which enabled him to strategically purchase areas of land that rendered the project impossible to carry out. Mulholland, for his part, spearheaded a propaganda campaign exaggerating the scarcity of water available to Los Angeles, thereby whipping up public support for the aqueduct that would transport the water to the city.

8. **5) What had the federal government done before Eaton and Mulholland began buying the land?**

The federal government had actually initiated a project to increase irrigation potential in the Owens Valley, which would have benefited farmers there.

9. **6) What part did Mulholland play in the men’s plan?**

He spearheaded a propaganda campaign exaggerating the scarcity of water available to Los Angeles, thereby whipping up public support for the aqueduct that would transport the water to the city.

10. There are some mitigating voice among the critics who vilify Eaton and Mulholland. Economic historian Gary Libecap argues the farmers were treated fairly, especially considering their land was not particularly fertile. To Libecap, the aqueduct represents an efficient market operation: the farmers made more by selling than they would have by continuing to farm, and the city gained the resource it needed to grow. Climate change researcher Kenneth Frederick concedes that the benefit the water rights bestowed upon Los Angeles ultimately eclipsed any advantage the Owen Valley farmers would have gained by keeping them. He maintains, however, that Eaton and Mulholland should have instead pursued a proposed reservoir in the Owens Valley that would have enabled local farming to prosper even while some water was diverted to Los Angeles. The idea had been abandoned, however, when the owner of the site capable of holding the reservoir—none other than Fredrick Eaton—refused to sign over the land to the city for a reasonable price.
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Further Questions

11. **7) What does Gary Libecap argue?**

He argues the famers were treated fairly, especially considering their land was not particularly fertile.


12. **8) Why couldn’t Los Angeles pursue a proposed reservoir in the Owens Valley?**

The owner of the site capable of holding the reservoir—Fredrick Easton—refused to sign over the land to the city for a reasonable price.

***Choose the correct answer from these choices.**

13. **(32) How were farmers in the Owens Valley pressured to comply with Frederick Eaton and William Mulholland’s plans?**

- 1 They were told they would be unable to get water from their land once control of their irrigation system was transferred to the Los Angeles Water Department.
14. 2 After gaining control of their land, the Los Angeles Water Department set such high rents that they were unable to continue farming.
15. 3 The City of Los Angeles threatened to suspend financial assistance if they refused to help maintain the land they had sold.
16. 4 Those who did not initially sell their land had to pay so much to keep their irrigation system functioning that they eventually could not afford to stay.
17. **(33) One reason the federal government's project in the Owens Valley was unsuccessful was that**
18. 1 Mulholland managed to persuade local farmers that their land would be more profitable if it were used for purposes other than farming.
19. 2 Eaton and Mulholland used false data to convince public administrators that the Owens Valley was not in need of a large supply of water.
20. 3 Eaton engaged in political maneuvering in order to acquire knowledge that enabled him to block the project's progress.
21. 4 Eaton and Mulholland were able to generate opposition to the project among local farmers by misrepresenting it to them.
22. **(34) Which of the following statements would Kenneth Frederick likely agree with?**
23. 1 Any advantages that Los Angeles gained from Eaton and Mulholland's actions were outweighed by the losses experienced by Owens Valley residents.
24. 2 The construction of a reservoir in the Owens Valley would have resulted in a small group of people having to sacrifice their economic security for the benefit of many.
25. 3 Eaton's decision not to allow his land to be made into a reservoir was justifiable considering how much it helped the growth of Los Angeles.
26. 4 Water from the Owens Valley should have been supplied to Los Angeles in a way that allowed the valley's farmers to continue farming.

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27. **Answers for "Further Questions"** 
28. 1) **What is odd about the location of Los Angeles?**
29. *It was established where common sense dictated that a city should never be.*
30. 2) **How was the growth of Los Angeles made possible?**
31. *It was made possible by two powerful figures who, in the early twentieth century, secured a stable and ample water supply for the city.*
32. 3) **What did Eaton and Mulholland do in Owens Valley?**
- They began buying up land in order to gain control of water rights throughout the valley.*
33. 4) **How did Eaton and Mulholland get the farmers to sell their land?**
- Eaton and Mulholland acquired property and water rights and membership in the collective to pay for the maintenance of the irrigation system dwindled.*

Faced with impossible expenses, most of the farmers were forced to abandon their property rights and livelihoods.

34. **5) What had the federal government done before Eaton and Mulholland began buying the land?**

The federal government had actually initiated a project to increase irrigation potential in the Owens Valley, which would have benefited farmers there.

35. **6) What part did Mulholland play in the men's plan?**

He spearheaded a propaganda campaign exaggerating the scarcity of water available to Los Angeles, thereby whipping up public support for the aqueduct that would transport the water to the city.

36. **7) What does Gary Libecap argue?**

He argues the farmers were treated fairly, especially considering their land was not particularly fertile.

37. **8) Why couldn't Los Angeles pursue a proposed reservoir in the Owens Valley?**

The owner of the site capable of holding the reservoir—Fredrick Easton—refused to sign over the land to the city for a reasonable price.

解答: (32) 1 (33) 3 (34) 4