Central Arizona Project (CAP) is a modern aqueduct system that stretches 336 miles across the state. CAP delivers water from the mighty Colorado River to where it’s needed in Arizona.

**KIDS & FAMILIES — Welcome to Bear’s water conservation page. Water means life to all of us desert dwellers. In fact, water is Arizona’s most precious natural resource, and using it wisely is everybody’s responsibility!**

**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 **SNOWPACK** 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.

**Track the Snowpack!**

1. For the illustration to the right, use a ruler to measure the snowpack for each year ($\frac{1}{2}$ 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).
   $\frac{\text{ Year 1 } + \text{ Year 2 } + \text{ Year 3 } + \text{ Year 4 } + \text{ Year 5 }}{5} = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ?$
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.

**More Ways to Learn About Water!**

Info and artwork from the “Discover the Waters of Arizona” booklet. This column is a collaborative effort between CAP and Arizona Project WET.

For more water-related information, please visit: www.CentralArizonaProject.com or call toll free: (888) 891-5795

http://ag.arizona.edu/arizonawet/