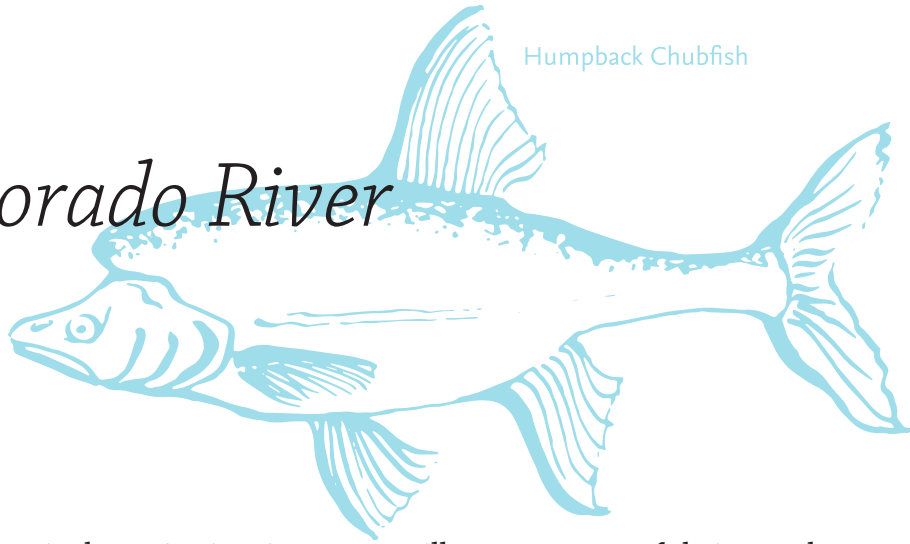


Humpback Chubfish

# The Colorado River



**T**HE COLORADO RIVER is the main river in the southwestern United States. Starting in the Rocky Mountains, it is 1,450 miles as it passes through desert cities like Grand Junction, CO and Moab, Utah before entering the Grand Canyon. It keeps coursing toward Arizona, where it is joined by the Gila River. The course ends at the Gulf of California.

Over millions of years, the Colorado River carved out the Grand Canyon. People have depended on it for millions of years. The ancient Anasazi people used the area around it to store food and supplies—you

can still see remnants of their storehouses carved into the rock alongside the river today.

The Colorado is known for its pretty scenery and recreation. It's a great place to go whitewater rafting, and it is near 11 different national parks. Though it's beautiful, it's currently endangered: It has been used so much by humans that by the time it reaches the Gulf, it is dry. As more and more people move to the areas around it, more people need to use the water it provides for drinking, cleaning, growing food, and making things.

## FACT FILE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Length: \_\_\_\_\_

Source: \_\_\_\_\_ Mouth: \_\_\_\_\_

Cities Along It: \_\_\_\_\_

Tributaries: \_\_\_\_\_

Importance to Communities Near It: \_\_\_\_\_

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