Water History Timeline of the Middle Rio Grande

WATER

English-speaking people have used the water resources of the Middle Rio Grande since 1821. In that year, the first Anglo-Americans traveled from Missouri (over a route which became known as the Santa Fe trail) to trade with Mexicans.

1821

AGUA

Spanish-speaking people have been using water from the Rio Grande since 1540 when Vásquez de Coronado first explored New Mexico. Early Hispanics called the Rio Grande the Rio del Norte. Many colonists settled in the river valley between Cochiti and Socorro, and area which they called the Rio Abajo or "lower river."

1540

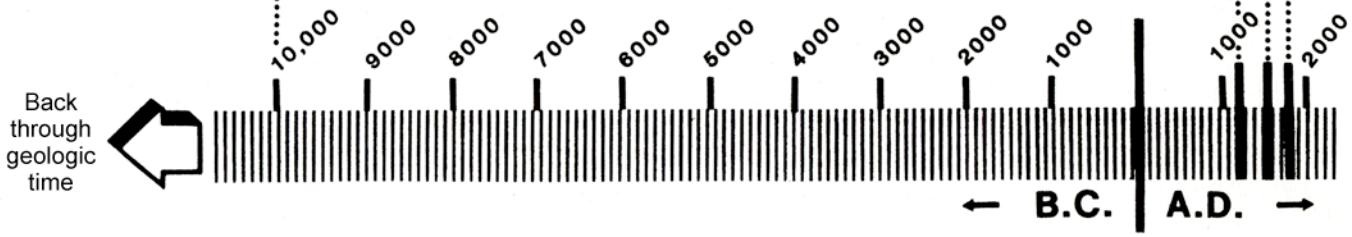
Evidence dating back 12,000 years indicates that prehistoric man lived in the Middle Rio Grande area, hunted animals, and gathered plants for food.

BA-AH

Tiwa-speaking ancestors of the Isleta and Sandia Pueblo people and other Native Americans used the waters in the Middle Rio Grande area for over 800 years. They used the river to irrigate crops such as corn, squash, beans, melon, and cotton.

1200

10,000 B.C.



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