

Naylee Trejo

Mrs. Dunay

AZ 5Cs

19 January 2023

On a beautiful sunny day, I feel the fresh breeze and see ranches full of cattle, cotton farms, the beautiful iconic citrus trees, and mountains where miners are searching for precious metals. This descriptive scene can only be found in the beautiful state of Arizona, where it has many unique features, including the climate, vegetation, and valuable minerals. All these features are called the 5Cs. The 5Cs are very important to Arizona, but how are they important? How did these 5Cs help Arizona become the state it is now? How do they contribute to Arizona's society? How do they impact me? Cotton, copper, cattle, citrus, and climate are all beneficial to Arizona's people. They all provide many jobs in agriculture and mining. With that said, all of the 5Cs play an important role in the economy and culture of Arizona.

Initially, cotton was a crucial profit crop in the 1910s. It has been grown in the state of Arizona for thousands and thousands of years. This crop benefited Arizona even before it became a state. According to the Arizona Farm Bureau, cotton generates about 11,000 jobs in Arizona and about \$500 million dollars per year. Arizona is one of the leading producers in cotton. In fact, "Arizona farmers produce enough cotton in a year to provide us all in America with one pair of jeans." Unfortunately, water usage and environmental concerns make Arizona's cotton production future uncertain. However, cotton is an important crop, which we all need for clothes, sheets, and towels. Cotton impacts all of us because we use it every day.

In addition, copper greatly contributed to the early years of Arizona. In the 1800s, copper was first responsible for supporting the developing economy of Arizona. Between 1880 and 1950

“the production of copper remained by far the most important industry in Arizona.” In fact, “by 1863 nearly one-fourth of Arizonans were mining for metals.” Arizona still sits as one of the most copper-producing states in the country. The mining industry is an important contributor to our state’s economy, providing a total economic impact of approximately \$6.5 billion in 2018. An estimated 38,963 jobs in Arizona are connected to mining in some way, according to the Arizona Mining Association. Mining truly is essential to one’s life. Copper provides us with electrical appliances which contain copper wires. Without copper, we would not be able to have the technology we have today.

Furthermore, the cattle industry helped Arizona become prosperous and develop its culture. In 1918, Arizona had as many as 1.75 million head of cattle providing beef to the entire nation. As ranching became more popular, the more farmland was devoted to agriculture in the state. In fact, “the federal government manages about 11.5 million acres of rangeland in Arizona, which may be leased for livestock grazing”. The cattle industry provides about “\$431 million to the state” each year. According to the Arizona Beef Council, for every 100 jobs in the cattle community, 65 jobs in outside operations are created. As a result of beef and dairy production, water usage is a major concern. However, the cattle industry is very important for supplying beef and dairy products for families across the state and country each day.

Moreover, citrus is Arizona’s most popular agricultural crop. Early irrigation efforts in the 1860s, such as the reconstruction of the Hohokam Canals, made citrus growth possible in Arizona’s harsh desert climate. In fact, “Arizona’s citrus industry began to grow in the early 20th century when companies decreased distribution cost.” Unfortunately, the citrus industry is threatened by a tiny pest that can spread a fatal disease. According to the Arizona Department of Agriculture, a strategy is in place for any future discovery of dangerous citrus pests or diseases.

On the other hand, Arizona's sun and soil are both perfect for growing many citrus plants, which include oranges, tangerines, lemons and grapefruit. The citrus industry provides us with varieties of citrus fruit.

Finally, the climate of Arizona brings in lots of tourists and visitors. Arizona is most known for its climate, the hot, dry desert. In fact, “outdoor temperatures in Arizona regularly exceed 100° Fahrenheit. The highest recorded temperature in Arizona is 128° Fahrenheit, in Lake Havasu City on June 29, 1994.” The hot climate and scenery bring millions of visitors to Arizona each year. According to the AZ State Library, Arizona's relatively mild winters contribute to the Snowbird effect. This is when people from colder states stay in Arizona before returning home as the weather warms up. Many tourists come to Arizona to see the dry, beautiful mountains of the Grand Canyon and the plants that survive this harsh climate, such as the iconic cactus plant. The beautiful cactus blossoms can survive by using Arizona's hot sun. All of the vegetation and species can only survive because of the climate that we have here in Arizona.

In conclusion, all of the 5Cs are very important for the making of the state of Arizona. They all provide income to the state and play a huge role in the economy and culture of Arizona. They are each one piece of the puzzle that makes up Arizona, for they have all contributed to Arizona in a multitude of ways, helping it become the state it is today. Without all the 5Cs, Arizona would not have become my beautiful home state it is today.