

Water and energy

We talked about when you dropped a rock on your toes, and it hurt because the rock gave your toes too much energy. And the rock had energy because it was up high, and it gave it out when it landed.

And we wondered if everything has energy to give out when it was up high. Put the tap on and put your hand underneath. Water is not spiky or hard, like rock, but you can feel it pressing down on your hand.



[Image credit: US Air Force, Carlin Leslie via Africom.mil. Public Domain]

What about the water high up in dams? Does that have energy?



[Dams in California – Public Policy Institute California
<https://www.ppic.org/publication/dams-in-california/>]

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Wow! It looks like this falling water has lots of energy!!
Well, water falling out of dams is used to turn huge wheels like this –
and that makes the energy used to make the lights and heaters and
refrigerators in houses work properly.



[FFC. <https://www.ffc-srl.com/en/ffc-services-hydroelectric-plants.html>. Many thanks]

This is an interesting piece of history. Long before electricity was discovered, it was found that a river, as it slowly flows down from a high place to a low place, has energy and this can be used to turn a large wheel. This turning wheel was used to crush wheat and make it into flour [and this flour was made into bread]. This was called a flour-mill.

You can see the big wheel on the side of this mill. It can be pushed around by water.

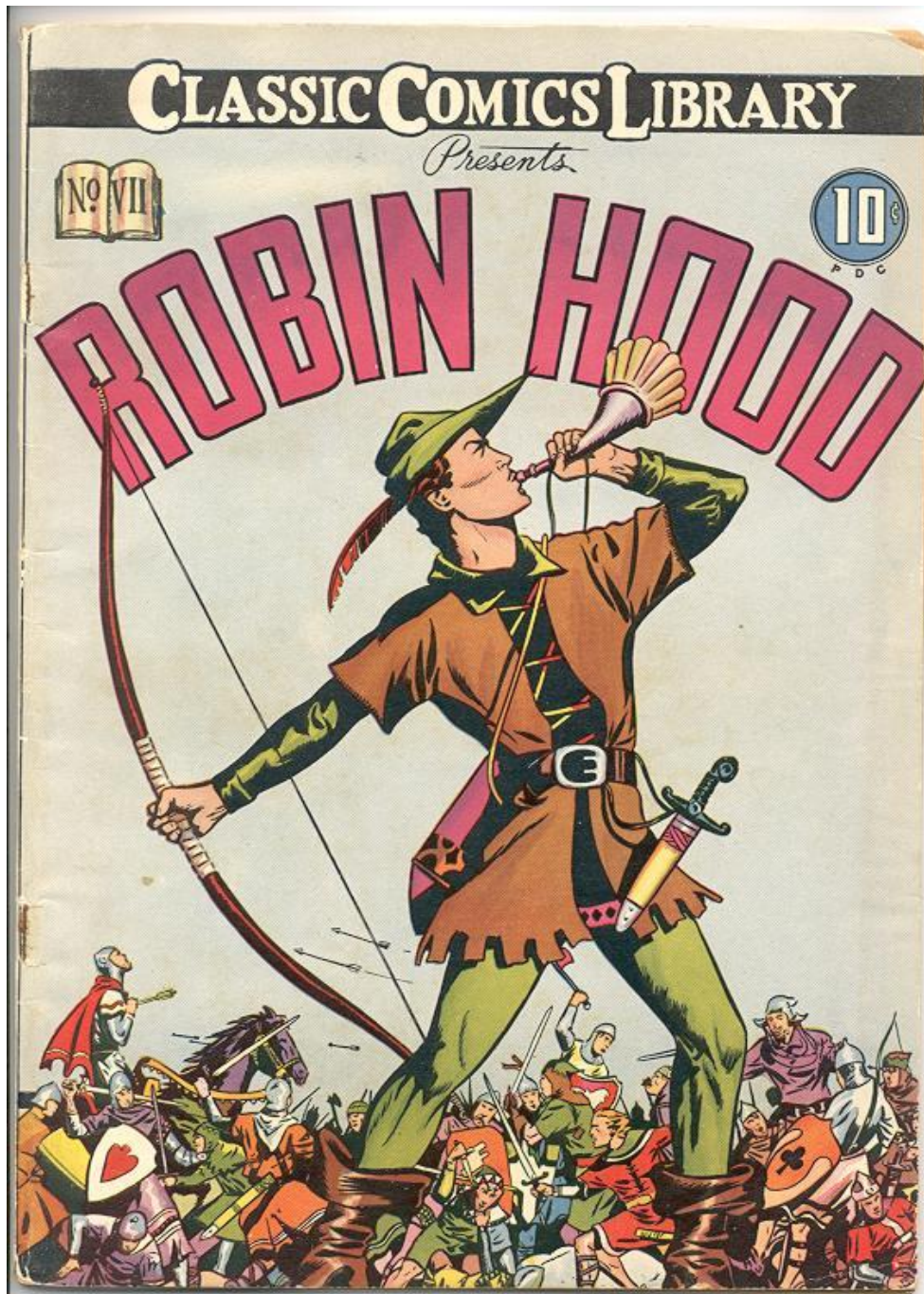


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Who do you think of when you look at this picture?

Yes, me too...



[GNU Free Documentation License. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:CC_No_07_Robin_Hood.jpg]

Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Robin.

Robin who?

Robin the rich to give to the poor!