

North American
GEO QUEST
A 13 part Hist-ography Series



Film Ideas Inc.
Tel: 1-800-475-3456
E-mail: filmid@ais.net
Web Site: www.filmideas.com

Copyright © 1998

film ideas, Inc.

Presents

North American
GEO QUEST
Series

A 13 Part Hist-ography Series

THE
**MISSISSIPPI
RIVER**
REGION

Arkansas • Kentucky • Louisiana
Mississippi • Missouri • Tennessee

INSTRUCTIONAL GUIDE

13 videos
in the
GEOQUEST Series

Pacific Region
Mountain West Region
Midwest Region
Southwest Region
Mississippi River Region
New England Region
Great Lakes Region
Mid-Atlantic Region
Southeast Region
Washington D.C.
Eastern Canadian Provinces
Western Canadian Provinces
Mexico

Suggested Usage:

Geography, History, Social Studies,
Language Arts, Commerce, Environment

Intermediate, Jr. High, General
Approx. 22 minutes each video 1998

**Permission granted to copy the following
exercises provided in this guide for educa-
tional use ONLY.**

NOTES:

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES

The purpose of this video series is to provide students with a stimulating overview of both the history and the geographical regions of the United States, the Provinces of Canada, and Mexico. Specifically developed to enhance the social studies curriculum, **North American GeoQuest is a 13-part Histo-graphy series.**

Filmed on location, these videos present *spectacular photography* along with *dynamic computer graphics*. Other features include; important historical figures, commerce, capital cities, significant points of interest and more! These videos also inform students of the relationships between the geologic, geographical and historical effects upon a region's past and present developments. Some geologic and geographical developments include the formation of mountains, lakes, volcanoes and glaciers and how these strongly influence a region's culture and history.

By understanding the profiles of these regions, students will acquire the knowledge that will define a *balance between the past and present*. Furthermore, as students study these videos, they will learn the geography of North America and about their own *heritage and those of others*.

As a complementary device with the video, this instructional guide suggests exercises to help aid teachers, parents and students. These exercises will reinforce and further develop a students level of comprehension. The instructional guide provides:

DVDs Allow:

- students to actively participate in the learning experience
- for greater flexibility and interactive learning
- for custom user interfaces
- for a level of control over learning
- for the learner to become more engaged
- for the enhancement of the learning process by combining media and text

Vocabulary! ✓

Chronology! ✓

Discussion Points/Activities! ✓

NOTES:

On the dotted line, name the five rivers of the Mississippi River Region.



1

2

3

4

5

On the dotted line, list the name of the State and its Capital City.



- 1 _____ / _____
- 2 _____ / _____
- 3 _____ / _____
- 4 _____ / _____
- 5 _____ / _____
- 6 _____ / _____

⊗ = Location of Capital City

THE Mississippi River REGION

Descendants of the Nomadic-Indians were the first known inhabitants to occupy this land. Later, the first European settlers, mostly from Spain and France, began to explore this region during the mid 1500's to late 1600's.

To enter the Mississippi River Region, some early explorers traveled on horseback while others used boats via the Northern waterways and the Gulf of Mexico. During its later discovery, this region became the battleground for one of the bloodiest wars in U.S. history. The Civil War was a conflict which both divided and defined the U.S. as a nation. Because of its vast river connections, this region became a strategic area for both the northern and southern states. With its river highways, the Mississippi River Region experienced a rapid development in product trade, manufacturing, and agriculture. Mark Twain one of America's most famed novelist, articulated the mystical wonder one captures along these rich river banks.

In addition to its ornate history, the Mississippi River Region also has geographical significance. From the powerful Mississippi river, to the Appalachian mountain peaks, to the bluegrass of Kentucky's rolling hilltops, the Mississippi River Region offers an array of adventure. Each year, millions of travelers visit this region to capture its unique artistry .

As we study the Mississippi River region, we not only begin to witness the results of nature but also the birth of a nation. Embedded in rich tradition, this region cultivates the knowledge from the past, which re-examines the present, to further inform the future.

VOCABULARY of Mississippi River Region

BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS: In 1815, the British assembled 5,400 soldiers during the War of 1812 in an attempt to gain control of the Mississippi River. However, 4,000 U.S. volunteer soldiers, lead by Gen. Andrew Jackson, defeated the British and officially claimed victory, thus ending the war.

CAJUNS: Descendants of the Acadian French settlers, who were forced out of Canada by the British, and eventually settled in Louisiana.

CIVIL WAR: From 1861-65 the Mississippi River Region becomes a heavy battleground between the Confederate states of the south seeking independence from the Union states of the north. This war attempted to resolve two main issues; 1) the distribution of power between the Federal Union and the states; and 2) the existence of black slavery.

CONFEDERACY: The 11 southern states which seceded from the Union in 1860-61 thus initiating the Civil War.

HERNANDO DE SOTO: A Spaniard, who was the first European explorer to view the Mississippi River.

LOUISIANA PURCHASE: In 1803, U.S. President Thomas Jefferson negotiated a land purchase agreement for 3 cents an acre with Napoleon, the emperor of France. The agreement included land west of the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains, and south to New Orleans, Louisiana.

MARDI GRAS: French name, meaning "Fat Tuesday" is a yearly celebration most notably occurring in New Orleans, Louisiana, which started in 1699 to commemorate the day before lent.

4. Many battles of the Civil War were fought on the soil of the Mississippi River Region. Discuss the issues involved with this conflict and the profiles of the two groups represented in the North and South (the Union and Confederates). Then assemble the students into two groups to have a political debate on the issues. Perhaps have each group nominate a leader to represent President Abraham Lincoln for the Union and President Jefferson Davis for the Confederates.

5. Draw a map (if you like, use a computer or the map provided on page 8) of the Mississippi River Region, indicating significant points of interest. For example, the capital cities, i.e. Frankfort, Kentucky; important events, i.e. Battle of New Orleans in 1815; or the names of early explorers, i.e. Robert Cavelier De La Salle etc..

6. The Mississippi River region is well known for the Mississippi River and its tributaries. Explain how these rivers were formed and how they influence their surrounding regions by using maps, scientific illustrations, clay models, etc. Perhaps use a computer to illustrate your project.

7. If possible, arrange a trip near your community to visit museums, cultural centers, state parks etc. to stimulate your imagination to explore the rich history and geography of the Mississippi River region.

Discussion Points/Activities

1. Today such conveniences as computers, telephones, automobiles, electricity, etc., are used to enhance our modern day lives. Explain how these enhancements differ from those used during the time the Mississippi River Region was being discovered. Use this information for the following study points/activities.

2. Imagine what it would be like to be an early explorer. Discuss issues which may have concerned these early settlers: weather conditions, commerce, regional terrain, food/vegetation, issues on foreign policy with Mexico, Spain, France, etc..

3. Both geographical and historical information has been documented throughout the world. Explain why this type of information is important when studying the Mississippi River Region, and how it relates to our everyday lives? Furthermore, how do the disciplines of geography and history interact or relate with other areas of study in your school's curriculum?

MARK TWAIN: One of America's most famous literary authors—his works include Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn, which describe Twain's childhood adventures on the Mississippi River.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER Region: Term used to describe the south central part of the U.S. The states include; Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky and Missouri.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER: Starting in northern Minnesota, this is the largest river in North America, flowing over 2,340 miles into the Gulf of Mexico.

PALEO-INDIANS: *Hunters and gatherers* of ancient Indian tribes, who migrated from Asia, and were the first known inhabitants of the Mississippi River region.

NORTH AMERICA: The third largest continent in the world consisting of Canada, the United States, Mexico and Central America.

ROBERT CAVELIER DE LA SALLE: A French explorer, who was the first European to navigate down the Mississippi River.

SLAVE STATE: Any state of the U.S. in which Negro slavery was legal until the end of the Civil War in 1865.

TRIBUTARIES: Smaller bodies of water which enter into larger bodies of water such as rivers and lakes. The four tributaries or smaller rivers which enter into the Mississippi River are the Missouri, Arkansas, Red and Ohio Rivers.

Chronology of Mississippi River Region

30,000-40,000 years ago: Paleo-Indians migrate from Asia into North America—by using a land bridge which at one time connected Asia with Alaska.

1540: Hernando De Soto is the first European to explore the Mississippi River Region.

1682: A French explorer, Robert Cavelier De La Salle is the first European to navigate down the Mississippi River.

1686: French establish first settlements in Arkansas.

1699: First French colony in the state of Mississippi is founded at Ocean Springs.

1718: New Orleans, Louisiana is established and becomes a major seaport connecting the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico.

1760: The Arcadian French settlers, who were later known as Cajuns, are forced out of Canada by the British.

1792: Kentucky becomes the 15th state of the Union.

1796: Tennessee becomes the 16th state to join the Union.

1803: Napoleon, the Emperor of France, sells the Louisiana Territory to the U.S. for 15 million dollars—better known as the Louisiana Purchase.

1812: Louisiana becomes the 18th state of the Union.

1815: U.S. defeats the British in the Battle of New Orleans and claims victory as the War of 1812 ends.

1817: Mississippi becomes the 20th state to join the Union.

1821: Missouri becomes the 24th state of the Union.

1836: Arkansas becomes the 25th state to join the Union.

1848: Mexican War begins.

1861: Arkansas and Tennessee secede from the Union.

1861-65: The Civil war

1865: The Kentucky Derby, one of the world's most famous horse races begins its long tradition.