

RIVERS OF NORTH AMERICA

13 PART SERIES

ARKANSAS
COLORADO
COLUMBIA / SNAKE
CONNECTICUT
HUDSON
INDIAN / INLAND WATERWAY
LOWER MISSISSIPPI
UPPER MISSISSIPPI
MISSOURI
OHIO
POTOMAC
RIO GRANDE
SACRAMENTO / AMERICAN

Consider Visiting These Web Sites:

www.greatriver.com
www.mrba.org
www.encyclopedia.com
www.friendsoflowermiss.org



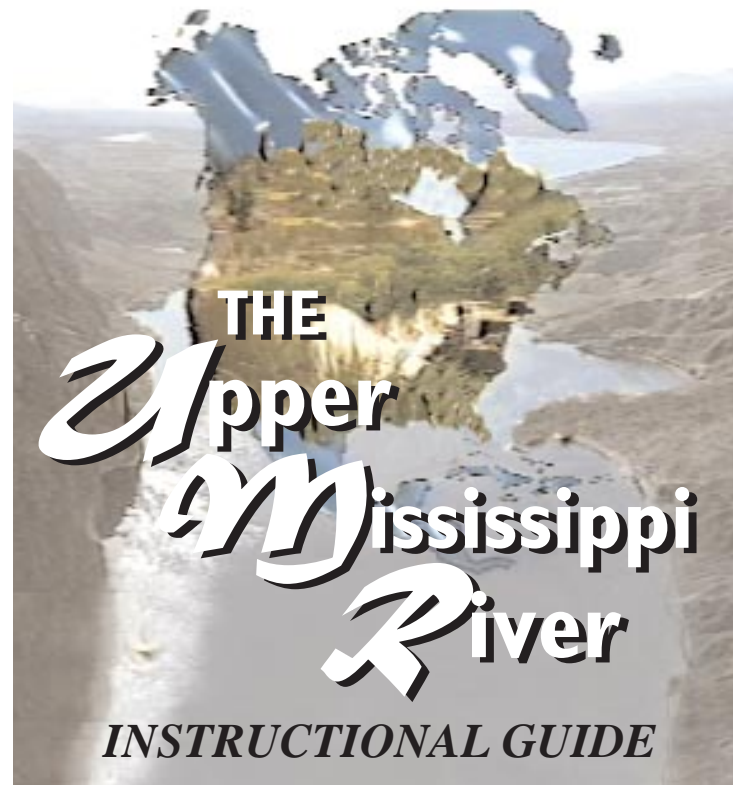
film ideas, inc.

308 N. Wolf Rd.
Wheeling, IL 60090

Tel: 1-800-475-3456
E-mail: filmid@ais.net
Web Site: www.filmideas.com
Copyright © 2001

film ideas, Inc.
Presents

***Rivers
of
North America***
13 Part Series



INTRODUCTION TO SERIES

Rivers of North America Series brings a unique perspective to the role great rivers have played in the early development and subsequent settlement of a region and a nation. Each river has its own unique story to tell, it's own geology, geography and history.

As a complementary device with each video, an instructional guide suggests exercises to help teachers, parents and students. These interactive exercises will reinforce and further develop a student's level of comprehension.

The instructional guide provides:

Vocabulary
Chronology / Q & A
Native People / Explorers
Discussion Points / Activities
Geography / Geology
River / Cities Development

Permission granted to copy the exercises provided in this guide. For educational use ONLY.

E-Guides available at
www.filmideas.com

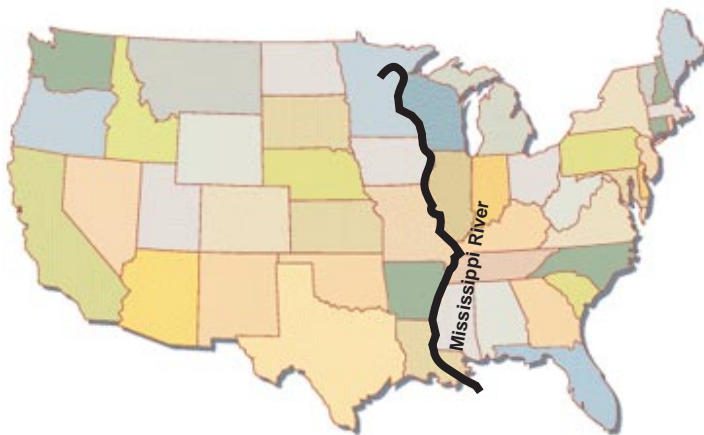
Environment of *The Upper Mississippi River*

Because of careless development along the banks of the Mississippi River the wetlands and river bank forests are disappearing. Review the video and on the solid black lines write the names of the animal species which have been affected by these environmental changes.



Tributaries of *The Upper Mississippi River*

The Minnesota, Illinois, Chippewa, Black, Wisconsin, St. Croix, Iowa, Des Moines and Rock rivers are some of the smaller tributaries of the Upper Mississippi River. However on the United States map indicate and name where the river route for the largest tributary is located.



THE *Upper* Mississippi River

The Great River, The Big Muddy, Gathering of Waters and Old Man River these are but a few of the names given to the most storied waterway in all of North America. However, we know it best by the name "Mississippi" meaning the "Father of Waters". Traveling 2,300 miles south while defining the boundary line for 10 states, the Mississippi is the longest river in America. Together with its tributaries, the Mississippi River Basin covers about 1.2 million square miles and is the third largest river drainage system in the world. Because of its enormous size the Mississippi River is divided into the upper and lower parts. The headwaters of the upper Mississippi River region originate in Minnesota while the endpoint of the upper region is at the southern tip of Illinois where it is joined by the Ohio River.

During the ice age huge animals called "megafauna" lived in the upper Mississippi River region. These megafauna animals provided food and garments for nomadic tribes who became the first humans to inhabit the region. In about 1500, for unknown reasons descendants of these early nomadic tribes began to disappear. Afterwards, in 1673 Louis Joliet and Jacques Marquette became the first Europeans to explore the headwaters of the Mississippi River. During European expansion, the Mississippi and its tributaries became the waterways to transport goods for the fur trapping industry. Along with the arrival of Europeans began the development of cities. As new territories were claimed, cities along the rich banks of the Mississippi became the major shipping points in the New World.

Throughout its history, the Upper Mississippi River region has played an important role in the birth of a nation. However, its power and force can also create floodwaters which can destroy everything in its path. From Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn to nomadic Indian tribes and riverboat queens, the Mississippi River continues to narrate enchanting tales which tell the story of America.

VOCABULARY of *The UPPER MISSISSIPPI*

CONFLUENCE: The point where two rivers join together. i.e. The Ohio & Mississippi Rivers.

CAHOKIA: A city located across the river from St Louis, Missouri where Mound Builders (Mississippians) developed and prospered planting and harvesting corn, beans and squash.

FLOODPLAIN: The land area located next to a river. When the water begins to rise this land is the first to be submerged under water.

HEADWATERS: The mixture of melting snow and rain form into the little creeks and streams which become the initial water source for larger bodies of water i.e. The Mississippi River.

JACQUES MARQUETTE: A French explorer, who in 1673 along with Louis Joliet became the first Europeans to arrive near the headwaters of the Upper Mississippi River region.

LOUISIANA PURCHASE: In 1803 French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte sold 800,000 square miles of territory for 15 million dollars to the United States. The agreement included land west of the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains, and south to New Orleans, Louisiana.

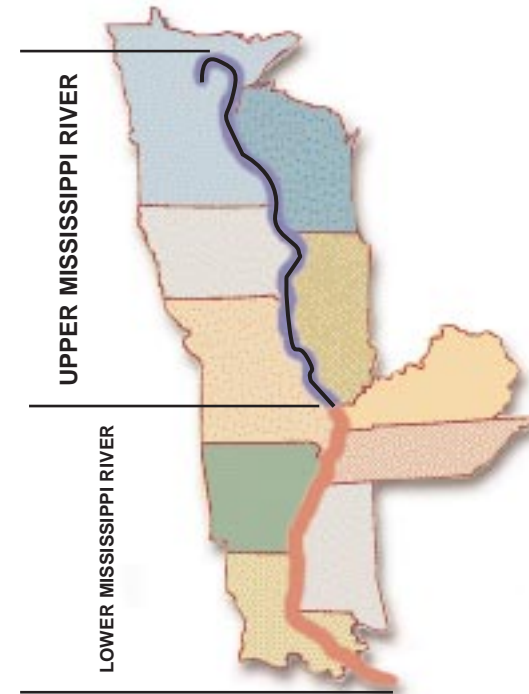
LOUIS JOLIET: A French explorer, who in 1673 along with Jacques Marquette became the first Europeans to arrive near the headwaters of the Upper Mississippi River region.

Letters A thru C describe three **Upper Mississippi River Basin Cities**. Write the name of the city on the solid black line. Then with a Black Marker write the letter **A, B, C** to indicate where on the Upper Mississippi River map each city is located.

A) _____ is considered the “Gateway to the West”.

B) Mark Twain used the city of _____ to write his classic stories of “Tom Sawyer” and “Huckleberry Finn”.

C) The twin cities of _____ is home to the giant corporations of Pillsbury and General Mills which make breakfast cereal from Mississippi River water.

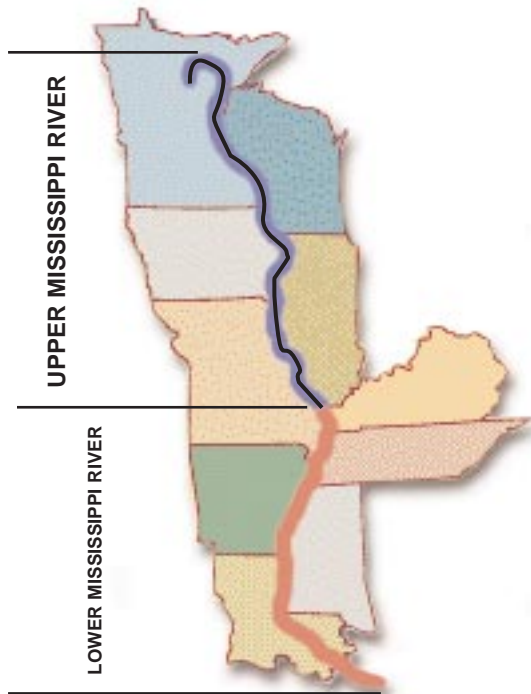


GEOGRAPHY of *The Upper Mississippi*

The **Upper Mississippi River** journeys in or around 5 states. On the solid black line name each of these states.

STATES:

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| ① _____ | ④ _____ |
| ② _____ | ⑤ _____ |
| ③ _____ | |



MEGAFUNA: Large sized pre-historic animals that lived during the ice age near the headwaters of the Upper Mississippi River area.

MOUND BUILDERS also known as MISSISSIPPIANS: Name given to a Native American culture who between 800 and 900 CE lived in Illinois, Missouri and territory further south. During this time, these tribal people built mound platforms mostly used for religious ceremonies.

PIERRE DE LACLEDE: A French fur trader, who in 1763 while looking for a location for a fur trading company founded St. Louis naming it after Louis IX the King of France.

SEDIMENT: Soil, rocks and organic material moved along by a river's currents.

TRIBUTARY: A smaller river or stream which flows into another larger body of water (i.e. Upper Mississippi River).

UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER (THE): Approx. 2,300 miles and is the longest river in the United States. The river's headwaters originate near Lake Itasca, in north central Minnesota while the endpoint of the upper region is at the southern tip of Illinois where it is joined by the Ohio River.

UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN (THE): The 1.2 million square miles of drainage area where the Mississippi River and its tributaries carries water from the headwaters in Minnesota before finally emptying into the Gulf of Mexico.

U.S. ARMY CORPS. OF ENGINEERS: Engineers who find solutions to the complicated problems of navigation and flood prevention on the Mississippi River.

CHRONOLOGY of *The Upper Mississippi*

75,000 years ago: The headwaters area of the Upper Mississippi River was covered by a glacier.

12,000 years ago: The glacier covering the headwaters area begins to melt. As it recedes the glacier carves out different land formations into the earth creating what is now known as the Mississippi River Valley.

800-900: Tribal people called the Mound Builders develop ancient cities (Cahokia). These cities include famous mound platforms used for religious ceremonies.

1500: Mound Builders disappear from the Upper Mississippi River region.

1673: French explorers Louis Joliet and Jacques Marquette become the first Europeans to arrive at the headwaters of the Mississippi River.

1680: French priest, Father Louis Hennipen discovers St. Anthony's Falls later named Minneapolis.

Early 1700's: The Mississippi and its tributaries are mainly used for the fur trapping industry.

1763: St. Louis, Missouri, named after Louis IX, King of France is founded by French fur trader Pierre De Laclède. Also, because of the French and Indian War, France loses most of its North American territories to the British.

1803: During an agreement known as the Louisiana Purchase French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte sells 800,000 square miles of territory for 15 million dollars to the United States.

1816-1903: The Quad Cities is founded and developed. These cities include: Davenport & Bettendorf Iowa; Rock Island & Moline, Illinois.

1840: St. Paul, Minnesota's State Capitol is originally founded by French trader Pierre Parant.

1965: The Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Missouri is completed.

1993: One of the biggest floods along the Mississippi River region occurs.

Discussion Points / Activities

1. If possible visit some of the locations along the banks of the Mississippi River as discussed in the video. SEE Pg. 5 of this guide. Also checkout the internet for web sites about the rivers rich heritage.

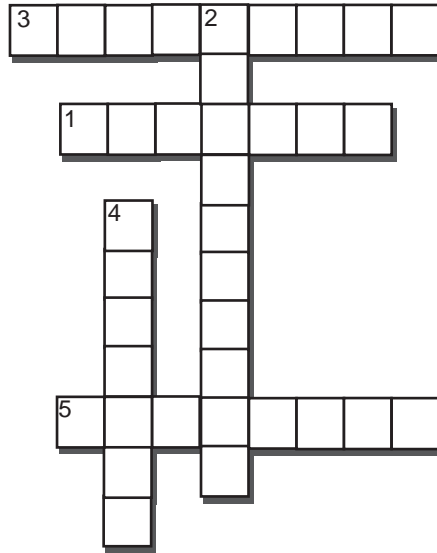
2. Like a science project, build a model river using paper mache', clay, dirt / mud etc. to illustrate the characteristics of the Mississippi River. Perhaps use charts and maps to explain what happens to the river environment and its surrounding nature (include animal species) during floods or the building of dams etc.

3. Discuss how each of the following events have affected the past and present-day conditions of the Mississippi River:

- 1) Building of dams, locks and levees
- 2) Glaciers
- 3) The arrival of Indian cultures & European explorers
- 4) Development of cities

4. The ecosystems along rivers and other bodies of water sustain many different life forms. If possible visit a river (the Mississippi River) and imagine you are an ecologist. Study these different life forms and document their relationships with the river environment. i.e. bring binoculars, take photographs, paint a river scene, write a poem, sample various vegetation to view under a microscope, enjoy a riverboat ride etc.

Use the words described in this guide on pgs. 2, 3, 4 & 5 to complete the crossword.



ACROSS:

- 1) City originally settled by the tribal people called the Mound Builders.
- 3) Large sized pre-historic animals.
- 5) Soil, rocks and organic material moved along by a rivers currents.

DOWN:

- 2) When water begins to rise this land area is the first to be submerged under water.
- 4) Founder of St. Louis, Missouri.

ANSWERS:
 Across - 1) Cahokia, 3) Megafauna, 5) Sediment
 Down - 2) Floodplain, 4) Laclède

EXPLORERS of *The Upper Mississippi*

LOUIS JOLIET & JACQUES MARQUETTE: French explorers, who in 1673 became the first Europeans to arrive near the headwaters of the Upper Mississippi River region.

ROBERT CAVALIER SIEUR DE LA SALLE: Claimed many land territories along the Mississippi for France. However these same territories were previously claimed 130 years earlier by Hernando De Soto for Spain.

HERNANDO DE SOTO: Claimed all the Mississippi River region territories for Spain.

MERIWEATHER LEWIS & WILLIAM CLARK: After the Louisiana Purchase U.S. President Thomas Jefferson assigned Lewis & Clark to a 2 year expedition of the newly acquired territory in hope to find a northwest passage to the Pacific Ocean.

FATHER LOUIS HENNIPEN: French priest, who discovered St. Anthony's Falls later named Minneapolis.

PLACES OF THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGION:

MISSISSIPPI RIVER HEADWATERS STATE PARK: Located in the north central woods of Minnesota at Lake Itasca. Over 350 species of animals and birds along with 10,000 glacier formed lakes are found here.

FAMOUS UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER CITIES: (St. Louis, Missouri) ; (Twin Cities Minneapolis / St. Paul, Minnesota) ; (Quad Cities-Davenport & Bettendorf, Iowa / Rock Island & Moline, Illinois) ; (Hannibal, Missouri-known for Mark Twain's classic stories of Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn)

RIVERBOATS: Consider taking a riverboat ride down the Mississippi while visiting any of the famous Upper Mississippi River cities.

GATEWAY ARCH (The): Located in St. Louis, Missouri. Completed in 1965 and is 630 feet tall. Built over the former site of the original house owned by St. Louis founder Pierre De Laclède.

Q & A for *The Upper Mississippi*

1. Headwaters are created from melting snow and rain. Eventually this water forms into creeks and streams which become the headwaters for rivers. Can you name the State from where the headwaters of the Upper Mississippi River originate?
2. What is the point at which two rivers join together?
3. The Mississippi River ends its journey by emptying into what body of water?
4. What is the longest river in the United States?
5. In 1803, the United States doubled in size as 800,000 square miles of land was sold by the French to the United States for 15 million dollars. What was the name of this land agreement?
6. What is the largest and most important tributary flowing into the Mississippi River?
7. The Quad cities includes four urban areas. Can you name each of these cities?
8. The wetlands and river bank forests are slowly disappearing along the banks of the Mississippi River. What are some of the animals affected by these environmental changes?
9. The Upper Mississippi River travels from its Minnesota headwaters to the southern tip of what state?

Fill in the blank by selecting the words from the answers list:

ANSWERS LIST :

Flood Prevention • Debris • Joliet & Marquette • Pollution
Ohio • De LaSalle & De Soto • Sediment • Twin Cities
River Sewage • Minnesota • Four Cities • Illinois
Lewis & Clark • Quad Cities • Water Temperature

10. A) After the Louisiana Purchase, U.S. President Thomas Jefferson assigned _____ to explore the newly acquired territory.

B) Soil, rocks and organic material moved along by a river's currents is called _____ .

C) 12,000 years ago glaciers began to melt forming the "Land of 10,000 Lakes" also known as the state of _____ .

D) Davenport & Bettendorf, Iowa along with Rock Island & Moline, Illinois are referred to as the _____ .

E) The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was assigned to solve complicated problems for navigation and _____ on the Mississippi River.