

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.tulsaweb.com/port/history.htm

www.encyclopedia.com



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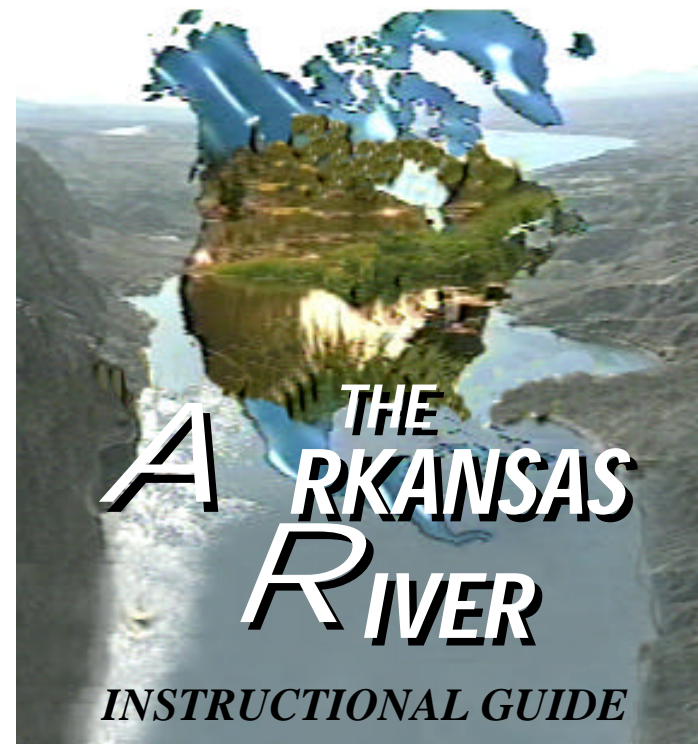
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Presents

**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

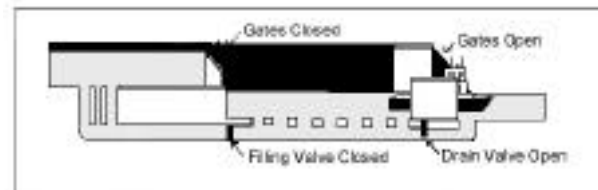
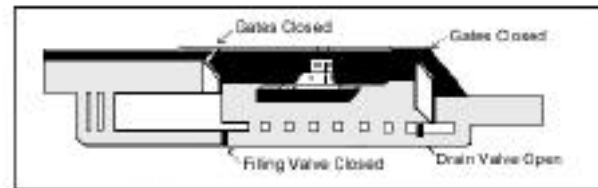
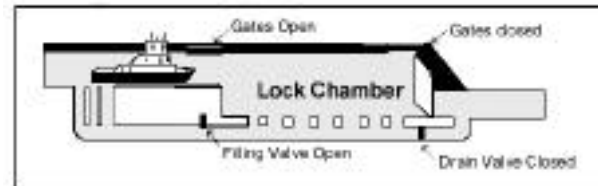
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*E-Guides available at
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LOCK ILLUSTRATIONS

For a lock animation visit:

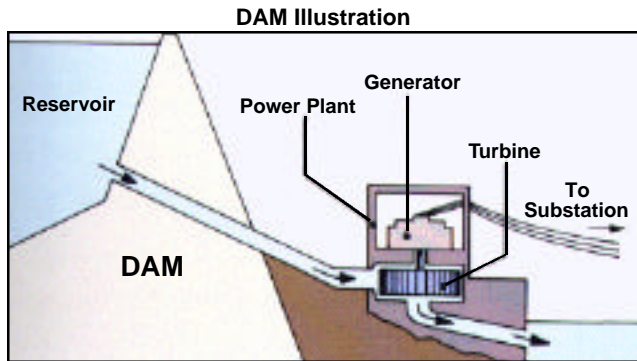
http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/navigation/locks_and_dams/animated_lock/



NOTES:

DAMS & LOCKS of *The ARKANSAS RIVER*

Today, 17 dams and locks have been built on the Arkansas River. On paper or a computer, explain and illustrate what dams / locks are and why they are built. If needed use the illustrations provided or if possible draw your own graphics (use a computer). Gather information on the internet.



NOTES:

THE ARKANSAS RIVER

At 1,450 miles long, the Arkansas River is one of the longest rivers in the United States. Its headwaters originate from melting snow and rain high above the Rocky Mountains near the town of Leadville, Colorado. From there, the Arkansas River journeys through the plains of eastern Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and into Arkansas where it finally joins the mighty Mississippi.

Almost 29,000 years ago, nomadic Indian tribes were the first to inhabit the 160,500 square mile Arkansas River Basin. These early inhabitants mostly followed herds of animals while hunting for food. However, approximately 2,000 years ago, descendants from these early Indian cultures, known as the "Mound Builders", began to cultivate the land using sophisticated farming practices. Along with their farming methods these tribes also organized civil societies and constructed mound platforms used mostly for religious ceremonies. During the early 1500's Spanish explorers became the first Europeans to arrive onto the scene. Eventually, Spanish interest in the region began to dissolve and in 1686 the French began to explore the area.

In 1859 gold and silver was discovered in the upper Arkansas River Basin. This prompted a new mining industry, which because of the poisonous chemicals used to refine gold and silver, began to corrupt the environment surrounding the river. A century later the river is still recovering from this disaster.

The Arkansas River has a vast history. Today there are 17 locks and dams which produce hydroelectric power, prevent floods, and regulates navigation through the river. Major cities like Little Rock, Ak., Tulsa, Ok., Wichita, Ks., and Pueblo, Co., have become major industrial areas for manufacturing, coal, oil, natural gas and steel.

The Arkansas River Basin has played an important role throughout American history. From its trickling water high above the Rocky Mountains to its confluence into the Mississippi, the Arkansas River is a water highway cruising along its proven past, present and future.

VOCABULARY of *The ARKANSAS RIVER*

ARKANSAS RIVER (The): Travels through four states and is 1,450 miles long. Its headwaters originate in the Rocky Mountains near Leadville, Colorado.

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

CONTINENTAL DIVIDE: Arbitrary line located in the middle of the Rocky Mountain Range which separates the east and west. Waters along the western slope of the divide flow into the Pacific Ocean or Gulf of California. Waters along the eastern slope of the divide flow into the Mississippi River and/or the Gulf of Mexico.

DAMS: Barriers built on river's to prevent the flow of water. Dams are used to store water, control floods and produce electricity.

FRANCISCO VASQUES DE CORONADO: A Spanish conquistador who in 1539-40 became one of the first Europeans to explore the Arkansas River region. He introduced horses to the Indians and how to ride them.

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 Arkansas River.

HENRI DE TONTY: French army officer who in 1686 established the first European settlement along the Arkansas River.

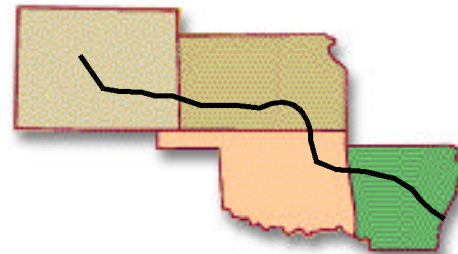
HERNANDO DE SOTO: Spanish explorer who in 1539-40 discovered the area where the Arkansas River joins the Mississippi.

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

A) High above the Rocky Mountains near the mining town of _____ are where the headwaters of the Arkansas River begin to form.

B) _____ is the state capital of Arkansas and home to 42nd U.S. President Bill Clinton.

C) Since 1901 _____ has become a center for the oil industry and is the second largest city in Oklahoma.



GEOGRAPHY of *The ARKANSAS RIVER*

The Arkansas River journeys through **four states before joining a body of water**. On the solid black line name each of these areas.

STATES:

① _____

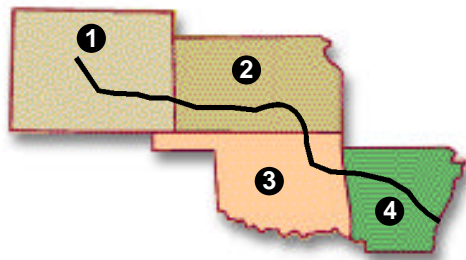
② _____

③ _____

④ _____

BODY OF WATER

⑤ _____



INDIAN REMOVAL ACT (The): A law passed in 1830 which stated that the 5 civilized Indian tribes must leave their land and move onto reservations.

LOUISIANA PURCHASE: A land agreement in 1803 between the United States and France. Through this agreement the present day states of Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Nebraska and Colorado became part of the United States.

MANIFEST DESTINY: A phrase coined in the early 1800's by journalist John Lewis O'Sullivan. The phrase stated it was "Divine Destiny" or the "Will of God" that the United States should one day be the entire North American continent coast to coast.

M-KARNS (McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System): In 1946 congress authorized a plan for construction projects to produce hydroelectric power, improve flood control, recreation and navigation on the Arkansas River.

MOUND BUILDERS also known as MISSISSIPPIANS: Name given to a Native American culture who lived in the Arkansas River Basin 2000 years ago. During this time, these tribal people built mound platforms mostly used for religious ceremonies.

ROYAL GORGE: At 1,000 feet it is the deepest river canyon along the Arkansas River. The depth of the canyon is created by the river slowly cutting through hard granite as the land continues to rise the canyon develops deeper and deeper.

TRAIL OF TEARS: Term used to describe the U.S. government relocating five Indian Tribes to Oklahoma in 1828.

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

ZEBULON M. PIKE: In 1806 he was assigned to explore the newly acquired Arkansas River territory after the Louisiana Purchase between the United States and France.

CHRONOLOGY of *The ARKANSAS RIVER*

Millions of years ago: Rocky Mountains are created by movements in the earth's crust.

29,000 years ago: Dated evidence of the first human settlements located in the Arkansas River region.

2,000 years ago: Dated evidence of archaic Indian tribes lived throughout the Arkansas River region.

20,000 years ago: Paleo-Indians inhabit the area.

1539-40: Spanish explorers, Francisco Vasques De Coronado and Hernando De Soto lead expeditions throughout the Arkansas River region.

1686: France begins to explore the Arkansas River Basin.

1806: Zebulon M. Pike is assigned to explore the newly acquired Arkansas River Basin after the Louisiana Purchase.

1820: First steamboat sails on the Arkansas River.

1830: A law called "The Indian Removal Act" is passed stating five civilized Indian tribes be moved from their land and placed on reservations in Oklahoma.

1838: "Trial of Tears" the relocation of five Indian tribes.

1859: Gold and silver are discovered high in the upper Arkansas River Valley.

1901: Oil boom hits the Arkansas River region.

1929: The Royal Gorge Bridge is built.

1946: Congress authorizes construction projects along the Arkansas River a plan known as the M-KARNS.

Discussion Points / Activities

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

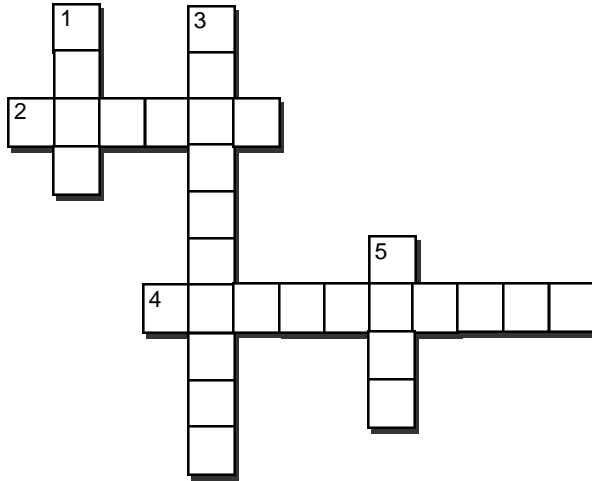
2. Draw a map (if you like, use a computer or the map provided on page 11) of the river, indicating significant points of interest. For example, Pikes Peak, Continental Divide etc.

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

- 1) Building of dams
- 2) The arrival of Indian cultures & European explorers
- 3) Development of cities

4. The ecosystems along rivers and other bodies of water sustain many different life forms. If possible visit a river (the Arkansas 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 etc.

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



DOWN:

- 1) explored the newly acquired Arkansas River Basin after the Louisiana Purchase.
- 3) The point where two rivers join together.
- 5) Barriers built on rivers to prevent the flow of water.

ACROSS:

- 2) Construction projects to produce hydroelectric power, improve flood control, recreation and navigation on the Arkansas River.
- 4) Place where a river begins.

ANSWERS:
 Down - 1) Pike, 3) Confluence, 5) Dams
 Across - 2) MKARNS, 4) Headwaters

Explorers of *The ARKANSAS RIVER*

FRANCISCO VASQUES DE CORONADO: Spanish explorer who in 1539-40 led an expedition throughout the Arkansas River region.

HERNANDO DE SOTO: Spanish explorer who in 1539-40 led an expedition which found the area where the Arkansas River joins the Mississippi.

HENRI DE TONTY: French Army officer who established the first permanent European settlement on the river.

ZEBULON PIKE: Assigned to explore the newly acquired Arkansas River Basin after the Louisiana Purchase.

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PLACES OF THE ARKANSAS RIVER REGION:

ROYAL GORGE BRIDGE: Built in 1929, this bridge allows visitors to view the 1000 ft. deep river canyon.

MAJOR CITIES ALONG THE ARKANSAS RIVER REGION:

- ARKANSAS: Little Rock, Ft. Smith
- OKLAHOMA: Tulsa
- KANSAS: Wichita
- COLORADO: Pueblo

LAKE PUEBLO STATE PARK: 17,000 acre lake area. Activities include kayaking, rafting and fishing.

QUAPAW QUARTER: The old town section of Little Rock, Ak. occupied with old mansions and historical buildings.

RIVERFRONT PARK: 17 acre complex of walkways, terraces and plazas located in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Q & A for *The ARKANSAS RIVER*

1. Headwaters are created from melting snow and rain. Eventually this water forms into creeks and streams which become the headwaters for rivers. Name the mountain range from where the headwaters of the Arkansas River originate?
2. Many dams were built on the Arkansas River. What are dams and why are dams built?
3. The Arkansas River ends its journey by emptying into what body of water?
4. In 1859 gold and silver was discovered in the upper Arkansas River region. Explain how the mining of these resources effected the river's environment?
5. Who were the first people to inhabit the Arkansas River region? Who were the first Europeans to explore the region?
6. The Arkansas River region experienced many changes during European colonization. Describe some of these changes and how they affected the Indian population?
7. In 1830 a law called "The Indian Removal Act" was passed. Define what this law means and how the phrase "Manifest Destiny" inspired this law?

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

ANSWERS LIST :

Trial of Tears • Tributary • Manifest Destiny
Rio George • Francisco Hernandez • Manifesto
Hernando De Soto • Trial of Rivers • Royal Gorge

9. A) At 1,000 feet the _____ is the deepest river canyon along the Arkansas River.
- B) In 1539-40, Spanish explorer _____ discovered the area where the Arkansas River joins the Mississippi.
- C) The Red River is an example of a _____ which is a smaller river flowing into the Arkansas.
- D) The term _____ is used to describe the U.S. government relocating five Indian Tribes to Oklahoma in 1838.
- E) The phrase _____ stated it was "Divine Destiny" or the "Will of God" that the United States should one day be the entire North American continent coast to coast.