

**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:**

<http://www.orsanco.org/ohioriverquickfacts.html>

<http://historic.shcsc.k12.in.us/ohiorive/river.htm>

[http://www.ohiokids.org/ohc/history/h\\_indian/maps/ohriver.html](http://www.ohiokids.org/ohc/history/h_indian/maps/ohriver.html)

[http://www.moon.com/travel\\_matters/hot\\_off\\_the\\_press/ohio\\_history.html](http://www.moon.com/travel_matters/hot_off_the_press/ohio_history.html)



**Film ideas, inc.**

308 N. Wolf Rd.  
Wheeling, IL60090

Tel: 1-800-475-3456

E-mail: [filmid@ais.net](mailto:filmid@ais.net)

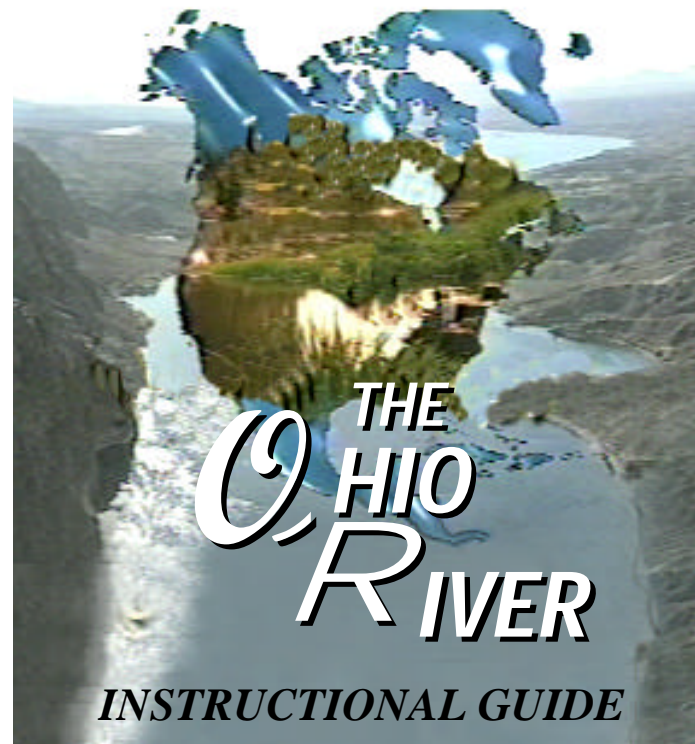
Web Site: [www.filmideas.com](http://www.filmideas.com)

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:

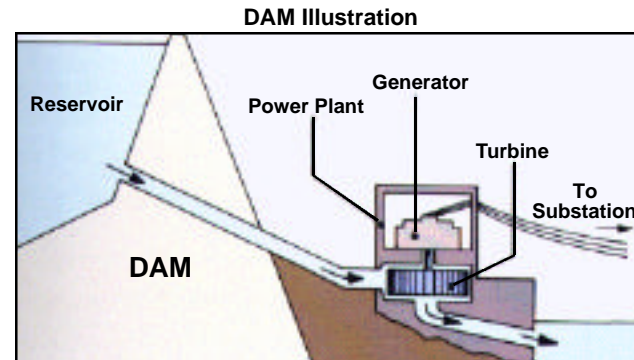
- Vocabulary
- Chronology / Q & A
- Native People / Explorers
- Discussion Points / Activities
- Geography / Geology
- River / Cities Development

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

*E-Guides available at  
[www.filmideas.com](http://www.filmideas.com)*

## DAMS of *The OHIO RIVER*

Today, 20 dams have been built on the Ohio River. On paper or a computer, explain and illustrate what dams are and why they are built. If needed use the illustration provided or if possible draw your own graphics (use a computer). Gather information on the internet.



### NOTES:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## ENVIRONMENT of *The OHIO RIVER*

Since 1970 clean-up efforts have been conducted on the Ohio River. Review the video and on the solid black lines below write what caused these environmental changes and what animal species have been affected by the river's deterioration.



---

---

---

---

---

---

## THE *OHIO RIVER*

Starting at the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania the Ohio River travels 981 miles southwest before finally joining the Mississippi River at Cairo, Illinois. Its vibrant river valley and precious wildlife are currently shared by more than 25 million people. Over 230 million tons of cargo are transported along the Ohio River each year. Its twenty dams and forty-nine power generating facilities provide electricity for 6% of the nation.

Around 280 million years ago, the Ohio River Valley was covered with a shallow marshy sea. This sea produced marsh plants which over millions of years compressed and formed into coal, oil and natural gas. Near the end of the last Ice Age, around 12,000 years ago, Paleo-Indians were the first known inhabitants to occupy the Ohio Valley. These nomadic tribes migrated throughout the region while following herds of animals which provided them with food, clothing and shelter. Later, about 3,000 years ago, Native American Tribes known as the Woodland Indians and the "Mound Builders" developed sophisticated farming methods and built villages throughout the river valley. In 1669 French explorer Robert Cavélier Sieur De La Salle became the first European to sail the Ohio River. During the mid-1700's France and Britain fought for control of the river region. However after the Revolutionary War the river territory eventually became part of a newly born nation known as the United States.

The Ohio River also played a prominent role during the Civil War. From 1861-1865 the river valley became a safe haven known as the "underground railroad". The "underground railroad" was an escape route for runaway slaves in the south searching for freedom in the north.

During its development, the river region became home for several major cities. Cincinnati, Pittsburgh and Louisville became manufacturing and service centers for important industries. As it further develops from its historic past to its prominent future, the Ohio River continues to shape and reshape the vast North American landscape.

## VOCABULARY of *The OHIO RIVER*

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

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

**FOSSIL FUELS:** Mainly coal, oil and natural gas which were created from the remains of plants and animals which have decomposed over millions of years.

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

**HARRIET TUBMAN:** Active organizer of the slave escape route known as the "Underground Railroad". As an organizer she helped many slaves in the south reach their freedom in the north.

**KANSAS-NEBRASKA ACT OF 1854:** This act allowed states to enter the Union as a free state or a slave state.

**MOUND BUILDERS:** Native American Indian Tribe who inhabited the Ohio region about 1,700 years ago. This Indian culture developed advanced farming methods and built platform mounds used mostly for religious ceremonies.

Letters A thru C describe three Ohio 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 Ohio River map each city is located.

**A)** The headwaters for the Ohio River begin in \_\_\_\_\_ .

**B)** The Kentucky Derby, the world's most famous thoroughbred horse race, is held at Churchill Downs in \_\_\_\_\_ .

**C)** \_\_\_\_\_ is where the Ohio River joins the Mississippi River.



## GEOGRAPHY of *The OHIO RIVER*

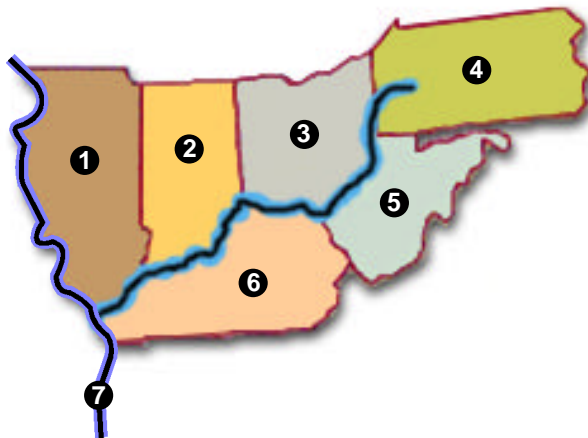
The Ohio River journeys through **six states, before emptying into a body of water**. On the solid black line name each of these areas.

STATES:

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

BODY OF WATER

- ⑦ \_\_\_\_\_



**OHIO RIVER (The):** Its headwaters begin at the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and travels 981 miles southwest before finally joining the Mississippi River at Cairo, Illinois. The Ohio River journeys through six states; West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois.

**ORDINANCE OF 1787:** This organized the Ohio Valley as part of the Northwest Territory. It featured 3 main objectives: 1) prohibited slavery, 2) guaranteed full citizenship to settlers and 3) promised statehood when certain population levels were reached.

**PALEO-INDIANS:** The first known inhabitants of the Ohio River Valley. These nomadic tribes lived in the area about 12,000 years ago.

**ROBERT CAVELIER SIEUR DE LA SALLE:** French explorer who in 1669 became the first European to sail the Ohio River.

**THREE RIVERS:** The confluence area in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where the Allegheny, Monongahela and Ohio Rivers join together.

**TRIBUTARIES:** A small river or stream flowing into another larger body of water (i.e. Ohio River).

**UNDERGROUND RAILROAD:** From 1861-1865 this became an escape route for runaway slaves in the south searching for freedom in the north.

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

## CHRONOLOGY of *The OHIO RIVER*

**290 million years ago:** The Ohio River Region is covered by a shallow marshy sea.

**12,000 years ago:** During the last ice age glaciers advance and retreat over the area. Paleo-Indians migrate into the Ohio Valley.

**3,000 years ago:** Woodland Indians occupy the area.

**1,700 years ago:** An Indian culture known as the "Mound Builders" inhabit the Ohio River Valley.

**1669:** French explorer Robert Cavellier Sieur De La Salle becomes the first European to sail the Ohio River.

**1692:** The British first reach the Ohio River.

**1753:** George Washington surveys the confluence of the three rivers area.

**1754-1763:** French/Indian War.

**1775-1783:** Revolutionary War.

**1811:** First steamboat is launched on the Ohio River.

**1824:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers begin a series of flood prevention projects.

**1832:** The Ohio and Erie Canals are opened.

**1861-1865:** Civil War. Thousands of slaves in the south use the escape route known as the "Underground Railroad" to reach freedom in the north.

**1970:** Environmental efforts are conducted to clean-up and preserve the Ohio River area.

## Discussion Points / Activities

**1.** If possible visit some of the locations along the banks of the Ohio 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.

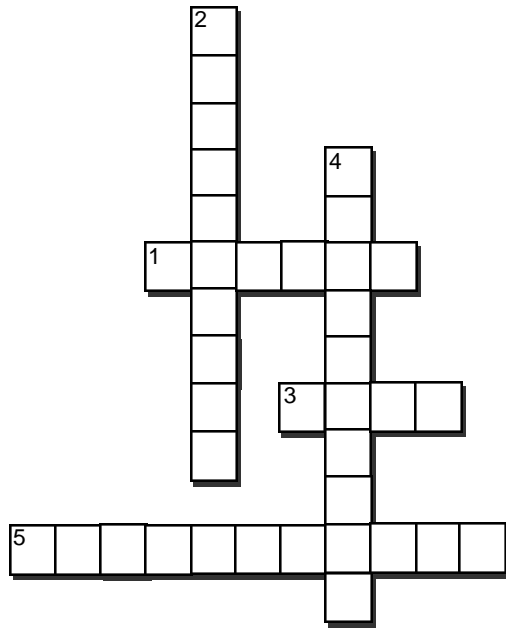
**2.** Draw a map (if you like, use a computer or the map provided on page 11) of the river, indicating significant points of interest. For example, Pittsburgh PA; Cincinnati, OH; Hodgenville, Kentucky where Abraham Lincoln was born etc.

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

- 1) Building of locks and 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 Ohio 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.



**ACROSS:**

- 1) Organizer of underground railroad.
- 3) Barriers built to prevent the flow of water.
- 5) Smaller rivers which flow into another larger body of water.

**DOWN:**

- 2) The point where two or more rivers join together.
- 4) Small creeks, streams or rivers which become the water source where a larger river begins.

**ANSWERS:**  
**Across -** (1) Tubman, (3) Dams, (5) Tributaries  
**Down -** (2) Confluence, (4) Headwaters

**People of *The OHIO RIVER***

**ROBERT CAVELIER SIEUR DE LA SALLE:** French explorer who in 1669 became the first European to sail the Ohio River.

**ABRAHAM LINCOLN:** Famous native of the Ohio River Valley. Born in 1809 near Hodgenville, Kentucky and became 16th U.S. president. During the Civil War he proclaimed freedom for all slaves.

**HARRIET TUBMAN:** Active organizer of the slave escape route known as the "Underground Railroad". As an organizer she helped many slaves in the south reach their freedom in the north.

**ANDREW CARNEGIE:** Industrialist who created enormous wealth from the steel industry in the mid to late 1800's. He later shared his wealth with society by building libraries and educational institutions.

**PLACES OF THE OHIO RIVER REGION:**

**MAJOR CITIES:** Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Wheeling, West Virginia; Cincinnati, Ohio; Louisville, Kentucky; Evansville, Indiana; Cairo, Illinois.

**CARNEGIE LIBRARY:** Funded by industrialist Andrew Carnegie. Located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and is considered one of the most resourceful libraries in the country.

**THREE RIVERS:** Located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania it is the area where the Allegheny, Monongahela and Ohio rivers join together.

## Q & A for *The OHIO RIVER*

1. The headwaters of the Ohio River are unique because they begin at the confluence of two other rivers. Name the two rivers from where the headwaters of the Ohio River originate.
2. Explain why the Ohio River was an important location during European colonization and the Revolutionary War?
3. The Ohio River ends its journey by emptying into what body of water?
4. After the Revolutionary War, the Ordinance of 1787 organized the Ohio River territory and featured 3 main objectives. What are these three objectives?
5. Who were the first people to inhabit the Ohio River region? Who was the first European explorer to sail the Ohio River?
6. From 1861-1865 during the Civil War thousands of southern slaves found their way north by crossing the Ohio River to freedom. What was the name of this escape route and who was one of its chief organizers?
7. Today the Ohio River has a series of 46 low-level locks and dams. Why did the U.S. Army Corps. of Engineers build these locks and dams on the Ohio River?

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

### ANSWERS LIST :

Missouri River • Jacques De La Pierre • Iroquois  
Fossil Fuels • Steel • Kansas-Nebraska Act  
Ohio River • Robert Cavalier Sieur De La Salle  
Bi-lateral Commission • Mound Builders

9. **A)** The headwaters for the \_\_\_\_\_ begins at the confluence of two rivers.
- B)** In 1669, French explorer \_\_\_\_\_ became the first European to sail the Ohio River.
- C)** The Ohio River Valley is rich in \_\_\_\_\_ because the remains of plants and animals have decomposed over millions of years.
- D)** The \_\_\_\_\_ developed advanced farming methods and built platform mounds used mostly for religious ceremonies.
- E)** In 1854 the \_\_\_\_\_ allowed states to enter the Union as a free state or a slave state.