

## Exploring the Mississippi River

**WebQuest Description:** Students will complete research using the internet to answer questions about the Mississippi River. Questions will cover a wide range of social studies topics related to the Mississippi.

**Grade Level:** 3-5

**Curriculum:** Social Studies

**Keywords:** Mississippi River, Illinois, Missouri, bodies of water, social studies

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**WebQuest URL:** <http://zunal.com/webquest.php?w=4396>

### Introduction

A family of ducks needs your help. They have to find the Mississippi River. Since they are moving there, they need to know as much about it as they can. You will help them in their quest to find their new home.

### Tasks

The Duck family needs to know the history and geography of the Mississippi River, as well as its effects on Illinois. With this information, you will create a travel brochure for the Duck family.

### Process

Help the Duck family learn about their new home on the Mississippi River by answering these questions. Use the web sites below each questions (or group of questions) to find the answers. With this information, you will also create a travel brochure. Where did the Mississippi River get its name? What does the name mean? How long is the Mississippi River? [http://hamline.edu/rivers/resources/river\\_profiles/mississippi](http://hamline.edu/rivers/resources/river_profiles/mississippi) Where does the Mississippi River begin and end? What kind of wildlife can you find along the Mississippi River? [http://mvm.usace.army.mil/mra\\_site/main\\_movie.html](http://mvm.usace.army.mil/mra_site/main_movie.html) <http://www.answers.com/topic/mississippi-river?cat=travel> What famous document made most of the area along the Mississippi the property of the United States? <http://www.gatewayno.com/history/LaPurchase.html> What is the "Mississippi flyway"? <http://www.birdnature.com/flyways.html> How many states does the Mississippi River flow through? What are the states? <http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/namerica.usstates/artwork/rivers/mississp.htm> How many of the people in the United States rely on the Mississippi and its tributaries for drinking water? <http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-9110729/Mississippi-River> What percentage of the United States uses the Mississippi River as a drainage basin? <http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/pao/bro/misstrib.htm> How did the flood of 1993 effect the people living in Illinois? <http://mo.water.usgs.gov/Reports/1993-Flood/photos.htm> How do residents of Illinois use the Mississippi River? <http://www.nps.gov/miss> [http://www.unit5.org/hills/rivers\\_of\\_illinois.htm](http://www.unit5.org/hills/rivers_of_illinois.htm) Use these websites to find ten interesting facts about the Mississippi River to include in your travel brochure. <http://www.oldmanriver.com/Pages/timeline.htm> <http://www.caleuche.com/River/Links.htm> <http://www.ourlandofliberty.com/student.1.html> <http://www.mississippiriveradventures.com> [http://www.sppa.com/quality\\_funfacts.asp](http://www.sppa.com/quality_funfacts.asp) <http://www.4rivers.com/mississippi/info-towns.html> [www.sheppardsoftware.com/usaweb/factfile/unique-facts-USA3.htm](http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/usaweb/factfile/unique-facts-USA3.htm) Create a travel brochure for the Duck family. Use the information you learned while researching the previous questions to make the brochure interesting and helpful. Use construction paper, markers and pictures printed from the internet to create a travel brochure about the Mississippi River for the Duck family. On the cover of your brochure, include a title, your name and a picture of the Mississippi River. Print out a map of Illinois and highlight the route the Duck family will take to get to the Mississippi River. Glue the map to the first page of your brochure. On the following four pages, include interesting facts and important information the Duck family will need to know to live in this environment. Creatively incorporate six of the questions you researched about the Mississippi River. Decorate your brochure with pictures.

### Evaluation

Category and Score	Beginning 1	Developing 2	Very Good 3	Exemplary 4	Score
Students use web sites to research various aspects of the Mississippi River and answer questions provided on the process page.	Student does not use the internet to conduct research and fails to answer the questions correctly.	Student answers few questions correctly and visits some of the web sites.	Student answers most of the questions correctly after visiting most of the web sites.	Students visits all of the web sites and answers all of the questions correctly.	%30
Students find ten interesting facts about the Mississippi River by visiting the web sites provided on the process page.	Student does not visit any web sites and does not provide any facts about the Mississippi River.	Student visits some web sites and provides between one to five facts.	Student visits most web sites and provides between six to nine facts.	Student visits all web sites and provides ten or more facts.	%20
Students create a travel brochure, including a map, six facts, and pictures.	Student fails to create a travel brochure.	Student includes few of the requirements for the travel brochure. (ex: few facts, no pictures, no map)	Student includes almost all of the requirements for the travel brochure. (ex: four or five facts, a map and pictures)	Student includes six or more facts, various pictures and a map.	%40
Students will write a one page journal entry about what they have learned about the Mississippi River.	Student does not write a journal entry.	Student writes half a page or less. Writing is not clear and does not follow the writing prompt.	Student does not write a full page, but writing is more clear and focused on the Mississippi River.	Student writes one page or more and is clearly focused on the Mississippi River.	%10
				Total Score	%100

## Conclusion

Reflect on what you have learned about the Mississippi River. Write a one page journal entry about why the Mississippi River is interesting to you. Relate how this area is similar and different to where you live. Include why you would or would not want to live near the Mississippi River.

## Teacher Page

Standards Addressed: Geography Standards 17.C.2a Describe how natural events in the physical environment affect human activities 17.C.2b Describe the relationships among location of resources, population distribution and economic activities (e.g., transportation, trade, communications). 17.D.2a Describe how physical characteristics of places influence people's perceptions and their roles in the world over time. 17.D.2b Identify different settlement patterns in Illinois and the United States and relate them to physical features and resources. History Standards 16.A.2c Ask questions and seek answers by collecting and analyzing data from historic documents, images and other literary and non-literary sources. 16.E.2a (US) Identify environmental factors that drew settlers to the state and region. 16.E.2c (US) Describe environmental factors that influenced the development of transportation and trade in Illinois. Writing Standards 3.B.2b Establish central idea, organization, elaboration and unity in relation to purpose and audience. Research Standards 5.C.2a Create a variety of print and nonprint documents to communicate acquired information for specific audiences and purposes.

### Standards

### Credits

### Other