



#8822

MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGION

Grade Levels: 3-9

25 minutes

FILM IDEAS, INC. 1998

1 Instructional Graphic Enclosed

DESCRIPTION

Six states form the Mississippi River region: Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Missouri. Maps, historic photos, graphics, and live photography help present an overview and history of the region and the river that connects the heart of America. Describes each state, its size, population, industry and commerce, capital, geographic regions, history, and gives its nickname. The Mississippi River is a bridge to the past and future of this region.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: Places and Regions

- ◆ Standard: Understands the concept of regions
 - Benchmark: Understands ways regional systems are interconnected

Subject Area: Environment and Society

- ◆ Standard: Understands how physical systems affect human systems
 - Benchmark: Knows the ways people take aspects of the environment into account when deciding on locations for human activities



Battle of New Orleans

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To know the history of the Mississippi River region.
2. To identify the geographical significance of the Mississippi River region.
3. To understand why the Mississippi River region was the battleground for the Civil War.

VOCABULARY

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Battle of New Orleans | 9. Mississippi River region |
| 2. Cajuns | 10. Mississippi River |
| 3. Civil War | 11. North America |
| 4. Confederacy | 12. Paleo-Indians |
| 5. Hernando de Soto | 13. Robert Cavalier de la Salle |
| 6. Louisiana Purchase | 14. slave state |
| 7. Mardi Gras | 15. tributaries |
| 8. Mark Twain | |

AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

1. Today, such conveniences as computers, telephones, automobiles, electricity, etc., are used to enhance modern-day lives. Discuss how these enhancements differ from those used during the time the Mississippi River region was being discovered.
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; and other issues.
3. Both geographical and historical information has been documented throughout the world. Discuss why this type of information is important when studying the Mississippi River region, and how it relates to our everyday lives.
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.

Applications and Activities

1. Assemble two groups to have a political debate on the issues of the Civil War. Have each group nominate a leader to represent President Abraham Lincoln for the Union and President Jefferson Davis for the Confederates.
2. Draw a map of the Mississippi River region, indicating significant points of interest. For example, the capital cities, important events, the names of early explorers, or others.
3. 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. Use maps, scientific illustrations, clay models, etc. Perhaps use a computer to illustrate the project.
4. Arrange a trip to visit museums, cultural centers, state parks, etc., to stimulate the imagination to explore the rich history and geography of the Mississippi River region.
5. Use the chronology of the Mississippi River region to create a time line. Illustrate it and display it in the classroom. (See INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHICS.)

SUMMARY

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-1500s to late 1600s.



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 United States 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.

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.

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 reexamines the present, to further inform the future.



RELATED RESOURCES

Captioned Media Program

- The Central Lowlands #2362
- The Mississippi: Ol' Man River and the 20th Century #1887
- United States: Geography of a Nation #8939

World Wide Web



The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid-safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **LOWER MISSISSIPPI DELTA REGION**
<http://www.cr.nps.gov/delta/lmdr2.htm>
- **THE CIVIL WAR IN THE LOWER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY**
<http://www.cr.nps.gov/delta/cwmile2.htm>

INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHICS

- Chronology of the Mississippi River Region

Chronology of the 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 Cavalier de La Salle is the first European to navigate down the Mississippi River.
- 1686:** The 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 of the Union.
- 1803:** Napoleon, the Emperor of France, sells the Louisiana Territory to the United States for 15 million dollars—better known as the Louisiana Purchase.
- 1812:**  Louisiana becomes the 18th state of the Union.
- 1815:** United States defeats the British in the Battle of New Orleans and claims victory as the War of 1812 ends.
- 1817:**  Mississippi becomes the 20th state of the Union.
- 1821:**  Missouri becomes the 24th state of the Union.
- 1836:** Arkansas becomes the 25th state of 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.