Name _____   Date _____

Two Approaches: Mississippi River Research

Part 1. Mississippi River Fact-Finding
Using the National Park Service's Mississippi River Website: (http://www.nps.gov/miss/riverfacts.htm), find the following information:

Physical Features

1. How long is the Mississippi River? _____

    _____

2. Why are there different measurements for the Mississippi's length? _____

    _____

    _____

3. How fast does water flow through it? _____

4. How large is the Mississippi River watershed? _____

    _____

5. Where are the headwaters of the Mississippi River? _____

6. Find three facts that describe the diversity of wildlife in and along the Mississippi River.

    _____

    _____

    _____

    _____

    _____

    _____

    _____

    _____

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
education
natgeoed.org

Human/Social Features

7. How many people rely on water from the Mississippi River? _____

    _____

8. Name at least three ways humans use the Mississippi River. _____

    _____

    _____

9. What percentage of the U.S.'s agricultural exports are produced in the Mississippi River watershed? _____

Bonus Questions (Hint: You will have to find these answers outside the National Park Service website.)

10. What is the origin of the name "Mississippi"? _____

    _____

11. What famous Mark Twain novel involves a young boy rafting down the Mississippi River?

    _____

Reflection Questions

12. What are some of the benefits of learning about the Mississippi River through fact-finding research? _____

    _____

    _____

Two Approaches: Mississippi River Research, continued

Part 2. Exploring and Analyzing the Mississippi River with FieldScope
In FieldScope (http://lafitte.fieldscope.org), follow these instructions to learn more about the Mississippi River:

1. Turn on the **National Geographic Basemap** and the **Mississippi River Watershed** layers.

2. Gradually zoom out until you can see the majority of the watershed. Reduce the transparency of the Mississippi River Watershed layer to where you can still see labels below it.

3. Explore the map to identify the following information, using the **Query Tool** to help identify objects as needed:

   a. How many states does the Mississippi River run through or along? _____

   b. List five state capitals that are within the watershed. *(Hint: you might have to turn on a different base map to see all of them.)* _____

   _____

   _____

   _____

   c. How many of these capitals are located on a river? *(Hint: you might have to zoom in to be able to tell.)* _____

   _____

   d. What countries are in the watershed? _____

   e. What other major rivers are within the watershed? _____

   f. What are the six regions within the watershed? _____

   _____

4. Finally, use the **Measure Tool** to measure the distance between your hometown and the nearest tributary of the Mississippi River watershed. Once you select the **Measure Tool,** click on your hometown, draw a straight line to the closest river that is a part of the watershed, and double-click to end the line.

   a. What is the distance between your hometown and the nearest tributary of the Mississippi River? _____

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

education

natgeoed.org

Two Approaches: Mississippi River Research, continued

    b.   Given this distance, do you think your hometown is influenced by the Mississippi River? Why or why not? _____

_____

_____

5.   Turn off the **Mississippi River Watershed** layer. Now turn on the **Land Cover** layer, adjusting the transparency to where you can still clearly see the Mississippi River. Use the **Query Tool** to identify the land cover types along the river.

    a.   What are the three most common land cover types, based on a visual estimate?

_____

    b.   How might the Mississippi River be impacted by the type of land around it? _____

_____

Part 3. Reflect

1.   What are some of the benefits of learning about the Mississippi River through spatial exploration in FieldScope? _____

_____

_____

_____

2.   What else would you like to learn about the Mississippi, and how would you go about learning it? Think about what resources you would use and why. _____

_____

_____

_____

© 2013 National Geographic Society

NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC

education

natgeoed.org