Beyond the Border

Trace how Alabama's land and rivers connect to other states.

SS24.3.2 "Explain how geographic features, including land regions and river systems, connect Alabama to other states. 2a Interpret thematic maps to compare and contrast Alabama to other states..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle river names and underline phrases that show how a land region or river connects Alabama to another state.

Land and Water Across State Lines

1. At the Alabama-Georgia line, hills do not suddenly stop. Alabama's Ridge and Valley region continues into Georgia. The Cumberland Plateau reaches north into Tennessee. Farther south, the Black Belt stretches west into Mississippi. These land regions cross state lines, so a traveler might see similar hills or dark soil in more than one state. State borders are lines people made, not walls in the land.

2. Water connects places, too. The Coosa River starts in Georgia, where two rivers meet, and flows into Alabama. The Tallapoosa River also starts in Georgia and flows into Alabama. Near Wetumpka, the Coosa and Tallapoosa join to form the Alabama River. The Alabama River flows south and meets the Tombigbee River. Together they form the Mobile River, which carries water toward Mobile Bay.

3. The Tennessee River begins in Tennessee, bends through northern Alabama, and returns to Tennessee. Unlike the Coosa, it does not start in Georgia. In southern Alabama, the Lower Coastal Plain meets the Gulf of Mexico. This land region also reaches into Florida. Rivers and land regions make different kinds of links: moving water can connect distant places, while a land region can stretch across a border.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the Ridge and Valley region and the Cumberland Plateau each connect Alabama to another state?

2. Trace the Coosa River's water toward Mobile Bay. Which rivers does it join, and which rivers do those meetings form?

3. How do the Coosa and Tennessee Rivers connect Alabama to different states?

4. How does the Black Belt connect Alabama to another state? How is that different from the Coosa River's connection?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences to tell a friend how Alabama connects to other states. Name one land region and one river from the passage, tell which states each connects, and explain one difference between the two links.

ANSWER KEY

Beyond the Border

GRADE 3 · SS24.3.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle river names and underline phrases that show how a land region or river connects Alabama to another state. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the Ridge and Valley region and the Cumberland Plateau each connect Alabama to another state?	**The Ridge and Valley region continues into Georgia. The Cumberland Plateau reaches into Tennessee.**
2	Trace the Coosa River's water toward Mobile Bay. Which rivers does it join, and which rivers do those meetings form?	**The Coosa joins the Tallapoosa to form the Alabama River. The Alabama joins the Tombigbee to form the Mobile River, which carries water toward Mobile Bay.**
3	How do the Coosa and Tennessee Rivers connect Alabama to different states?	**The Coosa starts in Georgia and flows into Alabama. The Tennessee River begins in Tennessee, flows through Alabama, and returns to Tennessee.**
4	How does the Black Belt connect Alabama to another state? How is that different from the Coosa River's connection?	**The Black Belt is a land region that stretches into Mississippi. The Coosa is moving water that flows from Georgia into Alabama.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Lower Coastal Plain links Alabama to Florida because it reaches into both states. The Coosa River links Georgia to Alabama as it flows across their border. The land region stretches across a border, but the river carries water from one state to another.

Accept any passage-supported land region and river with the correct states. Students should explain that a land region extends across a border, while a river flows between places.