Where Rivers Begin

Trace the starting places of Alabama's major rivers.

SS24.3.2c "Identify major river systems of Alabama and their points of origin, including the Alabama, Black Warrior, Cahaba, Chattahoochee, Coosa, Mobile, Perdido, Tallapoosa, Tennessee, and Tombigbee Rivers."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the ten bold river names in the passage. Circle the words that tell where each river begins.

A River's Starting Place

1. Imagine following a drop of rain through Alabama. Some rivers start outside the state. The **Tennessee River** begins where the Holston and French Broad Rivers meet in Tennessee. It bends through northern Alabama. The **Chattahoochee River** begins in the mountains of northern Georgia and runs along part of Alabama's eastern edge. The **Tallapoosa River** also begins in northern Georgia before flowing into Alabama.

2. Other rivers begin when smaller rivers come together. In Rome, Georgia, the Etowah and Oostanaula Rivers join to form the **Coosa River**. The Coosa and Tallapoosa meet north of Montgomery to form the **Alabama River**. In Alabama, the Mulberry Fork and Locust Fork join to form the **Black Warrior River**. The **Cahaba River** begins near Birmingham, then flows south to the Alabama River.

3. Now follow the rivers toward the Gulf of Mexico. The **Tombigbee River** begins in northeastern Mississippi and flows into Alabama. The Alabama and Tombigbee Rivers meet in southwestern Alabama to form the **Mobile River**. It flows toward Mobile Bay. The **Perdido River** begins in southern Alabama and flows toward Perdido Bay. Every river has a starting place, even when its waters travel far.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which river begins near Birmingham, and which begins in northeastern Mississippi?

2. Which river begins where the Coosa and Tallapoosa Rivers meet? Where do they meet?

3. Which river begins where the Mulberry Fork and Locust Fork join? In what state do they join?

4. Which river begins in southern Alabama and flows toward Perdido Bay?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Plan a three-stop river tour. Choose three rivers from the passage that begin in three different states. Write three sentences, one per river, naming where each begins and where it goes next.

ANSWER KEY

Where Rivers Begin

GRADE 3 · SS24.3.2c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the ten bold river names in the passage. Circle the words that tell where each river begins. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which river begins near Birmingham, and which begins in northeastern Mississippi?	**The Cahaba River begins near Birmingham. The Tombigbee River begins in northeastern Mississippi.**
2	Which river begins where the Coosa and Tallapoosa Rivers meet? Where do they meet?	**The Alabama River begins where they meet north of Montgomery.**
3	Which river begins where the Mulberry Fork and Locust Fork join? In what state do they join?	**The Black Warrior River begins where they join in Alabama.**
4	Which river begins in southern Alabama and flows toward Perdido Bay?	**The Perdido River.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Tennessee River begins where the Holston and French Broad Rivers meet in Tennessee, then bends through northern Alabama. The Tallapoosa River begins in northern Georgia and flows into Alabama, where it meets the Coosa River. The Tombigbee River begins in northeastern Mississippi and flows into Alabama, where it meets the Alabama River.

For Part 3, accept any three passage rivers that begin in three different states. Each sentence should correctly name a starting place and a direction, destination, or river connection given in the passage.