

River Location Clues

Use regions, directions, and nearby places to locate major U.S. rivers.

SS3G1.a "Locate major rivers of the United States of America: Mississippi, Ohio, Rio Grande, Colorado, Hudson, and St. Lawrence."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each river name, then circle the words that tell where it is or where it flows.

Rivers Across the United States

- ① Rivers can help you find places in the United States. The Mississippi River flows south through the middle of the country. The Ohio River joins the Mississippi River near the southern end of Illinois. Together, these clues place the Mississippi in the central United States and the Ohio east of it. A river's path can be described with nearby states, directions, and bodies of water.
- ② In the Southwest, the Rio Grande forms much of the border between Texas and Mexico. It flows southeast to the Gulf of Mexico. The Colorado River begins in the Rocky Mountains and flows southwest. It passes through the Grand Canyon in Arizona and heads toward the Gulf of California. These two rivers help locate the southern and western parts of the country.
- ③ In the Northeast, the Hudson River flows south from upstate New York to New York Harbor. The St. Lawrence River is farther north. It carries water from the Great Lakes northeast to the Atlantic Ocean and forms part of the border between New York and Canada. When you locate rivers, use more than one clue. Notice the region, direction, and nearby land or water.

2

ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1

Which river flows south through the middle of the United States?

2

Which river joins the Mississippi River near southern Illinois?

3

Which river forms much of the border between Texas and Mexico?

4

Which river carries water from the Great Lakes northeast to the Atlantic Ocean?

3

YOUR TURN

Your own words

Make a quick river location guide for all six rivers in the passage. For each river, write one clue that would help someone locate it.

RIVER	LOCATION CLUE

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each river name, then circle the words that tell where it is or where it flows. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which river flows south through the middle of the United States?	The Mississippi River.
2	Which river joins the Mississippi River near southern Illinois?	The Ohio River.
3	Which river forms much of the border between Texas and Mexico?	The Rio Grande.
4	Which river carries water from the Great Lakes northeast to the Atlantic Ocean?	The St. Lawrence River.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

RIVER	LOCATION CLUE
Mississippi River	Central United States, flows south
Ohio River	East of the Mississippi, joins it near southern Illinois
Rio Grande	Southwest, along much of the Texas-Mexico border
Colorado River	West, flows southwest past the Grand Canyon
Hudson River	Northeast, flows south to New York Harbor
St. Lawrence River	Farther north, from the Great Lakes toward the Atlantic Ocean

Accept accurate location clues from the passage, including a region, direction, nearby state, border, landform, harbor, lake, or ocean. River names may be written with or without the word River when the intended river is clear.