River City Clues

Use latitude and landforms to investigate places along the Mississippi.

4.C.2 "Apply the tools and concepts of geography to examine the physical and human geography of the United States of America. Use geographic tools to acquire and process information from a spatial perspective..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the latitude numbers, then number the city names 1 to 4 from north to south. Underline the sentence in the passage that helps you decide their order.

Cities Along a River

1 Imagine traveling beside the Mississippi River, one of the longest rivers in North America. It flows from northern Minnesota toward the Gulf of Mexico. Along its banks, people built cities where boats could carry goods. A river can help a city grow, but high water can also flood homes and roads.

2 The table gives the approximate latitude of four U.S. cities beside the river. Latitude tells how far north or south a place is from the equator. In the Northern Hemisphere, a larger latitude number means a place is farther north. You can use these numbers to compare locations without looking at a map.

FOUR CITIES BESIDE THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER

City	Approximate latitude	Nearby feature
Memphis	35° N	A bluff above the river
Minneapolis	45° N	A waterfall on the river
New Orleans	30° N	The Gulf of Mexico
St. Louis	39° N	Where the Missouri River meets the Mississippi River

3 The table also lists land and water features near each city. A bluff is high ground above a river. It can help keep buildings above some floods, although it does not stop all flooding. Rivers that meet give boats more than one waterway to travel. Near the coast, boats can move goods between inland places and the sea.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which listed city is between St. Louis and New Orleans in latitude? Give its latitude.

2. Which two listed cities are closest in latitude? How many degrees apart are they?

3. Which city is beside a bluff? How might that feature affect where people build?

4. Which city is near the meeting of two rivers? How could that location help people move goods?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine choosing a site for a new town beside a U.S. river. Write three sentences that name the kind of land you would build on, explain how the river could help the town, and describe a flood risk or a way to reduce it.

ANSWER KEY

River City Clues

GRADE 4 · 4.C.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the latitude numbers, then number the city names 1 to 4 from north to south. Underline the sentence in the passage that helps you decide their order. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which listed city is between St. Louis and New Orleans in latitude? Give its latitude.	**Memphis, at approximately 35° N.**
2	Which two listed cities are closest in latitude? How many degrees apart are they?	**St. Louis and Memphis are about 4 degrees apart.**
3	Which city is beside a bluff? How might that feature affect where people build?	**Memphis. People could build on the high ground to stay above some floods.**
4	Which city is near the meeting of two rivers? How could that location help people move goods?	**St. Louis. Boats could carry goods along either river.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would build the town on high ground near the river. Boats could bring food and supplies to its stores. The river might flood, so I would keep homes away from the low banks.

Accept reasonable site choices supported by a river benefit and a flood risk or precaution. Latitude answers should use the approximate values in the table.