

River Route Connections

Identify geographic features and explain how they affect movement.

S.VS.b “applying geographic skills to identify and understand geographic features and connections;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each natural geographic feature, circle each human-made feature or named place, and number each statement that tells how features are connected or affect travel.

A River System at Work

- ① The Mississippi River carries water south through the middle of the United States. Near St. Louis, Missouri, the Missouri River joins it. Farther south, the Ohio River joins it near Cairo, Illinois. These connected rivers form a water route that links farms, towns, and cities. Goods such as grain can travel by barge along this route.
- ② A river connection can also shape travel on land. In a floodplain, flat land beside a river, people build roads to reach towns and river ports. Levees are raised banks built to reduce flooding. Flooding, or officials during dangerous conditions, may close a road near a levee. A closed road can change how people reach a bridge, port, or nearby community.
- ③ The river system reaches the Gulf of Mexico at Louisiana. This connection lets barges carry goods from inland places to the coast. However, high water can affect river travel and nearby roads during wet seasons and heavy storms. People use geographic information about rivers, floodplains, levees, roads, and ports to plan safer routes for moving people and goods.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How are the Missouri River and the Ohio River connected to the Mississippi River?

2 How does a floodplain connect roads with towns and river ports?

3 What can close a road near a levee, and how could this affect travel?

4 How does the Mississippi River system connect inland places to the coast?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Invent a place with a river route. Write exactly 3 sentences that name one natural feature and two human-made features, then explain how their connections help or change the movement of people or goods.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each natural geographic feature, circle each human-made feature or named place, and number each statement that tells how features are connected or affect travel. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How are the Missouri River and the Ohio River connected to the Mississippi River?	Both rivers join the Mississippi River. The Missouri joins near St. Louis, and the Ohio joins near Cairo.
2	How does a floodplain connect roads with towns and river ports?	A floodplain is flat land beside a river where people build roads to reach towns and river ports.
3	What can close a road near a levee, and how could this affect travel?	Flooding or officials during dangerous conditions may close the road. The closure can change how people reach a bridge, port, or nearby community.
4	How does the Mississippi River system connect inland places to the coast?	The river system reaches the Gulf of Mexico at Louisiana, allowing barges to carry goods from inland places to the coast.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Pine Farm sits beside Clear River. A road connects the farm to a river port, where barges carry apples downstream to Bay City on the coast. Because Pine Farm is on a floodplain, drivers use Hill Road when high water closes the riverside road.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the river connections and travel effects that are supported by the passage. For Your Turn, accept varied invented places if the response has exactly three sentences, includes one natural feature and two human-made features, and clearly explains a movement connection.