

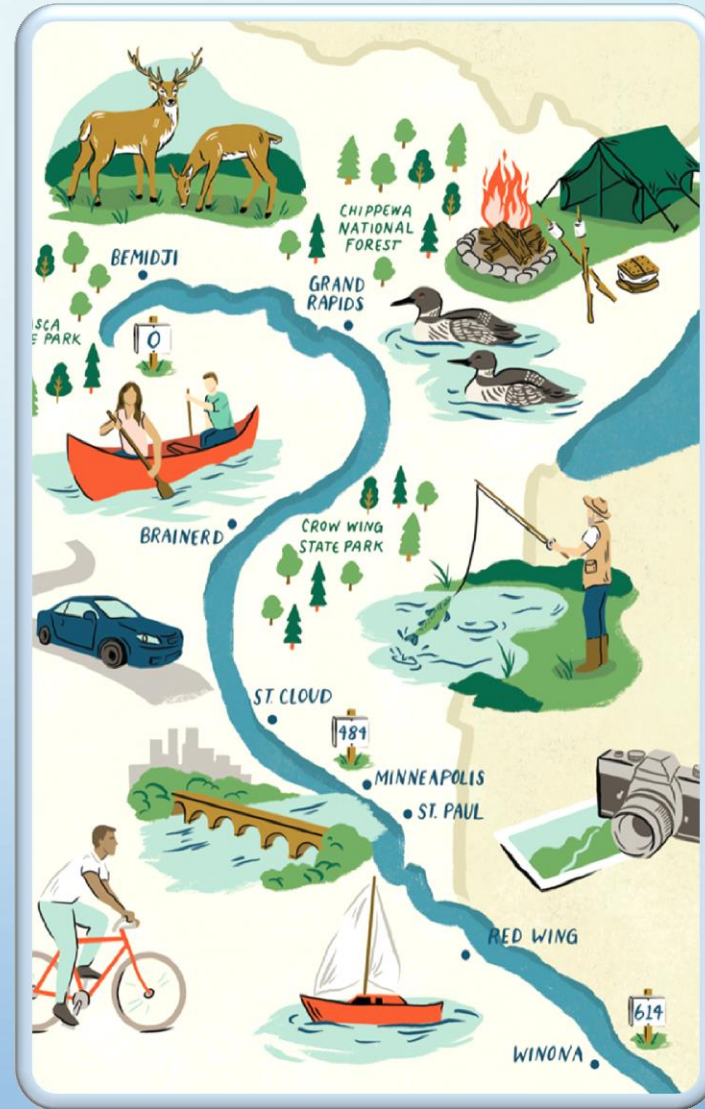
The Mississippi River

NIVEDITA PATEL
CLASS 5



KEY FACTS

- ❖ THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S MAJOR RIVER SYSTEMS.
- ❖ THE SECOND LONGEST RIVER IN NORTH AMERICA, FLOWING 2,350 MILES.
- ❖ WHEN COMPARED TO OTHER WORLD RIVERS, THE MISSISSIPPI-MISSOURI RIVER COMBINATION RANKS FOURTH IN LENGTH (3,710 MILES/5,970KM).
- ❖ THE WIDEST PART OF THE MISSISSIPPI CAN BE FOUND AT LAKE WINNIBIGOSHISH WHERE IT IS WIDER THAN 11 MILES.
- ❖ IT TAKES ABOUT THREE MONTHS FOR WATER THAT LEAVES LAKE ITASCA, THE RIVER'S SOURCE, TO REACH THE GULF OF MEXICO.
- ❖ CLOSE TO 15 MILLION PEOPLE RELY ON THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER OR ITS TRIBUTARIES IN JUST THE UPPER HALF OF THE BASIN.
- ❖ AT LEAST 260 SPECIES OF FISH, 25% OF ALL FISH SPECIES IN NORTH AMERICA, LIVE IN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.
- ❖ SIXTY PERCENT OF ALL GRAIN EXPORTED FROM THE US IS SHIPPED ON THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER THROUGH THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS AND THE PORT OF SOUTH LOUISIANA.



MAP OF MISSISSIPPI



MISSISSIPPI RIVER



THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER IS 2,350 MILES LONG AND FLOWS THROUGH TEN U.S. STATES: MISSISSIPPI, LOUISIANA, ARKANSAS, TENNESSEE, KENTUCKY, MISSOURI, ILLINOIS, IOWA, WISCONSIN, AND MINNESOTA.

THE MISSISSIPPI FLOWS FROM MINNESOTA'S LAKE ITASCA AND INTO THE GULF OF MEXICO.

IT COMBINES WITH THE MISSOURI RIVER TO FORM NORTH AMERICA'S LONGEST RIVER SYSTEM, AND THE FOURTH LONGEST IN THE WORLD.

FOR MANY NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES, THE RIVER WAS IMPORTANT FOR FISHING, FARMING, AND TRADING. LATER, CONTROL OF THE RIVER SWITCHED BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN SEVERAL COUNTRIES.

THE FIGHT FOR CONTROL OF THE MISSISSIPPI WAS ALSO A MAJOR ISSUE DURING THE CIVIL WAR. EVERYONE UNDERSTOOD THE RIVER'S IMPORTANCE.

TODAY, THE RIVER CONTINUES TO BE A MAJOR TRAVEL AND TRADE ROUTE. IT ALSO PROVIDES WATER AND HYDROELECTRIC POWER TO SEVERAL STATES, AND THOUSANDS OF RIVERS AND STREAMS DRAIN EXTRA WATER INTO THE MISSISSIPPI.

THIS SAVES LIVES BY KEEPING THESE RIVERS FROM FLOODING.

