

Mississippi River System and Map Usage: A Variety of Projects and Classroom Ideas

1. Use the scavenger hunt provided at:

http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/00-2/lp2120.shtml

2. Mini research projects for small groups of students to investigate and report back/instruct the class using various product modes: power point, poster, lesson, challenge game, etc. Below are suggested Mississippi River research topics:

- Watersheds—what are they and what is the Mississippi River watershed?
- River Maps—historic vs. modern
- Waterfowl habitats
- Migration Flyway
- Navigation—today
- Navigation—historical (steamboats and their relatively short lifespan as a mode of transportation)
- Steamboat travel/dangers/diagram of vessel
- Navigation—history (prior to steamboats)
- Economic impact
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers impact on river flow, levees, floods, natural habitat
- Flooding
- Ecosystems
- Life on the Mississippi Literature (Mark Twain, etc)
- Own choice

3. Have student pairs create crossword puzzle clues/answers for the above topics. Suggested crossword generator site:

<https://worksheets.theteacherscorner.net/make-your-own/crossword/>

4. Student pairs can also create “wordle” art and clouds to complement their research. Suggested sites:

<https://www.wordclouds.com/>

<http://www.wordle.net/create> (Java needs to be installed and working properly)

Some suggested online resources:

http://cgee.hamline.edu/rivers/Resources/river_profiles/mississippi.html

https://www.umesc.usgs.gov/umesc_about/about_umrs.htm

<http://steamboattimes.com/>

http://steamboattimes.com/steamboats_1811~61_p1.html

<http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Portals/46/docs/recreation/OP-CO/montgomery/pdfs/10thand11th/ahistoryofsteamboats.pdf>

<http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Portals/56/docs/PAO/Brochures/Navigation.pdf>