

FIND A DESTINATION

TOPIC

Here's an assignment you'll enjoy—you get to point out what makes an area unique. Because the Mississippi River has served as a lifeline for so many throughout history, it has been said that the places along its banks best represent the diversity of the people, environment, economics, and culture of the U.S. Your assignment is to provide research for a tour guide agency. They need the research to help identify future travel packages.

INFORMATION

For thousands of years the Mississippi River has been a link between many diverse cultural, environmental, and economic elements. People have made decisions on the allocation of resources, changes to the physical landscape, and products to trade. All the while, the river slowly changes, sculpting landscapes across the continent. All of these influences interact to make each area along the river unique.

REQUIREMENTS

Select an area along the Mississippi River that you think has a unique identity. Be sure to investigate cultural, historical, ecological, and economic influences. Your presentation should examine the place's relationship to the river, why this place is special and how it came to be.

- 🔗 Identify this place, describe its location, and place on the first screen.
- 🔗 Provide at least five elements that contribute to its identity.
- 🔗 Discuss what happened in the past to make this the unique locality that it is today.
- 🔗 Link the importance of the river to this place.

CHECKLIST

Find a Destination

Amateur	Apprentice	Practitioner	Authority	Expert
<input type="checkbox"/> My presentation fails to clearly identify a specific place and includes fewer than three details contributing to an identity.	<input type="checkbox"/> My presentation adequately identifies a place, but includes fewer than three details.	<input type="checkbox"/> My presentation satisfactorily identifies a specific place and tells what makes it unique with at least five details.	<input type="checkbox"/> My presentation clearly identifies a place and includes at least five details that make a significant impact upon the development of its identity. <input type="checkbox"/> It is clear that I paid attention to Trail Mail.	<input type="checkbox"/> This multimedia presentation expertly displays more than five distinguishing qualities of a clearly specified place. <input type="checkbox"/> My presentation demonstrates use of outside research and will help history students.

FLYWAYS ARE FOR THE BIRDS!

TOPIC

Birds Over America—It's a new project our state's Department of Natural Resources has taken on. They want to produce a series of informational commercials all relating to North American flyways. Your assignment has two purposes. You need to create an informational and persuasive commercial. You'll need to increase public awareness of the Mississippi Flyway and persuade people to get involved in protecting it.

INFORMATION

Flyways are the paths birds follow during migration or throughout their lifetime, and they are important for many reasons. There are four major flyways in North America. One of them, the Mississippi Flyway, is used by millions of birds each year. Some birds start their journey in Alaska and use the Mississippi River as a stopover for food supplies on their way to South America. Other birds are much more dependent on specific areas of the flyway and its resources.

REQUIREMENTS

Create a commercial about the Mississippi Flyway.

- ✚ Explain what a flyway is.
- ✚ Show how the Mississippi Flyway is necessary.
- ✚ Provide reasons that show why the flyway matters to people.
- ✚ Motivate people to get involved. (Remember that people will be motivated for different reasons.)

CHECKLIST

Flyways are for the Birds

Amateur	Apprentice	Practitioner	Authority	Expert
<input type="checkbox"/> I haven't included sufficient information to explain what the Mississippi Flyway is, what it does, and why it matters to people. I need all of those in order to create my informational and persuasive commercial.	<input type="checkbox"/> I have included some information on the Mississippi Flyway, but it is unclear what the flyway is and what it does. I need to know these things in order to persuade our audience to care about the Mississippi Flyway.	<input type="checkbox"/> My commercial explains the Mississippi Flyway system and lets the audience know what it can do to help protect it.	<input type="checkbox"/> I have included great media that really helps create a persuasive commercial. <input type="checkbox"/> People who watch this will walk away knowing how important the Mississippi Flyway is to birds and people.	<input type="checkbox"/> My extra research has created a very strong persuasive commercial that should cause an emotional response in everyone who sees this.

THE LOCK AND DAM SYSTEM

TOPIC

All sorts of river control structures have been built along and in the Mississippi River. Some of these structures help prevent floods (levees); some stabilize banks and prevent erosion (revetments); and some help channel sediment (wing dams). One structure is very important for navigation—the lock and dam. The lock and dam work together to allow river traffic to travel up and down the steeper grades of the river. I want you to look into this method of river control. Visit Lock and Dam 15. Our client is an environmental engineering company who needs this piece for their prospective customers.

INFORMATION

Less than one hundred and fifty years ago, the Mississippi was a twisted, curling powerful river. People who used the river respected its awesome power but wanted ways to control it. The river dropped in elevation quite dramatically in some areas, particularly up north. This made it difficult to use large boats on the upper river. The lock and dam system was one way engineers control the river to aid navigation and transportation on the river.

REQUIREMENTS

We've been asked to produce a presentation that shows how different the landscape would be if river control structures were removed and the river was allowed to take its natural course. You will focus on the lock and dam.

- ↳ Define the structure.
- ↳ Explain how it helps control the river.
- ↳ Explain why it is important (who or what is affected).
- ↳ Present your theory of how the landscape might change if this structure were removed.

CHECKLIST

The Lock and Dam System

Amateur	Apprentice	Practitioner	Authority	Expert
<input type="checkbox"/> I need to explain what a lock and dam does. <input type="checkbox"/> It is hard for our audience to know how the river would be changed when they do not yet know what the lock and dam does to the river's natural flow.	<input type="checkbox"/> My explanation of the lock and dam system and its importance is identified. <input type="checkbox"/> I need to explain how the landscape is modified by the lock and dam and how the river would flow without it.	<input type="checkbox"/> My presentation includes everything needed for basic understanding of the lock and dam system and how it influences the natural river flow.	<input type="checkbox"/> I have done a good job examining the important issues related to the lock and dam system. <input type="checkbox"/> I have important examples of who and what is affected by the control structure.	<input type="checkbox"/> My outside research enhances this presentation.

MISSISSIPPI PHOTO ESSAY

TOPIC

Each place along the Mississippi has a rich story to tell. A photo essay is a story told mainly through photographs and usually has a written commentary in the form of captions. For this assignment, our client (a children's museum) wants you to carry on this tradition and create a photo essay about the Mississippi River.

INFORMATION

You may take photos of other people's photography, but remember that you were also hired because of your keen eye. Using your Amadeus Media Composer, you can take photos just like the pros.

REQUIREMENTS

For this assignment, I want you to select one specific topic, such as an event, city, or group of people on the Mississippi. Use a series of carefully selected photographs and historically accurate text to tell the story of your topic. Create a photo essay that relates to the Mississippi River.

CHECKLIST

Photo Essay

Amateur	Apprentice	Practitioner	Authority	Expert
<input type="checkbox"/> This photo essay lacks a single topic focus and critical support for the significance of selected photos.	<input type="checkbox"/> This photo essay does not clearly show the significance of the selected topic.	<input type="checkbox"/> The photo essay narrates the significance of a single topic in a satisfactory way.	<input type="checkbox"/> The photo essay clearly spotlights and narrates the impact of a single topic in an attractive and informative program.	<input type="checkbox"/> The photo essay spotlights a single topic in an engaging way, expertly narrating its impact. <input type="checkbox"/> The camera and the printed word are powerful tools in my hands!

MISSISSIPPI VACATION SPOT

TOPIC

Tourism is a big industry in many towns along the Mississippi River. Along with tourism comes the need for advertising campaigns. And that's where you come in. Our client is a Chamber of Commerce Association made up of states bordering the river. They need you to create a storyboard for a television advertisement. You are going to select a spot along the river. You need to showcase its best qualities, those which make the Mississippi River a premiere tourist attraction. Pick a spot that interests you. The chamber will decide which ones will be turned into an ad campaign.

INFORMATION

Many places along the Mississippi River have outstanding qualities. Some towns are important historically. Other towns are the hometown of someone famous. Others stand out because of their natural beauty. Choose a place along the Mississippi River to research. It is up to you to identify the attractive qualities and decide for whom the ads are geared (pick your audience). Identify the issues needed to create an effective ad campaign.

REQUIREMENTS

You need to choose one place along the Mississippi River for the focus of your tourism advertisement. Remember, since the final product will be an advertisement, the quality of your storyboarded sounds, images, video, and script are very important in communicating your ideas to our television producers. The client wants you to identify the place's best qualities and give several reasons why your audience would want to visit.

CHECKLIST

Vacation Spot

Amateur	Apprentice	Practitioner	Authority	Expert
<input type="checkbox"/> The audience is unclear and no qualities of the place are identified.	<input type="checkbox"/> Interesting qualities of the place are identified but not adequately supported for my audience.	<input type="checkbox"/> The storyboards adequately identify qualities which make this place a vacation destination.	<input type="checkbox"/> The storyboards effectively communicate the enticing qualities of this place in an effective advertising message.	<input type="checkbox"/> My extra research has helped to create storyboards so effective at distinguishing this place as a travel destination that the locals better prepare for the tourists.

NOVEL IDEA

TOPIC

Great writing allows readers to see a place without having been there. There are five important elements in a story: plot, setting, characterization, theme, and point of view. Plot is the underlying pattern of the story. It gives unity and order. Setting is the time and location in which the story occurs. Characterization is how the characters are developed for the reader. Theme is the general point that the story attempts to make. And point of view is who is telling you (the reader) the story.

INFORMATION

Towns like Hannibal, Missouri, capture people's imagination. Tourists are able to walk through the town and see the buildings, streets, river, and cave that gave Mark Twain the inspiration to write a novel. Twain wrote *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* using his experiences from his boyhood home of Hannibal, Missouri. As a child, Mark Twain used to dream of being a riverboat captain. He played pirate at the top of Cardiff Hill. And guess what? Tom Sawyer played pirate. Twain boated down the river. Tom and Huck sailed a raft downriver. The river provided the backdrop or the setting for the stories. Let your travels be the springboard for your imagination!

REQUIREMENTS

Our client is a publisher of high school textbooks so your audience is high school students. You need to create a storyboard of a short story that takes place along the Mississippi River. As you journey along the river think about where a story could take place, who it involves, and what it is about.

- ✚ Create five screens. Plot, setting, characterization, theme, and point of view are the subjects for your screens
- ✚ Make sure your storyboard describes those five elements.
- ✚ Select images and sounds that help explain each element.

CHECKLIST

Novel Idea

Amateur	Apprentice	Practitioner	Authority	Expert
<input type="checkbox"/> I haven't developed the elements of a story. <input type="checkbox"/> I need to focus in on our audience, the river, and all of the parts necessary for a great short story.	<input type="checkbox"/> Some of the story elements are out of focus. I might want to revisit them. <input type="checkbox"/> The river doesn't seem to be an important part of my storyboard. <input type="checkbox"/> The reader is not getting a sense of why this story needs to take place along the Mississippi.	<input type="checkbox"/> I have developed an interesting story line. Plot, setting, characterization, theme, and point of view are all laid out.	<input type="checkbox"/> My media selection and descriptions of the story elements are well done.	<input type="checkbox"/> Everything in my storyboard works. I have included those special touches that make a story memorable.

SOUNDS TRAVELING THE RIVER

TOPIC

This is a pretty cool assignment for you to work on...especially if you love music. The Big Muddy Cultural Center has asked us to create a presentation on musical styles that developed along the Mississippi River. They are paying tribute to the river's role in music. The story behind each of the musical styles involves many influences and a lot of history. Who knows, maybe you will find an influence for your favorite kind of music.

INFORMATION

There are many ways to look at a musical style, such as the place it was created, the culture of its origin, the different instruments used, the roles of each instrument in a group, and the lyrics (if any). These influences are important to understanding any type music.

REQUIREMENTS

The focus of your presentation should be the musical styles found along the river.

- ✚ Create an introduction that briefly identifies at least two musical styles, then describe at least three characteristics that make each style unique.
- ✚ Identify how each style is influenced by the river and how the styles might be influenced by each other.
- ✚ As always, back up this presentation with creatively chosen media.

CHECKLIST

Sounds Traveling the River

Amateur	Apprentice	Practitioner	Authority	Expert
<input type="checkbox"/> I haven't included at least two musical styles.	<input type="checkbox"/> I have included at least two musical styles but are missing some characteristics of and influences on the styles.	<input type="checkbox"/> My musical styles are all tied to the river. <input type="checkbox"/> The presentation satisfactorily provides the history of each style, a representative of each style, and an example of each style. <input type="checkbox"/> The program shows the significance of each style.	<input type="checkbox"/> I have done a great job identifying and defining the styles. <input type="checkbox"/> My characteristics and examples help the audience to understand the differences between each style (what makes them unique). <input type="checkbox"/> This should inspire our audience to learn more about our river's role in other cultural areas.	<input type="checkbox"/> My outside research provides interesting details of the musical styles. <input type="checkbox"/> My effort has paid off. Louis Armstrong would be proud.

THINKING LIKE A GEOGRAPHER

TOPIC

As much as I would like to take this topic on myself, I'm going to have to pass it along to you. We are developing a series for our client, an educational software company. They need a presentation that addresses the subject of location and place—they are not the same. We are going to need you to think like a geographer for this segment. As an assistant producer for Earth Trails Productions, you have access to many places and locations along the river. Place and location to a geographer mean very different things.

INFORMATION

Location means the exact spot that an item, such as a city, can be found. There are two ways to describe location. Exact location means where something specifically is, and is usually expressed as an address or in degrees of latitude and longitude. Relative location means where something is in relation to something else. Place refers to everything you see when you get there—all of the physical and human characteristics that make a spot unique.

REQUIREMENTS

Select one point of interest along the river. Create a presentation that examines the theme of "location."

- 1 Give its exact and relative location from our home office.
- 1 Show how its location influences its economy and culture?
Examine the theme of "place."
- 1 Describe the location's size and shape.
- 1 Present information about its climate, major physical features, people who live there, and major points of interest.
- 1 Compare it to your world. How is it different? How is it the same?

CHECKLIST

Thinking Like a Geographer

Amateur	Apprentice	Practitioner	Authority	Expert
<input type="checkbox"/> I did not provide information on the following: exact location, relative location, and place. <input type="checkbox"/> It isn't clear from my presentation that I understand what "location" and "place" mean.	<input type="checkbox"/> One of the following is not clearly given for this area: exact location, relative location, place. <input type="checkbox"/> My presentation needs to include more examples that demonstrate my understanding of those themes.	<input type="checkbox"/> Exact location, relative location, and place for one area are satisfactorily given in this program.	<input type="checkbox"/> Exact location, relative location, and place for one area are succinctly addressed in this well-written program. <input type="checkbox"/> My presentation demonstrates that I will have no trouble going on to learn the rest of the <i>Five Themes of Geography</i> .	<input type="checkbox"/> My outside research provides details about exact location, relative location, and place, which are so brilliantly described for one area I must have a secret wish to be a geographer. <input type="checkbox"/> The social studies classes will feel like they are on a virtual reality field trip!

TRAVELING DOWN AND UP THE RIVER

TOPIC

We are producing a special presentation on the history of transportation. Transportation is important to communities and businesses. How has transportation changed on the river? Funny you should ask. I want you to research the methods of transportation used on the river. Right now our senior producers likely couldn't tell me the difference between a steamboat and a canoe, let alone explain the differences between one steamboat and another. You will create a presentation on how river transportation has changed since the days of the canoe.

INFORMATION

The first people along the river walked and used dogs to carry their belongings. Birch bark and dugout canoes were an improvement but required skill to build them. European explorers borrowed the canoe but used keel boats and log rafts to transport goods downriver. And once the power of steam was controlled, the whole river valley changed.

REQUIREMENTS

Our client is interested in making this piece part of a series called "How Transportation Changed the Face of America." Keep that in mind as you do your research. Your presentation will focus on the history of river transportation.

- ✦ Identify the people who used each method.
- ✦ Explain how each method was used and its pros and cons.
- ✦ Identify the evolution of transportation on the river. What came first? What followed?

CHECKLIST

Traveling Down and Up the River

Amateur	Apprentice	Practitioner	Authority	Expert
<input type="checkbox"/> The evolution of transportation is out of sequence. <input type="checkbox"/> My presentation is missing at least one widely used method of river transportation. <input type="checkbox"/> All my examples of transportation include what they are (were) used for.	<input type="checkbox"/> The evolution of transportation is in sequence. <input type="checkbox"/> My presentation is missing at least one widely used method of river transportation. <input type="checkbox"/> All examples of transportation include what they are (were) used for. <input type="checkbox"/> The pros and cons of the methods are included.	<input type="checkbox"/> The evolution of transportation is in sequence. <input type="checkbox"/> All widely used methods of river transportation are included. <input type="checkbox"/> All examples of transportation include what they are (were) used for. <input type="checkbox"/> The pros and cons of the methods are included. <input type="checkbox"/> Examples of who would use each method of transportation are included.	<input type="checkbox"/> My presentation does a great job highlighting the main methods of transportation used on the river throughout history. <input type="checkbox"/> The pros and cons that I have identified are interesting and relevant. <input type="checkbox"/> Examples of who would use each method of transportation are included.	<input type="checkbox"/> My outside research helps create a presentation full of interesting and important information. <input type="checkbox"/> The presentation will work well as a part of "How Transportation Changed the Face of America."

URBAN RENEWAL

TOPIC

Urban renewal is in the paper a lot these days. Many cities and towns look at their resources and try to find new ways to pump life into them. A group of concerned citizens from a river city has come to us for ideas on how to renew their urban environment. They know that the river is an asset to their community, but they need help making their town an attractive destination. They want to see some examples of how they can update the city landscape. You've traveled around and have probably seen a lot of examples of urban renewal that might be useful for our client.

INFORMATION

Just as the course of a river meanders, the economic state of a community is constantly changing. The U.S. economy is basically a market economy, self-regulated, interdependent, and competitive. For many reasons, some areas with a lot of potential seem to get left behind.

Urban renewal means different things to different groups. The focus could be any combination of redevelopment (clearing or rebuilding structures that no longer serve their original purpose), rehabilitation (fixing up structures so they are useful again), and conservation (protecting a structure to maintain its quality). Our client is open to your suggestions.

REQUIREMENTS

The town's citizens need a presentation that allows them to see different ways they can renew their urban environment, so include examples that you have seen during your travels. You are in charge of the plan. Choose what you like, but back-up your choices.

- ↳ Your plan must feature the river.
- ↳ You need to select at least three reasonable ideas for them to consider.
- ↳ When you have selected your ideas, give our clients good reasons to consider your urban renewal proposal.

CHECKLIST

Urban Renewal

Amateur	Apprentice	Practitioner	Authority	Expert
<input type="checkbox"/> My proposal does not emphasize the river as part of urban renewal. <input type="checkbox"/> I need to include arguments that explain why my proposal is a good plan for our clients. <input type="checkbox"/> I need to check my media. Many of my selections do not relate to this proposal.	<input type="checkbox"/> One of my suggestions seems unreasonable given the clients' assets and needs. <input type="checkbox"/> I need to work on persuading my audience. I need to show them why my examples are appropriate to their situation.	<input type="checkbox"/> My proposal does a nice job of showing the possibilities of urban renewal using the river. <input type="checkbox"/> Our clients would do well to follow up on this presentation.	<input type="checkbox"/> My proposal stands out because I show how the city can take advantage of the river and the assets it already has. <input type="checkbox"/> My proposal does a good job of persuading our clients how an urban renewal project will help!	<input type="checkbox"/> My outside research helps our clients make sense of urban renewal and what they can expect from it. <input type="checkbox"/> I will certainly be called on to help them develop their urban renewal plan.