

The Mighty Mississippi

If you look at a map of America, you will notice a long, wiggly line that runs right 18
 down the middle of the country. This is the Mississippi river. It is the biggest river 34
 in the United States. The beginning of a river is called its headwaters. At the 49
 headwaters of the Mississippi, in the northern woods, the river is less than three feet 64
 deep. You could wade right in because that's only a little bit higher than your desk! 80
 But near the south end of the river, before it reaches the ocean, the river is 200 97
 feet deep. That's a big change, but it's a slow one. If a raindrop fell into the river 115
 near the headwaters, it would take 90 days to reach the ocean. Along the way that 131
 raindrop would float through ten states. It would meet many different kinds of fish 145
 and birds. It would see enormous barges carrying things like oil, corn, and coal. It 160
 would pass all the cities built along the river banks. The Mississippi is important to 175
 America and has been important since people first fished its muddy waters. 187
 Hundreds of years ago, Native Americans used the river for trade and travel. The 201
 name Mississippi comes from their word meaning "Father of Waters." Later, men 213
 from Europe explored the river. As America grew, the river gave people a way to 228
 travel and a way to move things over long distances. The Mississippi river helped 242
 make America a great country. Author Mark Twain wrote, "The Mississippi is well 255
 worth reading about. It is...in all ways remarkable." 264

	day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4
words read in 1 minute				
– number of mistakes				
= total words read correctly				
adult initials				

Parent Tips

1. Have the student read the ENTIRE story to himself & answer the questions.
2. Time the student while he reads aloud for exactly 1 minute. Do not help fix mistakes.
3. If the student is stuck on a word for 2 seconds, say the word & count it as a mistake.
4. Record the number of words read and the number of errors. Subtract: words read – errors = total words read correctly.
5. Now, help fix mistakes.
6. You may wish to read the story out loud as a model for fluent reading.
7. Repeat the steps other days.

1. A river's headwaters is where _____.
 - o it runs into the ocean
 - o a river or stream starts
 - o it flows the fastest

2. At its deepest the Mississippi is _____.
 - o 200 feet deep
 - o 90 feet deep
 - o 3 feet deep

3. What is the main idea of this article?
 - o The Mississippi river starts in the north.
 - o The Mississippi is an important river.
 - o Many fish live in the Mississippi river.

4. Can you spell the word *Mississippi* without looking? Close your eyes and give it a try!

