

GUIDED READING

A Place Called Mississippi

Chapter 1: The Geography of Mississippi

Section 1 Where in the World is Mississippi?

Directions: Use the information from pages 5 - 7 to complete the following.

1. Mississippi is located in the _____ Hemisphere, on the _____ of North America, and is one of the _____ states that make up the United States of America.
2. The state of Mississippi is in the _____ part of the United States, in what is sometimes called the Lower South or the Deep South.
3. _____ is the capital city of the state of Mississippi, which has eighty-two _____ and many towns and cities.
4. On a globe or a map, longitude and latitude coordinates indicate the _____ location (precise location on Earth's surface) of a particular place.
5. _____ is the distance east or west of the _____ _____ (imaginary line that runs from North Pole to South Pole through Greenwich, England).
6. _____ is the distance north or south of the _____ (the imaginary line that goes around the globe halfway between the North and South Poles).
7. In an age of technology unimagined by your grandparents, your family car or truck may be equipped with a Global Positioning System (_____).
8. This new technology, with the aid of a network of GPS satellites, can determine the

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exact latitude, longitude, and _____ (height of the land above sea level) of any place on Earth.

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Section 2

Fair Weather

Directions:

Use the information from pages 8 - 13 to complete the following.

1. In the early eons of time, _____ roamed through the forests and across the plains and meadows of the ancient world.
2. An _____ is a vast, long period of time.
3. In the slow course of time, man eventually _____ (adapted for human use) plants and animals and ceased his roaming.
4. From its beginning, Mississippi seemed destined to be an _____ state.
5. The growing season in Mississippi ranges from 210 days in the _____ part of the state to as many as 270 days along the _____.
6. A _____ is the number of days between the last killing frost in the spring and the first killing frost in the fall.
7. An average _____ of over 59 inches per year and _____ temperatures produce nearly ideal conditions for farming.
8. These _____ (average rainfall and mild temperatures) produce a southern flora and fauna of incredible variety.
9. _____ refers to the natural vegetation of a region, and _____ refers to the animal life of a particular area.

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10. Much of Mississippi's untamed wilderness was surrendered early on to the demands of its extensive agricultural system and later to the demands of its _____ (growing and expanding rapidly) urban development.
11. Several geographic factors make Mississippi especially vulnerable to _____.
12. Mississippi's many _____ wind slowly in great loops and turns through soft soils.
13. Springtime brings _____ rain and _____ water, and some rivers _____ their banks into adjacent floodplains and wetlands.
14. Mississippi is also subject to weather patterns that can produce _____ (dark, funnel-shaped clouds with swirling winds that can measure over two hundred miles an hour).
15. _____ are violent weather patterns that form in the Atlantic Ocean during the summer and fall.
16. Two of the most _____ hurricanes in Mississippi history were _____ and _____.
17. Hurricane Katrina, which slammed into the Gulf Coast on August 29, _____, is considered the greatest _____ in American history.

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Section 3

Fertile Soil

Directions:

Use the information from pages 14 - 24 to complete the following.

1. The _____ period of Mississippi history is the time from its establishment as an American territory in 1798 to the beginning of the Civil War in 1861.
2. In the 1880 U.S. _____ of Agriculture, Eugene Hilgard, a former state geologist, produced a _____ map of Mississippi's varied agricultural _____.
3. More recent _____ (scientists who study the origin, history, and composition of earth's crust) have modified Hilgard's map by reducing the number of soil regions to ten or twelve.
4. Some geologists refer to soil regions as _____ (landforms) regions.
5. In the northeast corner of the state is a _____ section known as the Tennessee-Tombigbee Hills. Some geologists identify this section as the _____ Hills.
6. The _____ in this region is sandy loam and reddish orange in color.
7. To the east of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Hills is a strip of highly _____ _____ extending from the Tennessee border southeastward into Alabama.
8. It is usually identified as the Tombigbee _____.
9. Extending southward from the Tennessee border is a land formation called the _____.

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Pontotoc _____.

10. It was along the Pontotoc Ridge that the Chickasaw Indians grew their _____, which was the Indian name for _____.
11. To the east of the Pontotoc Ridge is a long narrow strip of land known as the _____ region.
12. The _____ soil of the Flatwoods is _____ and it drains poorly; therefore, it is not conducive to cultivation.
13. The _____ Hills region includes a variety of _____.
14. The prairie bottoms of _____ and _____ that are found throughout the region are highly _____ and have been the scene of productive farms.
15. South of the North Central Hills is a soil formation known as the _____.
16. This area has more _____ and extends into Alabama.
17. South of the Jackson Prairie is a vast expanse of _____ called the Piney Woods, or _____.
18. The region of the _____ has a surface that is generally flat, with _____ - _____ soil that is _____ and not highly fertile.
19. The area of Mississippi extending from Tennessee in the north to Louisiana in the south is a highly _____ soil belt called the _____ region.

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20. West of the Brown Loam region is a soil area called the Loess _____.
21. These bluffs were formed by prehistoric _____
sweeping eastward across the lower Mississippi valley.
22. _____ soil (windblown dust that accumulates and forms a ridge of bluffs
as it approaches higher elevations) is highly _____ but also
susceptible to _____.
23. The Yazoo Basin is better known as the _____.
24. The rich, dark, _____ soil (soil that was deposited by running water)
was deposited in this region during thousands of years of annual
_____ of the Yazoo Basin.
25. Along the Mississippi River from Vicksburg southward to where the Great River flows
into Louisiana is a highly _____ area called the _____
District.

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Section 4 Natural Resources

Directions: Use the information from pages 26 - 33 to complete the following.

1. The controversy about _____ issues and climate change has been prompted by the nation's increasing _____ of _____ (those things found in nature that are useful to humans), especially those that are not _____.
2. Several state agencies _____ Mississippi's environment and promote development of its natural resources.
3. One of the most important of these agencies is the Mississippi Department of _____ (MDEQ).
4. One of the most vital resources of Mother Nature is _____.
5. We _____ it, bathe in it, _____ our crops with it, transport goods on it, generate _____ power with it, and depend on it in our _____ and _____.
6. The _____ River, from which our state takes its name, is almost _____ miles long.
7. The location of _____ near the mouth of the mighty Mississippi makes it one of the most important _____ in the world.
8. The Mississippi River basin extends from the _____ Mountains in the east to the _____ Mountains in the west.

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9. A river system consists of a large river and several _____
(smaller rivers or streams that flow into the larger river).
10. A _____ basin is the area of land that drains into the tributaries
and eventually into the larger rivers.
11. One of our state's most precious resources is its _____ supply of
water, both groundwater and surface water.
12. _____ is moisture that seeps into the subsurface and accumulates
in rock formations called _____.
13. Groundwater is the _____ source of water consumed in most
Mississippi towns and cities.
14. _____ water is the water in lakes, ponds, rivers, and reservoirs.
15. There are six large _____ (man-made lakes where water is
collected and kept in quantity for use) in Mississippi.
16. The water that flows over the reservoir's dam powers the machines, called
_____, that generate _____ at the power plant that
is built near the reservoir.
17. In addition to rivers and reservoirs, hundreds of _____
dot the Mississippi landscape.
18. Catfish production is the leading aquaculture _____ in the United
States.
19. _____ — which is also called "water farming" or "fish farming" —
is the _____ production of freshwater animals like catfish, and
aquatic plants.

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20. Even though Mississippi has fair weather and _____ soil, most of its land surface is _____ for _____ production.
21. More of the state's land surface is devoted to _____ than to agriculture.
22. In addition to good soil and high rainfall, a critical _____ factor for forests is annual _____.
23. Mississippi does have commercial quantities of _____, gravel, and _____, as well as _____ and _____.
24. One of Mississippi's most significant _____ resources is its abundant supply of _____ (a low grade of coal).