





Minnesota Mississippi River Boat houses

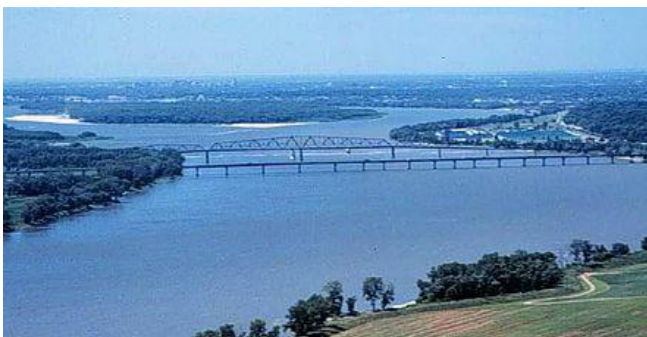
(CONT'D)

The Mississippi River can be divided into three sections: the Upper Mississippi, the river from its headwaters to the confluence with the Missouri River; the Middle Mississippi, which is downriver from the Missouri to the Ohio River; and the Lower Mississippi, which flows from the Ohio to the Gulf of Mexico.

The source of the Upper Mississippi branch is traditionally accepted as Lake Itasca, 1,475 feet above sea level in Itasca State Park in Clearwater County, Minnesota.

From its origin at Lake Itasca to St. Louis, Missouri, the waterway's flow is moderated by 43 dams. Fourteen of these dams are located above Minneapolis in the headwaters region and serve multiple purposes, including power generation and recreation. The remaining 29 dams, beginning in downtown Minneapolis, all contain locks and were constructed to improve commercial navigation of the upper river.

The Mississippi River discharges at an annual average rate of between 200 and 700 thousand cubic feet per second and an estimated 440 million short tons (400 million metric tons) of sediment per year from the interior of the United States to coastal Louisiana and the Gulf of Mexico.



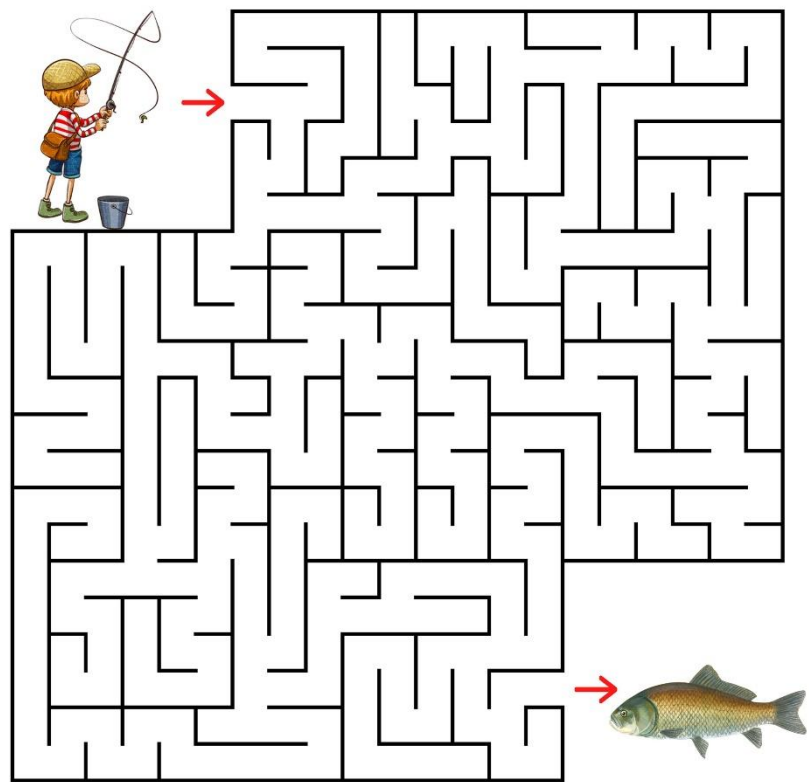
St Louis -Mississippi river



**FIND 10 DIFFERENCES**



**Jumble answers: FEVER, MANLY, BAKERY, HEALTH**  
**HALL of FRAMME**





### Length

When measured from its traditional source at Lake Itasca, the Mississippi has a length of 2,340 miles. When measured from its longest stream source (most distant source from the sea), Brower's Spring in Montana, the source of the Missouri River, it has a length of 3,710 miles, making it the fourth longest river in the world after the Nile, Amazon, and Yangtze. When measured by the largest stream source (by water volume), the Ohio River, by extension the Allegheny River, would be the source, and the Mississippi would begin in Pennsylvania.



Algiers Point  
New Orleans  
Deepest part  
of the  
Mississippi.

### Depth

At its source at Lake Itasca, the Mississippi River is about 3 feet deep. The average depth of the Mississippi River between Saint Paul and Saint Louis is between 9 and 12 feet deep, the deepest part being Lake Pepin, which averages 20–32 feet deep and has a maximum depth of 60 feet. Between where the Missouri River joins the Mississippi at Saint Louis, Missouri, and Cairo, Illinois, the depth averages 30 feet. Below Cairo, where the Ohio River joins, the depth averages 50–100 feet deep. The deepest part of the river is in New Orleans, where it reaches 200 feet deep.

### Fish

About 375 fish species are known from the Mississippi basin. Within the Mississippi basin, streams that have their source in the Appalachian and Ozark highlands contain especially many species. Among the fish species in the basin are numerous endemics, as well as relicts such as paddlefish, sturgeon, gar and bowfin.

Because of its size and high species diversity, the Mississippi basin is often divided into subregions. The Upper Mississippi River alone is home to about 120 fish species, including walleye, sauger, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, white bass, northern pike, bluegill, crappie, channel catfish, flathead catfish, common shiner, freshwater drum, and shovelnose sturgeon.

### Other fauna

A large number of reptiles are native to the river channels and basin, including American alligators, several species of turtle, aquatic amphibians, and crayfish, are native to the Mississippi basin.

In addition, approximately 40% of the migratory birds in the US use the Mississippi River corridor during Spring and Fall migrations; 60% of all migratory birds in North America (326 species) use the river basin as their flyway.



The first bridge (and only log bridge) over the Mississippi, about 25 feet south of its source at Lake Itasca.



Mississippi River at Baton Rouge LA.