

## **Atchafalaya National Heritage Area (ANHA)**

### **Waterways and Structures**

#### **Answer Key**

The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area (ANHA) contains some of this nation's most beautiful and mysterious landscape. It houses bayous, lakes, marshes, and swamps along with countless wildlife and tree specimens, and over 270 species of birds. But life in the ANHA is much more. The bounty of the water, the music, the people, all contribute to making ANHA a country within a country.

Use information from the Waterways & Structures Education Resource to complete the scavenger hunt below. (Download the booklet at <http://www.atchafalaya.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Curr1Waterways.pdf>.)

**FILL IN THE BLANK** (Pages 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 30, 31, 55)

There is only one way to become a National Heritage Area, and that is to be recognized by the U.S. Congress. Pg 4

Louisiana is fortunate to have two National Heritage Areas; the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area and the Cane River National Heritage Area. Pg 4

Atchafalaya is an American Indian word meaning long river. Pg 4

The Atchafalaya Trace Commission is responsible for overseeing the development of a federal management plan and coordinating the implementation of its recommendations. Pg 4

The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area includes fourteen parishes in Louisiana. Pg 4

In 1802, the Atchafalaya River and Basin were maintained by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Pg 6

By 1778, (year) the entrance to the Atchafalaya River was occluded by a logjam. Pg 6

The Bonnet Carre Spillway was completed in 1931, while the Morganza Spillway was completed in 1954. Pg 7

The Atchafalaya River's source is near Simmesport, Louisiana. Pg 8

The Mississippi River has been and is today a route for cargo ships for more than 200 years. The river is now one of the biggest and busiest commercial waterways in the world. The river carries approximately 175 million tons of cargo each year. Pg 10

The Atchafalaya Basin is distinctive and varied in its habitat having 173,000 acres of cypress swamps and 64,000 acres of aquatic habitat. Pg 12

There have been 18 great Mississippi River floods. Pg 30

The most destructive river flood in the history of the United States was the Mississippi Flood of 1927. Pg 30

The Mississippi Flood of 1927 caused over \$400 million in damages and killed 246 people in seven states. Pg 30

The Mississippi River floods of 2011 were caused by record levels of rainfall, combined with springtime snowmelt. Pg 31

The landscape of the Atchafalaya is made up of bayous, vast marshes, and America's largest river swamp. Pg 55

The food trinity includes celery, onions, and bell peppers. Pg 55

The native music is a melding of cultures to make Cajun rhythm, Zydeco, Rock 'n Roll, Rock-A-Billy, Gospel, and Country. Pg 55

### Name the Waterway or Structure

Choose from the list below to match the statement with the waterway or structure that it is describing. (Pages 8-28)

#### Word Bank

Backwater Areas	Atchafalaya River	Bonnet Carre Spillway	Atchafalaya Basin/Swamp
Mississippi Delta	United States	Mississippi River Drainage Basin / Lower Mississippi River Valley	Army Corps of Engineers
Mississippi River Commission	Levee Systems	Mississippi River & Tributaries Project	Atchafalaya Basin Floodway
Gulf Intracoastal Waterway	Mississippi River	Morganza Spillway	Old River Control Structure

**Atchafalaya River** A distributary of the Mississippi River and Red River in south central Louisiana and also provides a significant industrial shipping channel for the state. Pg 8

**Mississippi River** One of the largest rivers in North America, this river's basin covers 41% of the United States and 1/8 of North America. Pg 10

**Gulf Intracoastal Waterway** The portion of the Intracoastal Waterway located along the Gulf Coast of the United States. Pg 12

**Atchafalaya Basin/Swamp** Consists of three floodways (Morganza, West Atchafalaya, and Atchafalaya Basin) and is maintained by the United States Army Corp of Engineers. Pg 12

**Mississippi Delta** Includes a total of 308 counties and parishes in Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, and Tennessee as well as the entire states of Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Pg 13

**Mississippi River Drainage Basin, Lower Mississippi River Valley** Recognized as the third largest water shed in the World, just behind the Amazon and Congo River Basins. Pg 14

**United States Army Corps of Engineers** Their mission is to provide vital public engineering

services in peace and war to strengthen the nation’s security, energize the economy, and reduce risks from disasters. Pg 16

**Mississippi River Commission** Develops plans to improve the condition of the Mississippi River, foster navigation, promote commerce, and prevent destructive floods. Pg 17

**Mississippi River & Tributaries Project** One of the major elements of this project is to improve and stabilize channels creating an efficient and reliable navigation capacity of the river, protecting the levee system. Pg 18

**Levee Systems** Close to the length of the Great Wall in China, these structures are designed to protect the alluvial valley against flood by confining the flow of water. Pg 19

**Backwater Areas** The result of gaps left in the main-stem Mississippi River levee system at the mouths of major tributaries that empty into the river. Pg 20

**Atchafalaya Basin Floodway** A flood control structure that helps to preserve the habitat of the nation’s largest and oldest river-basin swamp. Pg 22

**Bonnet Carre Spillway** Built in response to the Great Mississippi Flood of 1927, this flood control operation allows floodwaters from the Mississippi River to flow into Lake Pontchartrain. Pg 24

**Morganza Spillway** This flood control operation is only allowed to be opened during flood emergencies, which has occurred twice since being built. Pg 26

**Old River Control Structure** Located in Concordia Parish, this flood control structure has several parts that assist in controlling the Mississippi River water flow including Low Sill Control Structure, Overbank Control Structure, Sidney A. Murray, Jr. Hydroelectric Plant, and the Auxiliary Structure. Pg 28

**COMPLETE THE TABLE (Page 44)**

Use the list below to complete the table by matching the refuge or WMA (Wildlife Management Area) to the correct parish where it is located.

Assumption Avoyelles Concordia Iberia Point Coupee St. Landry St. Martin  
Terrebonne

REFUGE or WMA	PARISH
Pointe-aux-Chenes WMA	<b>Terrebonne</b>
Elm Hall	<b>Assumption</b>
Bayou Cocodrie National Wildlife Refuge	<b>Concordia</b>

Atchafalaya National Wildlife Refuge	<b>Pointe Coupee</b>
Lake Ophelia National Wildlife Refuge	<b>Avoyelles</b>
Indian Bayou	<b>St. Martin</b>
Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge	<b>Iberia</b>
Thistlethwaite WMA	<b>St. Landry</b>

**TRUE OR FALSE (Page 64)**

	<b>TRUE</b>	<b>FALSE</b>
A pirogue is a small boat that has been dugout.	x	
A barge is a roomy, usually flat-bottomed, boat used for transporting people on inland waterways and usually propelled by towing.		x
A row boat is a small boat designed to be lined up in rows and towed down river carrying goods.		x
A steamboat is driven only by steam power and is a shallow-draft vessel used on inland waterways.	x	
A towboat is a powerful, shallow-draft boat with a broad bow, intended to push barges on rivers and canals.	x	
A cargo ship is designed to only transport cars across the water.		x

## Project

By creating tri-fold exhibits about what they learned during their investigation of the Atchafalaya Basin Waterways and Structures Education Resource, the students will demonstrate their understanding of the material. This can be an individual student or small group activity.

1. Have the students look at the information they have covered during their studies. Let them particularly look at their notes from the video overview of the region. Before beginning they should decide what the theme is and plan what will be in each of the three panels.
2. Choose charts, artifacts, maps, graphs, photos, 3D objects which give clarity to their work.
3. Pick a catchy title for the board. Make sure that the theme and major idea(s) are obvious. If they have too much information for the board, a handout can be created.
4. Design the board. Use colored backgrounds to highlight materials. Contrasting fabrics work well too.  
Use a variety of media, markers, crayons, poster paint, etc. to get the point across.
5. Put display together.

### Things to Consider in Grading Display

1. Is the theme clearly given?
2. Do the display materials support the theme?
3. Is the display well organized and focus on supporting the theme?
4. Is the display pleasing to the eye? Does the use of color, design arrangement, and signage deliver the message?
5. If it was a group project, did all group members contribute?