

## MAP ACTIVITY: USA Drainage Basins

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If you missed this day, or just need a review, go to Benson's website (Unit 8) and select "Map Activity Drainage Basins PowerPoint" and watch it.

1. Draw a line around the Mississippi and its tributaries, including all the land that drains into them. Your line should not cross any rivers. Label this area the "Mississippi Basin", and then use a colored pencil to shade it in.

2. Estimate the percentage of land in the lower 48 states that sends its runoff into the Mississippi River: \_\_\_\_\_ % . . . . . The Mississippi carries this water to the . . .

\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Locate the Colorado River and its tributaries. (NOTE: There are two Colorado Rivers. Use the one that starts in Colorado.) Draw a line around its drainage basin, use a different color to shade it in, and then label it the "Colorado River Basin".

4. (3 points) Repeat step 3 for the Columbia, the Rio Grande, and the St. Lawrence Rivers. Use a different color for each basin and label them. The St. Lawrence basin includes the Great Lakes.

5. Draw a **dark line** from Canada to Mexico to show the location of the **Continental Divide**.

6. Mark the approximate location of Butte and Helena on your map, using a **star** for Helena and an **X** for Butte. **NOTE: Butte is west of the divide.**

7. Explain what a "divide" is. (text page 170 may be helpful)

8. In which ocean might motor oil that runs off the streets of Butte end up in? \_\_\_\_\_

If snow on the mountains between Helena and Great Falls melts and runs off, Where will it end up? (Which part of the ocean?) \_\_\_\_\_

9. In which state are the "headwaters" of the Mississippi located? \_\_\_\_\_

In which state are the headwaters of the Missouri River located? \_\_\_\_\_

10. In which state is the "mouth" of the Mississippi located? \_\_\_\_\_

11. Parts of three drainage basins (on your map) can be found in Colorado. List these three.

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12. Use text pages 744-745 to find the following rivers, and then use your map to identify the basin in which each river is found. (3 points)

Snake River (ID): \_\_\_\_\_

Pecos (TX): \_\_\_\_\_

Green (WY): \_\_\_\_\_

Missouri (MT): \_\_\_\_\_

Wabash (IN): \_\_\_\_\_

Willamette (OR): \_\_\_\_\_

13. What is the source of water in the St. Lawrence River? \_\_\_\_\_

In what general direction does it flow? \_\_\_\_\_

14. Near which large city is the "confluence" of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers located?  
(see map on page 744)

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15. Where is the confluence of the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers located?

\_\_\_\_\_

16. Is Helena part of the "Upper" (higher elevation), or part of the "Lower Missouri Basin?"

\_\_\_\_\_

17. ON YOUR MAP there are some rivers that do not drain to the ocean. In what two states are these rivers located? Use the map on pages 744-745 if you don't know the names of the states.

\_\_\_\_\_ And \_\_\_\_\_

18. People (cities, farms) take so much water from the Colorado River that it no longer makes it to the ocean. Why is there so much demand for water in that part of the country? PROVIDE A REASONABLE ANSWER (GUESS).

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19. In the spring of 1996, tremendous amounts of water were allowed to flow out of Lake Powell, temporarily flooding the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon area. This was done to replenish the canyon floor with sand and silt needed as habitat for plants and animals. Where was the sand and silt sitting before the floodgates opened? PROVIDE A REASONABLE ANSWER (GUESS).

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20. Several dams have been built on the Columbia River, providing the Pacific Northwest with some of the cheapest electricity in the world. However, the dams have hurt populations of salmon in the Pacific Ocean. Why do you think the dams have caused salmon populations to decrease over the past several decades? PROVIDE A REASONABLE ANSWER (GUESS).

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