

## THE CULTURE OF ALABAMA'S RIVERS

The following work sheets for the **Water Ways** exhibit were prepared by Florence Giles, Education Coordinator for Old Alabama Town in Montgomery, Alabama, in cooperation with the Alabama Center for Traditional Culture. They are designed to be used by students in grades four and above.

## THE CULTURE OF ALABAMA'S RIVERS

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Worksheets include:

1. ABC Order
2. Alabama Rivers Puzzle
3. Fill in the Blanks
4. Matching
5. Multiple Choice
6. Scrambled Words
7. Seek a Word Puzzle
8. Vocabulary
9. Topics for Discussion
10. Water Vocabulary

## THE CULTURE OF ALABAMA'S RIVERS

NAME\_\_\_\_\_CLASS\_\_\_DATE

Fill in the circle in front of the word in each list which comes first in ABC order. Write the word you have chosen to the right of the choices.

1.     fishermen  
       taxidermist  
       backwaters  
       gristmill
  
2.     ecosystem  
       mussels  
       trotlines  
       ferry
  
3.     tributary  
       trotlines  
       taxidermist  
       traditional
  
4.     flatheads  
       bait  
       replicas  
       gristmill
  
5.     nautical  
       navigable  
       portages  
       kennel
  
6.     culture  
       grappling  
       fall line  
       ferry
  
7.     fishermen  
       gristmill  
       ferry  
       flatheads

8.
  - o rivers
  - o replicas
  - o portages
  - o scull
  
9.
  - o grappling
  - o kennel
  - o gristmill
  - o mussels
  
10.
  - o riverboats
  - o worms
  - o replicas
  - o system

## Answers to ABC order

1. backwaters
2. ecosystem
3. taxidermist
4. bait
5. kennel
6. culture
7. ferry
8. portages
9. grappling
10. replicas

# THE CULTURE OF ALABAMA'S RIVERS

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**Circle the names of Alabama Rivers hidden in the puzzle.**

s	R	a	Y	E	B	l	a	c	k	W	a	r	r	i	o	r	C	L	D
V	x	a	j	S	F	Z	T	P	Z	s	e	z	O	x	f	a	w	h	m
y	J	Y	Q	z	u	w	v	B	T	f	e	G	S	k	h	d	Y	j	N
q	D	o	g	z	K	E	L	c	B	S	h	a	d	a	B	a	g	Y	Z
c	e	R	a	S	u	l	V	q	v	V	c	Y	b	D	i	K	o	h	U
h	e	N	T	Z	V	I	F	C	k	R	o	a	j	X	D	f	E	s	k
l	b	E	a	x	A	x	y	C	M	F	o	X	a	a	z	d	d	i	x
x	g	s	s	w	D	D	A	T	b	I	h	V	y	u	H	Y	u	F	f
p	i	q	o	C	x	R	O	e	a	y	a	B	M	t	Y	o	t	M	a
n	b	X	o	Z	c	b	A	n	Q	w	t	a	x	x	r	D	Z	q	q
B	m	P	p	r	j	S	d	n	T	c	t	e	P	B	p	R	a	L	T
l	o	e	a	u	T	R	j	e	e	c	a	P	X	D	g	Y	T	C	W
a	T	r	l	o	D	R	C	s	n	G	h	B	l	V	j	Q	E	n	j
k	v	d	l	c	e	q	o	s	s	J	C	w	B	Y	W	Z	u	C	V
e	M	i	a	e	l	v	n	e	a	j	o	Y	m	l	n	I	E	o	Z
l	u	d	T	S	i	s	e	e	w	F	d	T	m	A	x	A	l	o	T
y	v	o	D	n	b	o	c	n	c	m	y	e	t	L	t	N	O	s	E
i	b	K	w	o	o	x	u	o	f	H	O	j	V	X	d	Y	W	a	Y
h	Y	T	N	B	M	u	h	R	y	x	d	v	r	V	v	J	L	Z	b
A	l	a	b	a	m	a	L	x	t	S	y	E	W	T	Y	A	o	f	y

Alabama  
Conecuh  
Pea  
Cahaba  
Mobile  
Tallapoosa

Chattahoochee  
Tensaw  
Black Warrior  
Dog  
Blakely  
Coosa

Tombigbee  
Fowl  
Bon Secour  
Tennessee  
Fish  
Perdido

## Answers to Alabama Rivers Puzzle

s	R	a	Y	E	B	l	a	c	k	W	a	r	r	i	o	r	C	L	D
V	x	a	j	S	F	Z	T	P	Z	s	e	z	O	x	f	a	w	h	m
y	J	Y	Q	z	u	w	v	B	T	f	e	G	S	k	h	d	Y	j	N
q	D	o	g	z	K	E	L	c	B	S	h	a	d	a	B	a	g	Y	Z
c	e	R	a	S	u	l	V	q	v	V	c	Y	b	D	i	K	o	h	U
h	e	N	T	Z	V	I	F	C	k	R	o	a	j	X	D	f	E	s	k
l	b	E	a	x	A	x	y	C	M	F	o	X	a	a	z	d	d	i	x
x	g	s	s	w	D	D	A	T	b	I	h	V	y	u	H	Y	u	F	f
p	i	q	o	C	x	R	O	e	a	y	a	B	M	t	Y	o	t	M	a
n	b	X	o	Z	c	b	A	n	Q	w	t	a	x	x	r	D	Z	q	q
B	m	P	p	r	j	S	d	n	T	c	t	e	P	B	p	R	a	L	T
l	o	e	a	u	T	R	j	e	e	c	a	P	X	D	g	Y	T	C	W
a	T	r	l	o	D	R	C	s	n	G	h	B	l	V	j	Q	E	n	j
k	v	d	l	c	e	q	o	s	s	J	C	w	B	Y	W	Z	u	C	V
e	M	i	a	e	l	v	n	e	a	j	o	Y	m	l	n	I	E	o	Z
l	u	d	T	S	i	s	e	e	w	F	d	T	m	A	x	A	l	o	T
y	v	o	D	n	b	o	c	n	c	m	y	e	t	L	t	N	O	s	E
i	b	K	w	o	o	x	u	o	f	H	O	j	V	X	d	Y	W	a	Y
h	Y	T	N	B	M	u	h	R	y	x	d	v	r	V	v	J	L	Z	b
A	l	a	b	a	m	a	L	x	t	S	y	E	W	T	Y	A	o	f	y

## THE CULTURE OF ALABAMA'S RIVERS

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Fill in the blanks in these sentences with the word that fits.

1. One photo shows bream being caught in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Conecuh River.
2. A \_\_\_\_\_ once ran at Packer's Bend on the Alabama River.
3. Changes in the \_\_\_\_\_ have caused a diminishing shell population in Alabama rivers.
4. Yellow catfish, or " \_\_\_\_\_ " are caught in the Alabama River.
5. The Flint Creek is a \_\_\_\_\_ of the Tennessee River.
6. A riverboat pilot builds \_\_\_\_\_ of historic riverboats.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ are used to catch fish along the Tennessee River.
8. Catalpa worms from catalpa trees are a favorite \_\_\_\_\_ of Alabama fishermen.
9. It is often more effective to \_\_\_\_\_ with one oar than row with two oars in swampy areas with lots of trees.
10. Some fishermen locate catfish and catch them by hand. This practice is known as \_\_\_\_\_.
11. Alligator heads have been preserved by a \_\_\_\_\_.
12. Farmers brought corn to a \_\_\_\_\_ to be ground into meal.

13. When it floods, hunting dogs are pulled to higher ground in a movable \_\_\_\_\_.
14. The Japanese cultured pearl industry buys \_\_\_\_\_ from Alabama rivers.
15. Alabama rivers are significant for their impact on the state's \_\_\_\_\_.
16. The \_\_\_\_\_ extends across the state marking the boundary of the coastal plain.
17. Each December several river towns in Alabama host holiday \_\_\_\_\_ parades.
18. The fall line boundary represents the northernmost \_\_\_\_\_ point.
19. Alabama rivers were a link in a chain of an Indian trade route connecting the Great Lakes with the Gulf Coast with only three \_\_\_\_\_.
20. A \_\_\_\_\_ method of catching mussels is brailing.

## Answers to Fill in the Blank Sentences:

1. backwaters
2. ferry
3. ecosystem
4. flatheads
5. tributary
6. replicas
7. trotlines
8. bait
9. scull
10. grappling
11. taxidermist
12. gristmill
13. kennel
14. mussels
15. culture
16. fall line
17. nautical
18. navigable
19. portages
20. traditional

## THE CULTURE OF ALABAMA'S RIVERS

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Fill in the blank with the letter corresponding to the word that best completes the sentence.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ are used to catch fish along the Tennessee River.  
a. taxidermist
2. The Flint Creek is a \_\_\_\_\_ of the Tennessee River.  
b. fishermen
3. Alligator heads have been preserved by a \_\_\_\_\_.  
c. gristmill
4. One photo shows bream being caught in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Conecuh River.  
d. tributary
5. Historic Riverboat \_\_\_\_\_ are built by a riverboat pilot.  
e. flatheads
6. Brailing is a \_\_\_\_\_ method of catching mussels.  
f. nautical
7. In one of the photographs, a man stands where he and his father operated a \_\_\_\_\_ at Packer's Bend.  
g. replicas
8. Farmers brought corn to a \_\_\_\_\_ to be ground into meal.  
h. backwaters
9. Each December several river towns in Alabama host holiday \_\_\_\_\_ parades.  
i. trotlines
10. Yellow catfish, or "\_\_\_\_\_" are caught in the Alabama River.  
j. traditional
- \_\_\_\_\_   
k. ferry

## Answers to Matching

1. i trotlines
2. d tributary
3. a taxidermist
4. h backwaters
5. g replicas
6. j traditional
7. k ferry
8. c gristmill
9. f nautical
10. e flatheads

## THE CULTURE OF ALABAMA'S RIVERS

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Each sentence has one word missing. Please circle the correct missing word.

1. The Flint Creek is a \_\_\_\_\_ of the Tennessee River.
  - a. culture
  - b. fall line
  - c. tributary
  - d. portage
  
2. Bream are caught in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Conecuh River.
  - a. backwaters
  - b. flathead
  - c. kennel
  - d. ecosystem
  
3. Farmers brought corn to a \_\_\_\_\_ to be ground into meal.
  - a. kennel
  - b. ferry
  - c. trotline
  - d. gristmill
  
4. A \_\_\_\_\_ preserved alligator heads.
  - a. scull
  - b. taxidermist
  - c. fishermen
  - d. flathead
  
5. A favorite \_\_\_\_\_ of Alabama fishermen is Catalpa worms.
  - a. bait
  - b. mussel
  - c. catfish
  - d. flathead

6. Changes in the \_\_\_\_\_ have caused a diminishing shell population in Alabama rivers.
- a. navigable
  - b. taxidermist
  - c. backwaters
  - d. ecosystem
7. A riverboat pilot builds \_\_\_\_\_ of historic riverboats.
- a. trotlines
  - b. replicas
  - c. tributary
  - d. traditional
8. Several Alabama river towns host holiday \_\_\_\_\_ parades in December.
- a. nautical
  - b. bait
  - c. mussels
  - d. culture
9. Another name for yellow catfish is \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. bait
  - b. taxidermist
  - c. flathead
  - d. gristmill
10. The \_\_\_\_\_ is the southernmost tier of waterfalls.
- a. ferry
  - b. portages
  - c. tributary
  - d. fall line

## Answers to Multiple Choice

1. c tributary
2. a backwaters
3. d gristmill
4. b taxidermist
5. a bait
6. d ecosystem
7. b replicas
8. a nautical
9. c flathead
10. d fall line

## THE CULTURE OF ALABAMA'S RIVERS

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_ DATE

All these sentences have one word that is scrambled. Unscramble that word and write it in the blank.

- Alligator heads have been preserved by a \_\_\_\_\_.  
iimrtxsadte
- Bream are caught in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Conecuh River.  
wrctkaaseb
- A \_\_\_\_\_ used to run at Packer's Bend on the Alabama River.  
ryefr
- The Flint Creek is a \_\_\_\_\_ of the Tennessee River.  
ytitbraur
- All of the Rivers in South Alabama flow into the Gulf of \_\_\_\_\_  
xeiMoc
- The Japanese cultured pearl industry buys \_\_\_\_\_ from Alabama rivers.  
slsusme
- A \_\_\_\_\_ is used to grind corn into meal.  
ilismrltg
- Changes in the \_\_\_\_\_ have caused a diminishing shell population in Alabama rivers.  
ostemsyce
- In swampy areas with lots of trees, it is often more effective to \_\_\_\_\_ with one oar than row with two oars.  
lcusl
- Fishermen run \_\_\_\_\_ to catch fish in Alabama rivers.  
snlrieott

## Answers to Scrambled Words

1. taxidermist
2. backwaters
3. ferry
4. tributary
5. Mexico
6. mussels
7. gristmill
8. ecosystem
9. scull
10. trotlines

# THE CULTURE OF ALABAMA'S RIVERS

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Vocabulary: Circle the words hidden in the puzzle below.

z	t	J	Y	m	S	A	O	z	p	E	q	c	Q	t	J	B	q	J	V
r	D	N	k	U	f	e	c	o	s	y	s	t	e	m	O	Q	i	S	n
g	D	s	d	a	e	h	t	a	l	f	V	z	z	R	O	F	K	c	v
Y	r	j	b	d	N	R	B	Y	D	U	m	E	z	t	u	X	s	b	J
w	b	i	N	a	f	a	L	A	b	Z	u	N	t	a	c	l	l	A	k
q	u	y	s	k	c	Q	K	n	V	b	b	s	r	x	x	W	a	g	j
S	K	F	r	t	X	k	f	X	y	R	R	l	e	i	e	W	Y	w	L
p	D	p	q	r	m	o	w	t	r	r	j	e	p	d	W	D	A	Z	e
d	N	o	p	l	e	i	u	a	a	T	J	s	l	e	h	m	a	v	l
O	H	r	J	a	p	f	l	N	t	r	M	s	i	r	q	B	n	T	b
U	o	t	l	n	k	r	s	l	u	e	a	u	c	m	B	R	a	C	a
q	u	a	l	o	W	H	j	O	b	G	r	m	a	i	W	d	u	Z	g
X	C	g	O	i	d	Q	p	O	i	w	j	s	s	s	s	c	t	b	i
N	e	e	U	t	c	U	Q	u	r	k	u	j	U	t	v	n	i	a	v
p	m	s	g	i	u	t	r	o	t	l	i	n	e	s	Q	x	c	i	a
V	G	S	w	d	l	v	Y	s	i	n	G	G	r	M	c	w	a	t	n
L	R	J	y	a	t	W	j	s	H	z	H	a	R	b	p	u	l	v	V
z	c	x	S	r	u	Z	o	S	g	y	M	i	R	S	n	A	l	Y	h
J	v	U	R	t	r	R	U	x	K	y	F	o	V	X	j	A	u	l	L
M	g	s	V	m	e	C	n	Q	U	v	V	a	G	k	e	n	n	e	l

gristmill  
mussels  
nautical  
portages  
traditional

taxidermist  
tributary  
ecosystem  
bait  
flatheads

replicas  
backwaters  
scull  
navigable

trotlines  
ferry  
culture  
kennel

# THE CULTURE OF ALABAMA'S RIVERS

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Seek a Word Answers:

z	t	J	Y	m	S	A	O	z	p	E	q	c	Q	t	J	B	q	J	V		
r	D	N	k	U	f	e c o s y s t e m					O	Q	i	S	n						
g	D	s d a e h t a l f					V	z	z	R	O	F	K	c	v						
Y	r	j	b	d	N	R	B	Y	D	U	m	E	z	t	u	X	s	b	J		
w	b	i	N	a	f	a	L	A	b	Z	u	N	t	a	c	l	l	A	k		
q	u	y	s	k	c	Q	K	n	V	b	b	s	r	x	x	W	a	g	j		
S	K	F	r	t	X	k	f	X	y	R	R	l	e	i	e	W	Y	w	L		
p	D	p	q	r	m	o	w	t	r	r	j	e	p	d	W	D	A	Z	e		
d	N	o	p	l	e	i	u	a	a	T	J	s	l	e	h	m	a	v	l		
O	H	r	J	a	p	f	l	N	t	r	M	s	i	r	q	B	n	T	b		
U	o	t	l	n	k	r	s	l	u	e	a	u	c	m	B	R	a	C	a		
q	u	a	l	o	W	H	j	O	b	G	r	m	a	i	W	d	u	Z	g		
X	C	g	O	i	d	Q	p	O	i	w	j	s	s	s	s	c	t	b	i		
N	e	e	U	t	c	U	Q	u	r	k	u	j	U	t	v	n	i	a	v		
p	m	s	g	i	u	t r o t l i n e s					Q	x	c	i	a						
V	G	S	w	d	l	v	Y	s	i	n	G	G	r	M	c	w	a	t	n		
L	R	J	y	a	t	W	j	s	H	z	H	a	R	b	p	u	l	v	V		
z	c	x	S	r	u	Z	o	S	g	y	M	i	R	S	n	A	l	Y	h		
J	v	U	R	t	r	R	U	x	K	y	F	o	V	X	j	A	u	l	L		
M	g	s	V	m	e	C	n	Q	U	v	V	a	G	k e n n e l							

## THE CULTURE OF ALABAMA'S RIVERS

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### Vocabulary:

Below are some of the words used in the exhibit. Define the underlined word in each sentence.

1. Farmers once brought corn to the gristmill to be ground into meal.

---

---

2. A fisherman hauls in a slat-box fish trap from Flint Creek, a tributary of the Tennessee River.

---

---

3. Japan's cultured pearl industry now buy mussels from Alabama rivers.

---

---

4. Changes in the ecosystem have diminished the shell population in Alabama rivers.

---

---

5. Fishermen run trotlines to catch fish in Alabama rivers.

---

---

6. In one of the photographs, a man stands where he and his father operated a ferry.

---

---

7. Bream are shown being caught in the backwaters of the Conecuh River.

---

---

8. Heads of alligators have been preserved by a taxidermist.

---

---

9. A riverboat pilot builds replicas of historic riverboats.

---

---

10. In December, several river towns in Alabama host holiday nautical parades.

---

---

11. Flatheads are caught in the Alabama River using a hoop net.

---

---

12. Catalpa worms are a favorite bait of many Alabama fishermen.

---

---

13. Brailing is a traditional method of catching mussels.

---

---

14. In swampy areas with lots of trees, it is often more effective to scull with one oar than row with two oars.

---

---

15. Some fishermen locate catfish and catch them by hand. This practice is known as "grappling".

---

---

16. A movable kennel is designed with wheels and a trailer hitch so that hunting dogs can be pulled to high ground during floods.

---

---

17. Alabama rivers are significant for their impact on the state's culture.

---

---

18. The fall line extends across the state marking the boundary of the coastal plain.

---

---

19. The fall line boundary represents the northernmost navigable point.

---

---

20. Alabama rivers were a link in a chain of an Indian trade route connecting the Great Lakes with the Gulf Coast with only three portages.

---

---

## THE CULTURE OF ALABAMA'S RIVERS

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

To the teacher: Below are listed topics and questions for possible Oral Discussions, Discussion Questions, Creative Writing Assignments, etc. Some have a higher ability level than others.

Why do you think Governor Bibb designed the Great Seal of Alabama with a map of Alabama showing the major rivers?

Look at the photo of Wayne Haggard checking his Catalpa trees for Catalpa worms to use for bait. If you have been fishing, what bait did you use and where did you get it?

Name as many songs as you can about rivers or traveling on a river.

Discuss the different ways people make their living on the rivers in Alabama.

Give examples of different types of boats for different waterways.

How is the ecosystems of Alabama rivers effected by pollution? What do you think can be done to protect the ecosystem?

Use first-person oral histories that involved rivers. Some students may have family “river stories” to share or write about. For a good source on rivers in Alabama, go to the web site <http://rs6.loc.gov/amhome.html> and type in the word “Alabama Rivers” in the search for wonderful first-person stories.

Look carefully at the photograph of the grave marker in Montgomery’s Oakwood Cemetery and it’s epitaph. Create stories about the drowning and the fact that he only had 2 friends to mourn for him.

Discuss how rivers helped early civilizations develop and why all early civilizations started along rivers.

Compare the Nile River system in Egypt with the river systems in Alabama. Be sure and discuss how each helped the country develop economically, politically, socially, and effects on the arts and religion.

## THE CULTURE OF ALABAMA'S RIVERS

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Vocabulary: Below are words associated with water systems and water transportation. Define the word and use in a sentence.

1. tributary:

---

---

---

2. portages:

---

---

---

3. backwaters:

---

---

---

4. swamp:

---

---

---

5. Gulf:

---

---

---

6. navigable:

---

---

---

7. bayou:

---

---

---

8. estuary:

---

---

---

9. flood:

---

---

---

10. ecosystem:

---

---

---