Objectives
To identify and locate various water features on a United States map

Materials Needed
A pencil and your map.

Lesson

Water, Water Everywhere

Over 70 percent of the Earth's surface is water. Many different water features can be shown on maps. On your map all water feature names appear in a lettering style called italics. Italic lettering slants to the right. Here are three examples of italic lettering. On your desk map the italic lettering is printed with blue ink.

LAKE ERIE Gulf of California Missouri River

A river is a large stream of water. The river source is its beginning. The river mouth is where the river empties into a larger body of water.

The largest river system in the United States is the Mississippi River. Look at the United States map. Locate the Mississippi River. Trace the Mississippi River from its source in Minnesota to its mouth in Louisiana. Use the United States map to help answer the following questions. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

1. The Mississippi River forms boundaries for which states? List them in order from
The Mississippi River has many important **tributaries**. A tributary is a smaller river that empties into a larger one.

2. Two important tributaries empty into the Mississippi River near St. Louis, Missouri. What are the names of these two rivers?
   ________________ ________________

3. What important Mississippi River tributary's mouth is located at the Illinois, Kentucky and Missouri borders?

4. Trace the Ohio River from its source to its mouth. The Ohio River forms boundaries for which states?
   ________________ ________________ ________________ ________________

5. What is the name of the Mississippi River tributary that has its source near Amarillo, Texas?
   __________________________________________________________________

6. Trace the Missouri River from its source near the Montana/Idaho state line to its mouth near St. Louis. What states does the Missouri River flow through. Include the states where the Missouri River forms the state boundaries.
   ________________ ________________ ________________ ________________
Other Rivers

Use your United States map to help you answer the following questions about some other rivers,

7. The source of the Colorado River is in what state? ____________________

8. Where is the mouth of the Colorado River? __________________________

9. The Columbia River is found in the northwest part of the United States. Locate the Columbia River on the United States map. Answer the following questions about the Columbia River.

   Where is the source of the Columbia River? __________________________

   Where is the mouth of the Columbia River? __________________________

10. What two important rivers in California are located in the valley between the Sierra Nevada Mountains and the Coast Ranges?

11. What is the name of the river that forms the boundary between the state of Texas and the country of Mexico?

Lakes

A lake is a body of water that is completely surrounded by land. The largest lakes in the
United States are the **Great Lakes**. Use the United States desk map to locate the **Great Lakes**.

12. List the names of the **Great Lakes** in order from east to west
   ________________ ________________ ________________ ________________

13. What is the name of the big lake in **Utah**? ________________

14. What is the name of the large lake in **Florida**? ________________

**Gulfs**

A **gulf** is a body of water that extends from the ocean or sea into a large indentation of the coastline. The **Gulf of Mexico** is an example. The **Gulf of Mexico** is south of **Louisiana**, **Mississippi** and **Alabama**.

Use your United States map to locate and name the following gulfs. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

15. What is the name of the gulf located in the mouth of the **St. Lawrence River**?
   ________________

16. What is the name of the gulf located south of **Anchorage, Alaska**?
   ________________

17. What is the name of the gulf located south of **California**? ________________

**Bays**
A bay is an arm of an ocean, sea or lake usually smaller than a gulf. An example is Appalachia Bay. Look at your United States map. You will find that Appalachia Bay is located south of Tallahassee, Florida. Use your United States map to help you answer the following questions. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

18. This bay is the home of a large naval shipyard. Its coastline is Virginia and Maryland. What is the name of this bay? ________________

19. Locate Lake Huron. What two bays are found there?
   ________________  ________________