

Name:

Has the path of the Mississippi River always been the same?

Notice and Wonder

1. What do you notice about the Mississippi River's shape and path over time?

2. What questions do you have about this picture and the path of the river?

Explore

3. How does the walking river model show how the water moves through a meandering river?

4. What does this model show us about the sand along the river banks?

Explain

5. Draw a model to show how the sand or soil moves in a river bed over time, causing the river to meander. Explain your model in words.

6. Why has the Mississippi River's path changed over time? Use evidence from the models, videos, and reading.

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Take it Further

7. Why is the path of the Mississippi River straighter than you might expect?



Key Takeaway: The Mississippi has not always been on this exact path. Erosion and deposition due to the flow of river water changes the land around the Mississippi, causing the river to meander or bend over time. Faster moving water causes erosion, while slower moving water allows for deposition. Humans have changed the path of the Mississippi River with things like locks and dams, which makes the river path more stable over time.