

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Period \_\_\_\_\_

WAKPA MNISOTA  
Minnesota River

**Watch “Autumn Cavender-Wilson, Minnesota River”**

1. What happens because the river valley stretches east-west?
2. What memories does Autumn’s grandmother have of the river? How is it different from Autumn’s experience with the river?

**Do an internet search about the Minnesota River being on American River’s 2008 Most Endangered Rivers list.**

3. Why was the river on the top ten most endangered rivers list that year? Be as specific as possible.
4. What other rivers were on the list in 2008 and where are they located?
5. Why isn’t the Minnesota River on the most endangered list anymore? (*hint: search for “Big Stone II”*)
6. (*optional or extra credit*) Do more research into Big Stone II and create a presentation.

**Choose any two photographs of the Minnesota River**

7. What do the photos have in common?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. What do the photos have that is different?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Write a poem or short story about the river based on what you see in the photographs.

**Click on “Read More” at the bottom of the page**

10. Visiting the Minnesota Place Names website at <http://mnplaces.mnhs.org/upham/index.cfm>, find at least three currently named towns/villages on or near the Minnesota River that get their names from the Dakota language? If the place name is made up from real Dakota words, what do the real Dakota words mean?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. What happened in 1827? Explain how this changed life for the Dakota.

12. Look at the painting “Treaty of Traverse des Sioux” by Frank Barnell Mayer.  
[http://events.mnhs.org/media/Images/Sites/tds/TDS\\_painting\\_300.jpg](http://events.mnhs.org/media/Images/Sites/tds/TDS_painting_300.jpg) What is going on in the painting? Who is standing on the platform? What is going on at the table? Read the Treaty of 1851 for more information.  
<http://digital.library.okstate.edu/kappler/Vol2/treaties/sio0588.htm>

13. What message does it send to Dakota people for the state government to proudly hang this painting in the capitol building?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Period \_\_\_\_\_

WAKPA MNISOTA – ANSWER KEY  
Minnesota River

**Watch “Autumn Cavender-Wilson, Minnesota River”**

1. What happens because the river valley stretches east-west?

The sun is never behind anything, and the storms are amazing to watch.

2. What memories does Autumn’s grandmother have of the river? How is it different from Autumn’s experience with the river?

The water used to be clear and you used to be able to swim in it. Now it is brown and dirty, but Autumn and her family still enjoy it.

**Do an internet search about the Minnesota River being on American River’s 2008 Most Endangered Rivers list.**

3. Why was the river on the top ten most endangered rivers list that year? Be as specific as possible.

Plans to build Big Stone II coal power plant would take 6 million gallons of water a day.

4. What other rivers were on the list in 2008 and where are they located?

Catawba River (NC/SC), Rogue River (OR), Poudre River (CO), St. Lawrence River (NY), Minnesota River (MN), St. John’s River (FL), Gila River (NM/AZ), Allagash Wilderness Waterway (ME), Pearl River (LA/MS), Niobrara River (NE).

5. Why isn’t the Minnesota River on the most endangered list anymore? (*hint: search for “Big Stone II”*)

The Big Stone II project was abandoned.

6. (*optional or extra credit*) Do more research into Big Stone II and create a presentation.

**Choose any two photographs of the Minnesota River**

7. What do the photos have in common?

Answers may vary.

8. What do the photos have that is different?

Answers may vary.

9. Write a poem or short story about the river based on what you see in the photographs.

Answers may vary.

**Click on “Read More” at the bottom of the page**

10. Visiting the Minnesota Place Names website at <http://mnplaces.mnhs.org/upham/index.cfm>, find at least three currently named towns/villages on or near the Minnesota River that get their names from the Dakota language? If the place name is made up from real Dakota words, what do the real Dakota words mean?

Shakopee, Chaska, Chanhassen, Answers may vary.

11. What happened in 1827? Explain how this changed life for the Dakota.

American Fur Company bought out its main competitor in Minnesota, the Columbia Fur Company. They raised prices 300% and sent the Dakota into a cycle of debt because they could not pay the inflated prices for goods.

12. Look at the painting “Treaty of Traverse des Sioux” by Frank Barnell Mayer.  
[http://events.mnhs.org/media/Images/Sites/tds/TDS\\_painting\\_300.jpg](http://events.mnhs.org/media/Images/Sites/tds/TDS_painting_300.jpg) What is going on in the painting? Who is standing on the platform? What is going on at the table? Read the Treaty of 1851 for more information.  
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The leaders agreeing to the treaty are shaking hands on the platform, finalizing the agreement. The two white men standing on the platform are likely Luke Lea, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and Alexander Ramsey, governor and ex-officio superintendent of Indian affairs. The others are leaders of the Sisseton and Wahpeton bands of Dakota.

At the table Dakota are signing over the payment now due to them for selling their homeland to fur traders to pay their debt. Not only have they lost their land, the money to pay them is going right back into someone else’s hands.

13. What message does it send to Dakota people for the state government to proudly hang this painting in the capitol building?

Answers may vary.