

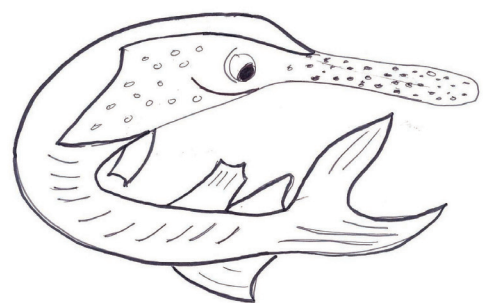
The Ohio River True or False

T or F

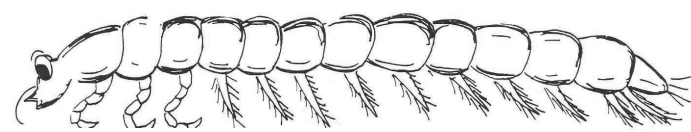
1. Fossils that are more than 200 million years old have been found along the banks of the Ohio River.
2. Tar is the number one commodity hauled on the Ohio River.
3. The Ohio River is 350 miles long.
4. The Ohio River starts in Pittsburgh, PA.
5. The Ohio River has thriving aquatic life, including over 130 species of fish.

Answers:
 1. T (410 to 360 million years ago, the Ohio River Valley was a shallow tropical sea and animal and plant remains [fossils] have been found from that time period at the Falls of the Ohio near Louisville, KY)
 2. F (coal is the number one commodity hauled on the Ohio)
 3. F (the river is 981 miles long)
 4. T (where the Monongahela and Allegheny rivers meet)
 5. T

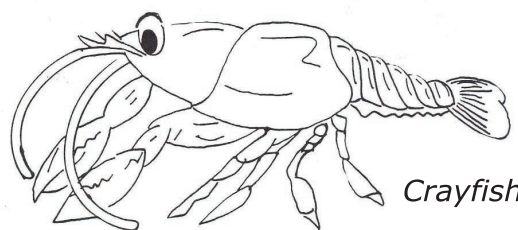
Ohio River Aquatic Life Coloring Fun!



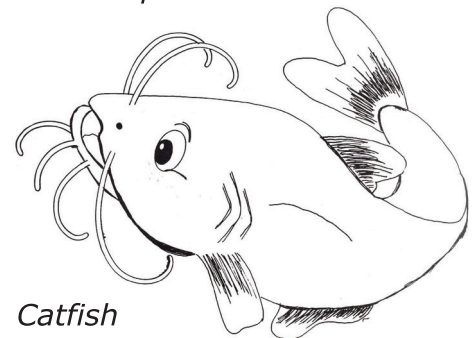
Paddlefish or Spoonbill



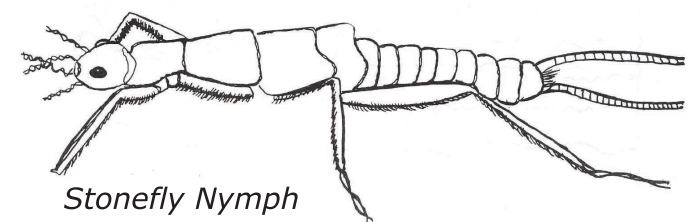
Beetle Larva



Crayfish



Catfish



Stonefly Nymph

The aquatic life of the Ohio River is very diverse. In addition to fish, the river is home to turtles, snakes, frogs, mammals (like the river otter) and macroinvertebrates. Macroinvertebrates are organisms that contain no internal backbone, live in the water for at least part of their life and are big enough to be seen with the human eye.

YOU Can Help Protect Our Rivers and Streams!

Water pollution affects everyone. Individual activities, as much as industries, municipalities and farms can contribute to the problem. Here are some things you can do to make a difference:

Plant trees, shrubs, or other plants on hillsides to keep soil in place.

Keep oil, gasoline, and chemicals out of drains, sinks, and toilets.

Reduce the amount of water you use.

Get involved in clean-up activities.

Learn safer ways to garden.

Put trash in its place.

Reuse and recycle.

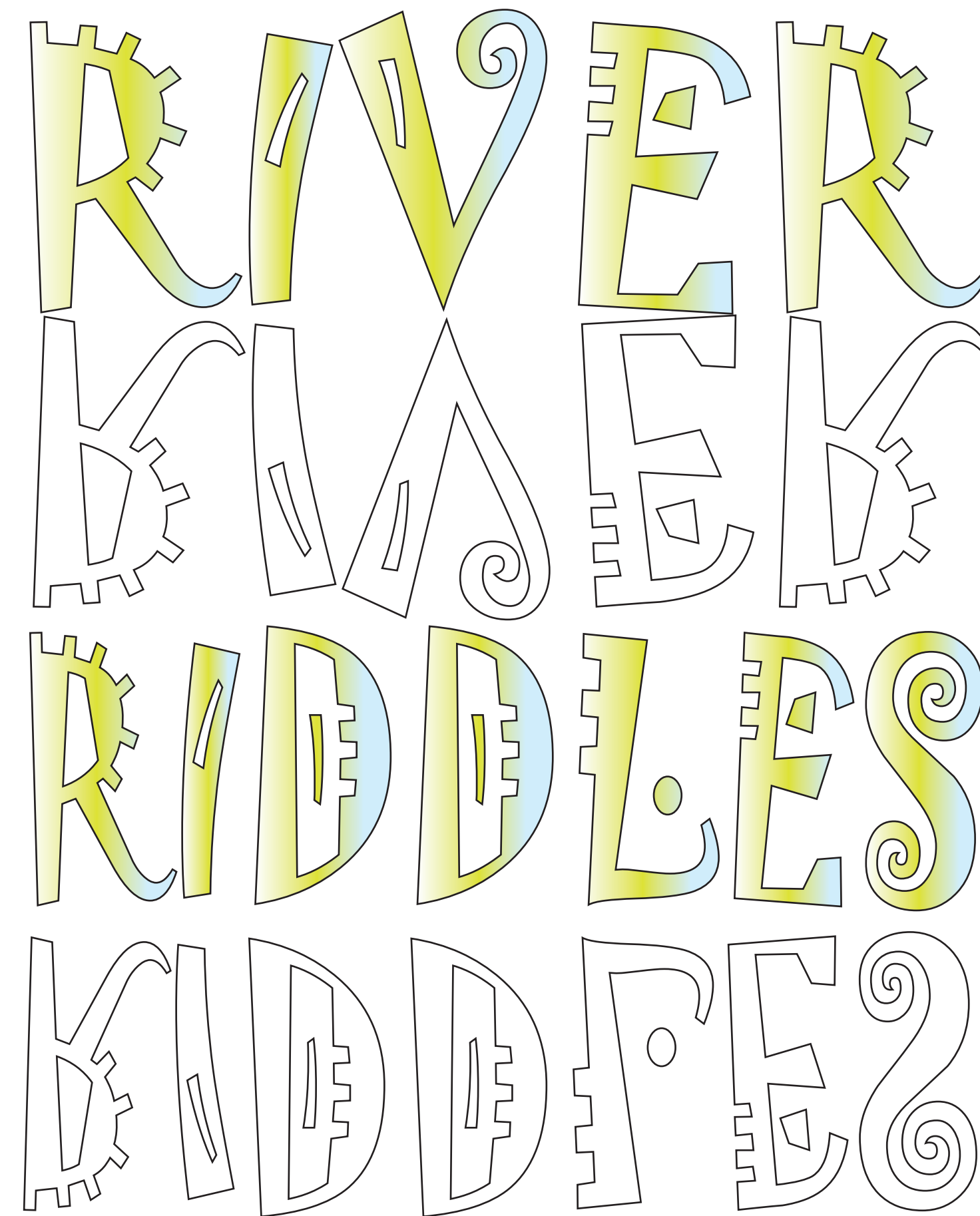


The Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) is the water pollution control agency for the Ohio River and its tributaries. For more information on the water quality of the Ohio River, contact:

ORSANCO
 5735 Kellogg Avenue
 Cincinnati, Ohio 45228
 513-231-7719
www.orsanco.org



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WHAT ARE...



Point source



Non-Point source

Point and Non-Point Source Pollution?

Pollution is the presence of substances that harm the environment. Often we think of pollution as the trash that litters the banks of a stream or an oil slick on the surface of a river, but it can be much more than that.

Point source pollution is a type of pollution that can be traced to a particular point or pipe. Usually, those responsible for point source pollution can be identified. Twenty-five percent of pollution falls into the point source category. Some examples of point source pollution are industrial outfalls and spills.

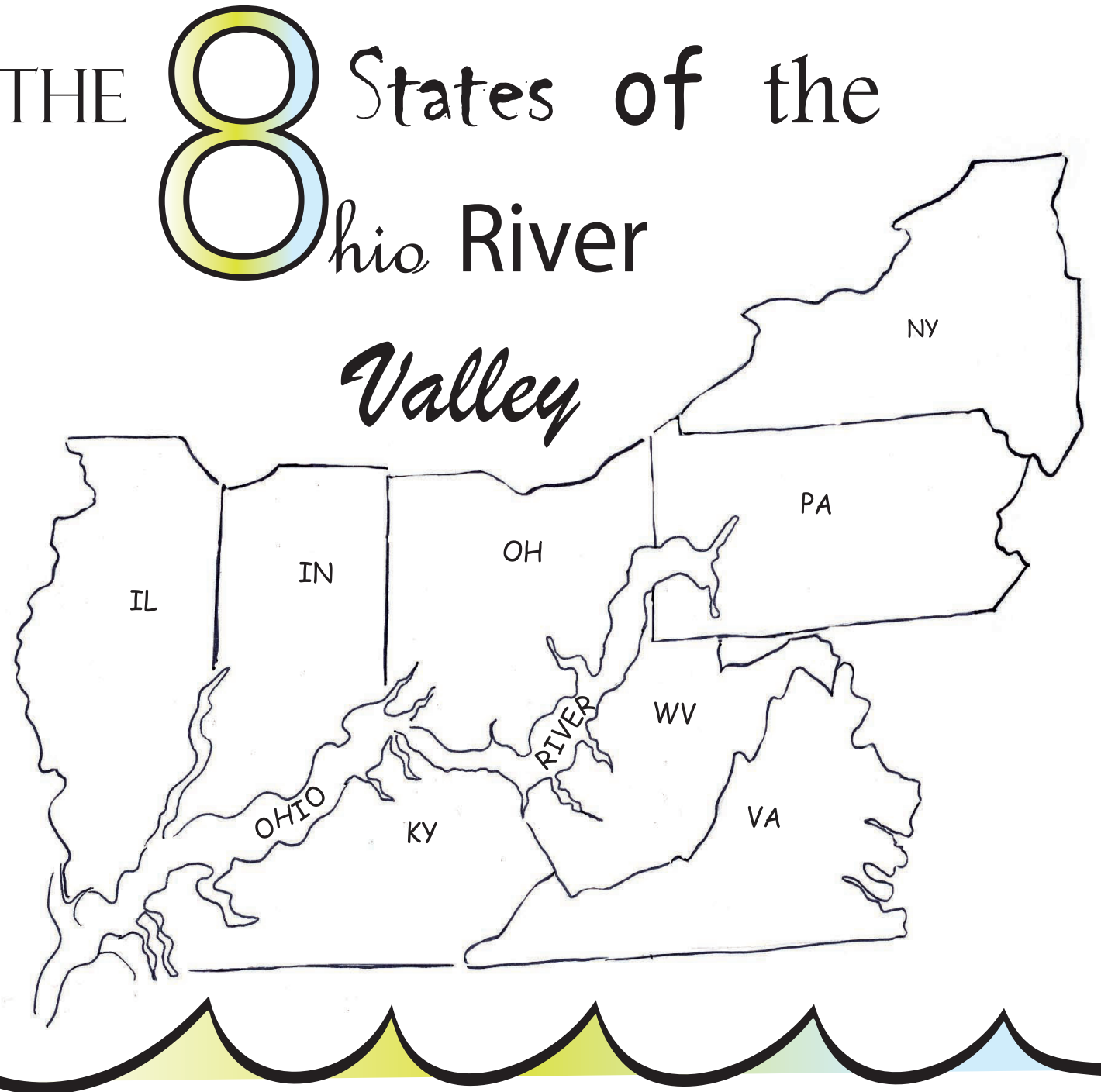
Industries are required to clean the water they release into streams and rivers, but sometimes they don't. In those cases, state or federal agencies require the industries to pay fines and clean up the water.

When a chemical accidentally leaks into a waterway, it is called a spill. Spills are dangerous for animals living in and around the water because they happen very suddenly and can kill an animal's food source or ruin its habitat, the place where it lives.

Non-point source pollution is a type of pollution where the sources are hard to identify because they come from many possible places. This is the type of pollution caused by cities, farms, and other sources. It is difficult to tell where exactly this pollution comes from because it is difficult to trace the causes. Seventy-five percent of pollution falls into this category. Twenty-five million people live in the Ohio River Valley, so you can imagine that they can cause a lot of pollution.

Most pollution comes from cities because a lot of land is paved, like streets and parking lots. During the winter, streets are salted to keep them safe for driving. When the snow and ice melt, however, salt can make its way into creeks and streams. Likewise, some cars leak oil onto parking lots where rain washes the oil into waterways. These are just two examples of how people in cities can cause pollution.

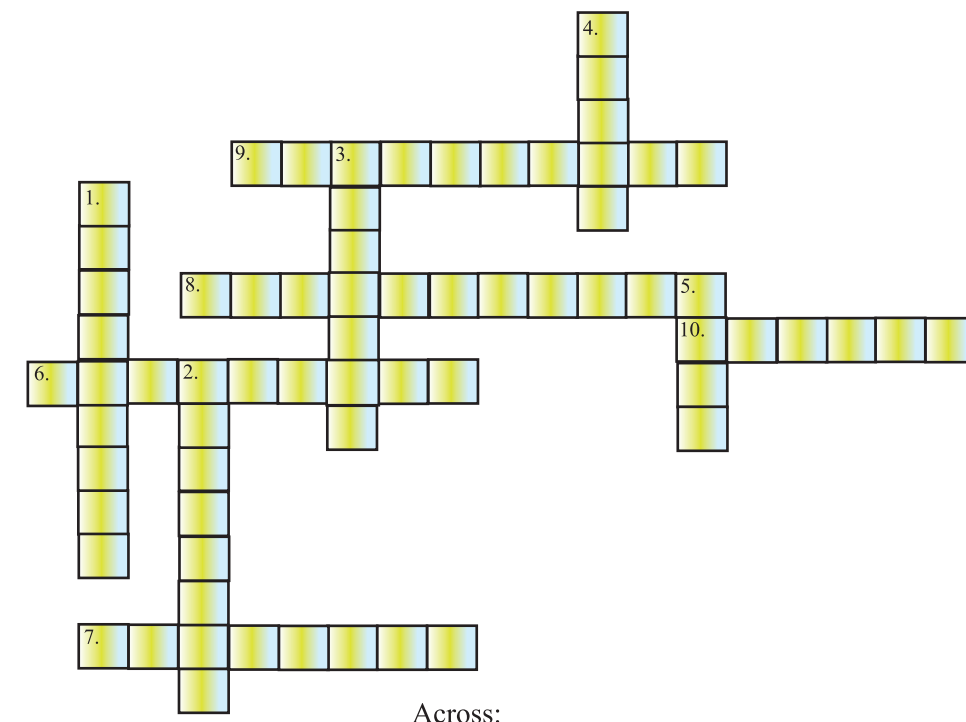
When people grow plants, like corn on farms, vegetables in gardens, or even grass on lawns, often they use chemicals to keep the plants strong and healthy. When it rains, these chemicals can run off into nearby creeks and streams, making the water unhealthy for aquatic plants and animals.



What is a Watershed?

Where does the water in the Ohio River come from? When it rains, some rainwater lands directly in the river, but that isn't enough water to make the Ohio River so big. In fact, most of the water in the Ohio comes from the river's tributaries, or the smaller rivers, creeks and streams that intersect with the Ohio River and add their water to it. You might live near one of these smaller waterways because there are hundreds of them! Some tributaries you might recognize include the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers in Pennsylvania, the Great Miami and Little Miami rivers and the Mill Creek in Ohio, the Wabash River on the border of Indiana and Illinois, and the Big Sandy River, which forms the state border between West Virginia and Kentucky. Tributaries serve a great purpose, draining water from large land areas and carrying it to bigger waterways. The land area that is drained by tributaries is called a watershed. You might have heard the words "Ohio River Basin" or "Ohio River Valley," which are used to describe the Ohio River Watershed.

As tributaries make their way toward the Ohio River, they can carry more than just water. Unfortunately, they sometimes carry pollution. Trash, chemicals and dirt are just some of the things that can end up in the Ohio River from tributaries. We need to do all we can to clean up the waterways where we live because chances are that water is headed toward the Ohio River!



- Down:
1. An area drained by a river and its tributaries
 2. A disease-causing, single cell organism that remains a problem in the waters of the Ohio River Basin
 3. A type of pollution that occurs when heated water is discharged into streams
 4. The Illinois town where the Ohio River meets the Mississippi River
 5. Constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to promote transportation: _____ & dam
- Across:
6. A stream that joins a bigger stream or major river
 7. The main course of a river
 8. A non-native species of mussel that threatens the Ohio River because it clogs water intake pipes
 9. The city where the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers meet to form the Ohio River
 10. Dissolved _____ is necessary for aquatic life to survive (hint: humans breathe this too!)

1. Watershed 2. Bacteria 3. Thermal 4. Cairo 5. Lock 6. Lock 7. Tributary 8. Zebra mussel 9. Zebra mussel 10. Oxygen

S	E	P	A	D	D	R	I	N	K	I	N	G	W	A	T	E	R	K	A
R	C	O	L	P	S	D	E	R	W	O	T	G	A	B	H	N	Q	W	E
E	O	R	D	Y	K	P	L	C	I	Z	K	A	T	U	O	L	J	K	R
T	S	E	F	A	I	M	K	H	A	B	V	N	E	T	F	D	S	R	E
G	Y	V	S	A	T	A	O	B	R	E	V	I	R	Y	A	R	M	E	T
B	S	C	H	B	A	P	Z	H	J	K	L	A	S	T	L	I	O	C	A
A	T	Z	E	G	R	A	B	P	A	L	N	A	H	R	L	A	H	R	R
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T	L	T	A	R	E	T	R	S	D	G	A	P	A	T	E	A	K	I	R
I	N	H	F	F	D	T	A	O	R	G	N	M	H	A	N	J	A	O	E
C	M	Y	X	C	A	E	R	I	N	D	U	S	T	R	Y	K	L	N	V
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A	E	A	H	H	J	K	L	N	I	P	P	I	S	S	I	S	S	I	M

Ohio River Word Search

- Environment
- Ecosystem
- Riverboat
- Barge
- Macroinvertebrate
- Aquatic life
- Mississippi
- Drinking water
- ORSANCO
- Industry
- Agriculture
- Allegheny
- Monongahela
- Ohio
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Pollution
- Watershed
- Tributary