

# The Cuyahoga River

River Otter



**T**HE CUYAHOGA RIVER IS LOCATED IN northern Ohio. It connects to Lake Erie and passes the Ohio city of Akron on the way to its mouth on the Cleveland side of the lake. Though it's not very long (it's not quite 100 miles) and doesn't pass very many major cities, 37 tributaries travel many miles into the Cuyahoga, and it has made its way into American history.

The Cuyahoga begins where two rivers meet in Hambden, Ohio. For a long time, the Cuyahoga River was one of the most polluted rivers in the country. As the area around it became more and more populated,

more companies began dumping their waste in the river. In 1969, the river caught fire (not the first time, as the buildup of oil in the river made it catch fire easily), which prompted a magazine article about the river's pollution. After the article came out, people began to look for ways to clean up the river. The Cuyahoga River cleanup is often credited as an event that inspired the modern-day environmental movement.

## FACT FILE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Length: \_\_\_\_\_

Source: \_\_\_\_\_ Mouth: \_\_\_\_\_

Cities Along It: \_\_\_\_\_

Tributaries: \_\_\_\_\_

Importance to Communities Near It: \_\_\_\_\_