

The Ohio River



Fanshell Mussel

THE OHIO RIVER is the largest tributary of the Mississippi by volume, meaning it contains more water than any of the Mississippi's other tributaries. The Ohio runs from Pittsburgh to Cairo, Illinois, and feeds other important Rust Belt rivers along the way, like the Allegheny, Cumberland, and the Tennessee River. It also passes many major cities, such as Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, and Louisville.

The Ohio River begins as a tributary of the Allegheny River in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. It travels for 981 miles through many major American cities before it ends at the Mississippi River. The area near it became some of the first land outside of the thirteen colonies to be explored, and the river eventually served as the border of the Northwest Territory. The river was also very important to commerce: Farmers could send their crops by boat down the Ohio and on to the Mississippi, where their goods could be easily distributed with the numerous settlements along there. This was much faster and easier than sending goods by wagon.

FACT FILE

Name: _____ Length: _____

Source: _____ Mouth: _____

Cities Along It: _____

Tributaries: _____

Importance to Communities Near It: _____