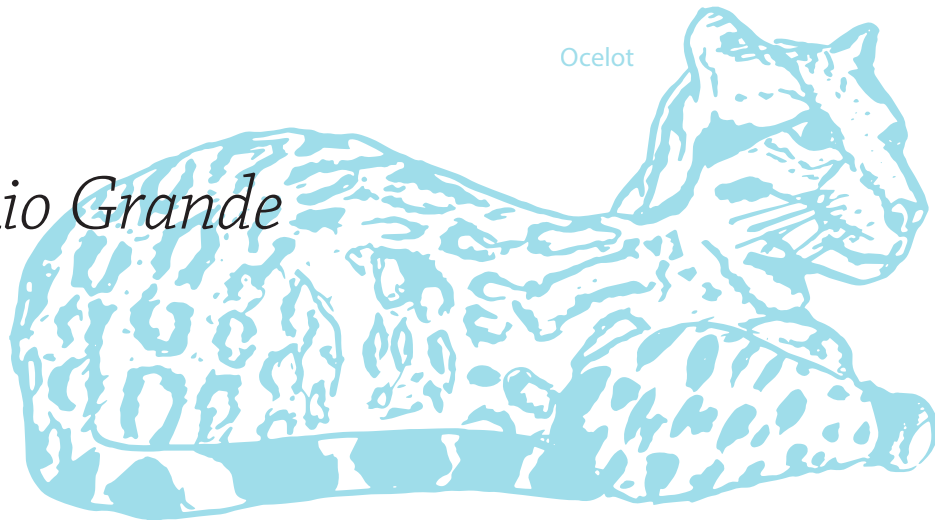


Ocelot



The Rio Grande

THE RIO GRANDE IS ONE OF THE MAJOR rivers of the Southwestern United States. Rio Grande is Spanish for “Big River.” The Rio Grande flows through Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas before entering Mexico and emptying into the Gulf. At around 1,880 miles long, it is the fifth longest river in the U.S.

The Rio Grande begins in the mountains of Colorado, where several streams join to make the start of the Rio Grande. Its main tributaries include the Pecos and Puerco rivers in the United States, and the San Juan in Mexico. It passes through big

southwestern cities like Albuquerque, Las Cruces, and El Paso.

The Rio Grande follows much of the border between The United States and Mexico, and was a popular steamboat route in the 19th century. The United States and Mexico share the water in the river as a result of agreements made between the two countries. Both countries depend on it for drinking water. The river and the land around it support a vast variety of fish and bird species.

FACT FILE

Name: _____ Length: _____

Source: _____ Mouth: _____

Cities Along It: _____

Tributaries: _____

Importance to Communities Near It: _____
