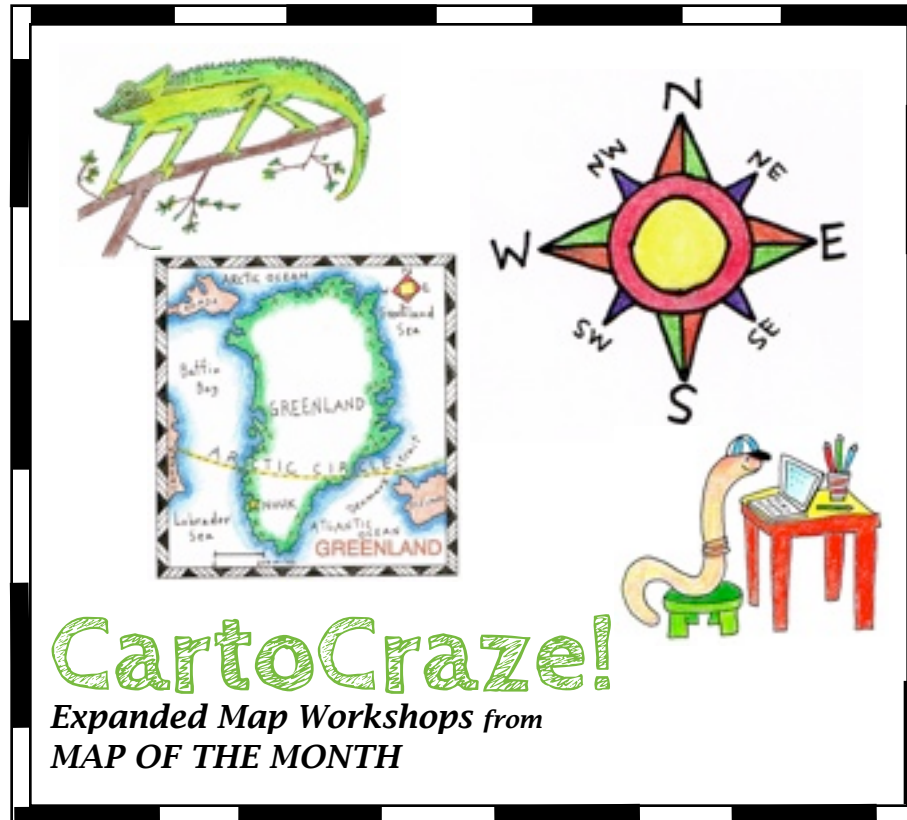


# VOLGA RIVER



**CartoCraze!**

**Expanded Map Workshops**

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[www.mapsfortheclassroom.com](http://www.mapsfortheclassroom.com)

# RIVERS

Throughout human time, rivers have offered the essential water that man requires for life itself, as well as a source of food. Rivers have made transportation of humans and goods possible as well as provided a source of power. With their great natural beauty, rivers have inspired writers and artists throughout time. Average people have always found peace and recreation along the banks and in the water of rivers.

Since the earliest times, humans have lived by rivers and the great civilizations have grown up around river banks. The ancient people of Egypt owed their life to the Nile, as did the generations of people who lived in Mesopotamia in the Middle East.

Today the great cities of the world are also known by their neighboring rivers. For example, Manhattan, the great North American city is flanked by two rivers: the Hudson and the East River. Paris, a city in Europe which has seen much history, sits on either side of the Seine River. In South America, the vast area of the Amazon enhances settlements of all sizes in its huge watershed.



Photo: Ansel Adams. *The Tetons and the Snake River* (1942) Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming. National Archives and Records Administration, Records of the National Park Service. (79-AAG-1)

In the wilderness, rivers are no less important: they support and create ecosystems for all kinds of animals, insects and plant life.

Some rivers and the environments around them have suffered in the modern age, with industrial deposits of waste and other kinds of pollution. Sometimes the attempts to dam and redirect water has made surrounding wildlife suffer. Today environmentalists are working to restore affected rivers areas to a cleaner and more habitable state for both humans and wildlife.

# RIVER TERMS AND THEIR DEFINITIONS

It is impossible to talk about rivers, or learn about them, without knowing some terms that relate to rivers.

Here are just a few terms! Can you come up with other terms?

**RIVER** A natural flowing stream, most often fresh water, that moves towards a sea, a lake, and ocean or another river.

**SOURCE** The furthest point of a river away from its mouth, at its origin or beginning. This is also sometimes called the "headwater."

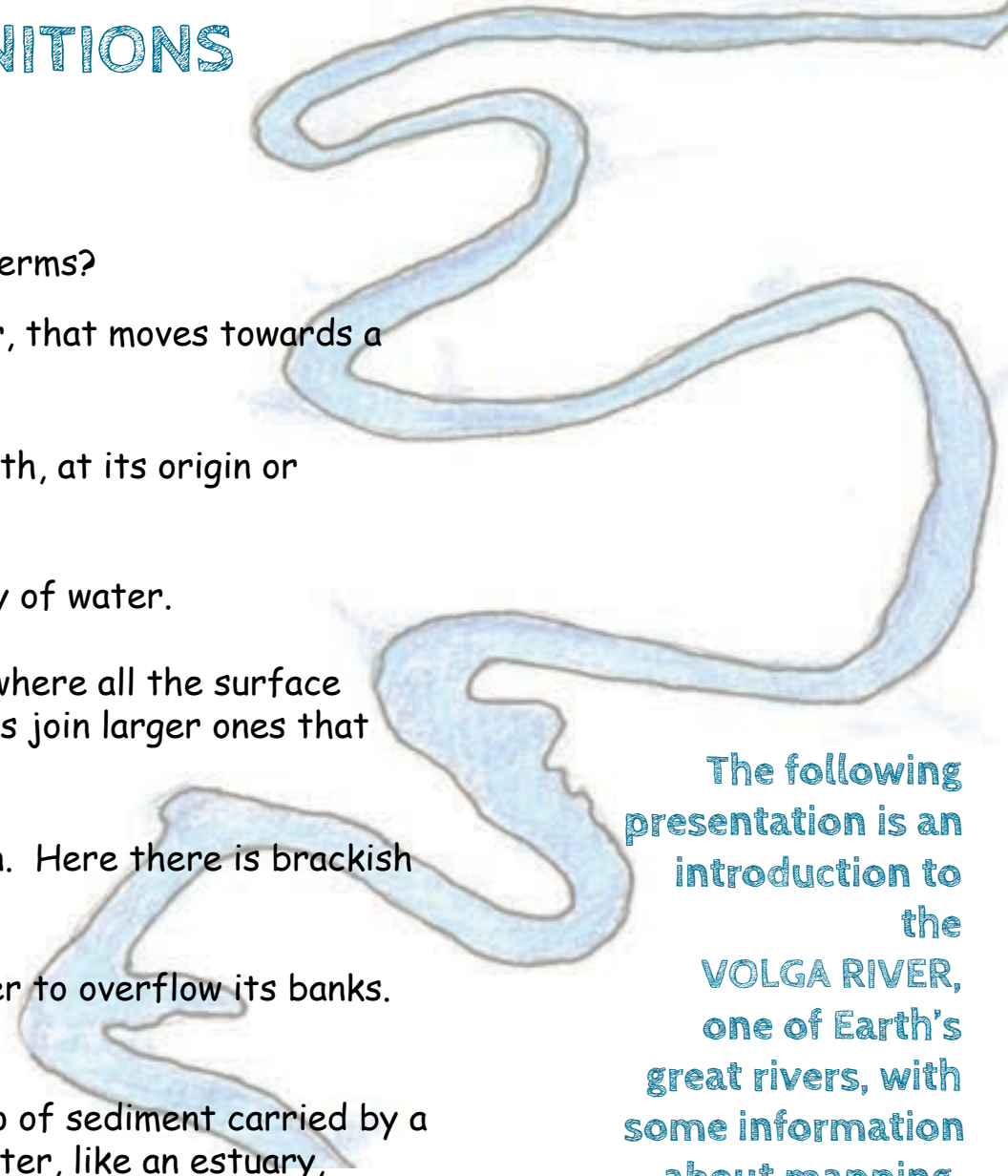
**MOUTH** The part of a river that flows into another body of water.

**WATERSHED or DRAINAGE BASIN** An area of land where all the surface water drains into a larger body of water. Smaller streams join larger ones that eventually lead to a lake or ocean.

**ESTUARY** An area of water where a river joins the ocean. Here there is brackish water: a mix of freshwater and saline, or salty, seawater.

**FLOODING** This occurs when excess water causes a river to overflow its banks. Snow melt or extreme precipitation can cause flooding.

**DELTA** A landform that is caused by the gradual build up of sediment carried by a river where the river flows into another large body of water, like an estuary, the ocean, sea or reservoir.

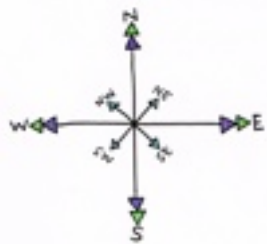


The following presentation is an introduction to the VOLGA RIVER, one of Earth's great rivers, with some information about mapping, geography, people and animals of its surrounding area.



# VOLGA RIVER

ARCTIC  
OCEAN

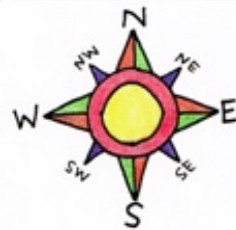


Volga River

URAL  
MOUNTAINS

Black Sea

Caspian Sea



Professor Earthworm



Make a compass rose for  
your map by following the  
directions [HERE!](#)

## VOLGA RIVER

The Volga River is the largest river in Europe, and it is considered to be the national river of Russia.

The Volga begins in the Valdai Hills in central Russia and flows to the Caspian Sea.

To the east are the Ural Mountains.

To the North is the Arctic Ocean.

The large Black Sea lies to the southwest.

The Volga is very long and flows for a distance of 2,294 miles.

Along the length of the Volga River are many important Russian cities: Astrakhan, Volgograd, Saratov, Nizhny Novgorod and Kazan, to name a few.



Map: Kmusser, [Creative Commons](#)



## VOLGA WATERSHED On The Map!

A watershed is an area of land where all the surface water drains into a larger body of water. Smaller streams join larger ones that eventually lead to a lake or ocean.

This map shows the wide range of the watershed that drains into the Volga.

Some rivers are labeled on this map. Referring to an atlas or another detailed map, can you name the other rivers that are not labeled on this map?

Can you read and name the major cities along the Volga itself?

The watershed of the Volga is huge and spans 1,350,000 square kilometers: how many square miles is this? Study a map with a *SCALE* and figure out approximately how wide the watershed area is from west to east.

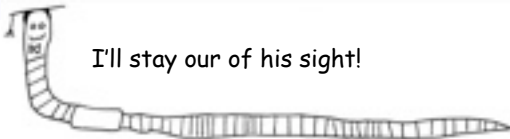
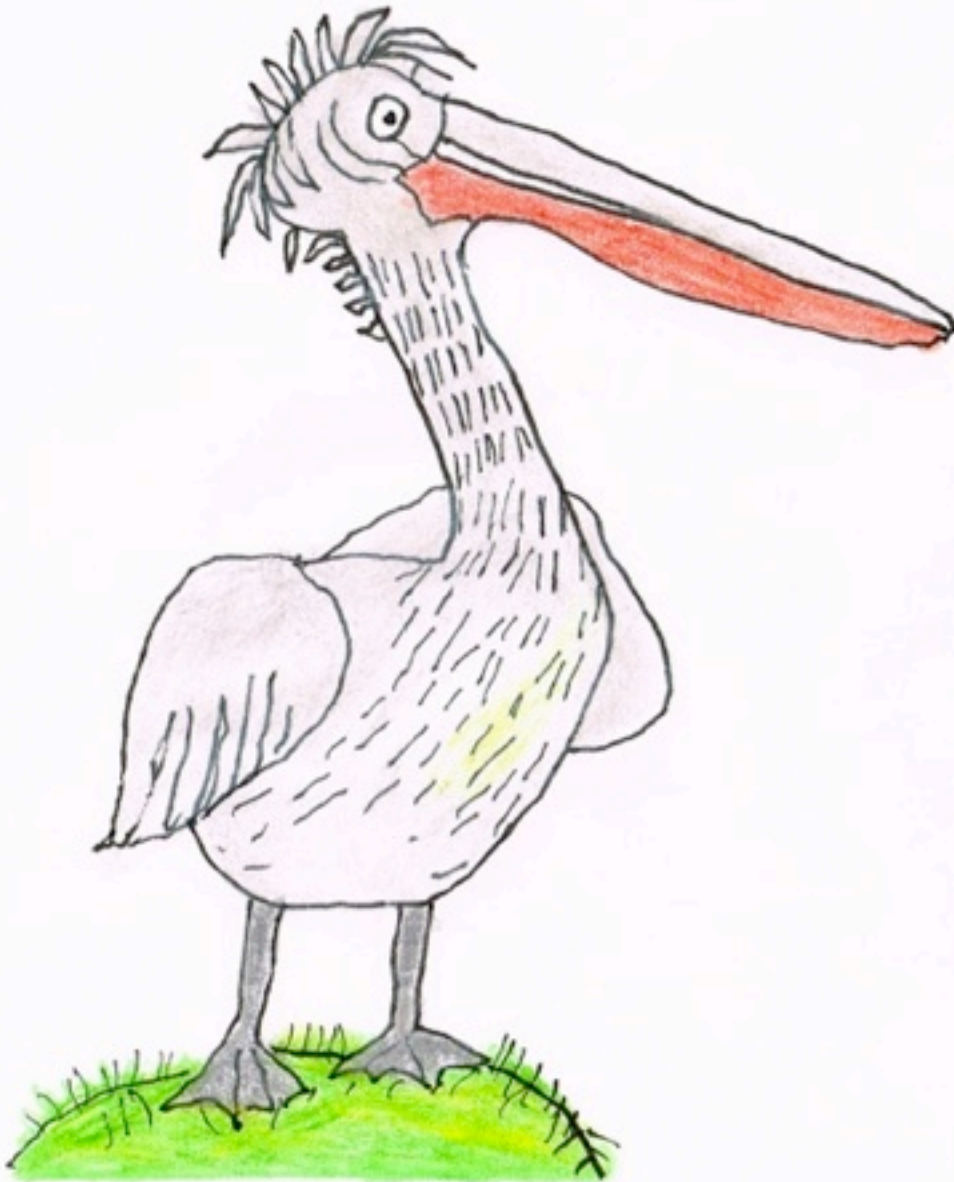


## DALMATION PELICAN

The Dalmation Pelican is one of the most interesting animals found on the Volga River in Russia. This bird is the largest in the pelican family, with a wingspan of about 10 feet. They are one of the heaviest flying birds, with an average weight of 25 pounds. These pelicans have long yellowish orange bills that features a pouch underneath that is used to store food.

The pelicans nest where food is plentiful. Their diet consists primarily of fish, eels and prawns. They gather food by flying over water and sweeping their bills under the surface to catch prey.

As the seasons change, so does the plumage of this large pelican. During breeding season they have silvery white feathers and bright orange bills. As winter approaches, their plumage loses its shine and their bill and pouch fades to yellow. The Dalmation pelican migrates short distances in the winter, and this is the season where you would likely see them on the Volga River.



I'll stay out of his sight!

# VOLGA RIVER



## VOLGA RIVER

PRINT THIS PAGE:

COLOR AND LABEL THE MAP,  
BOTH LANDFORMS AND WATER.

ADD A COMPASS ROSE  
TO YOUR MAP! DO THE  
ACTIVITIES AND COLOR  
THE DALMATIAN PELICAN

## DALMATIAN PELICAN



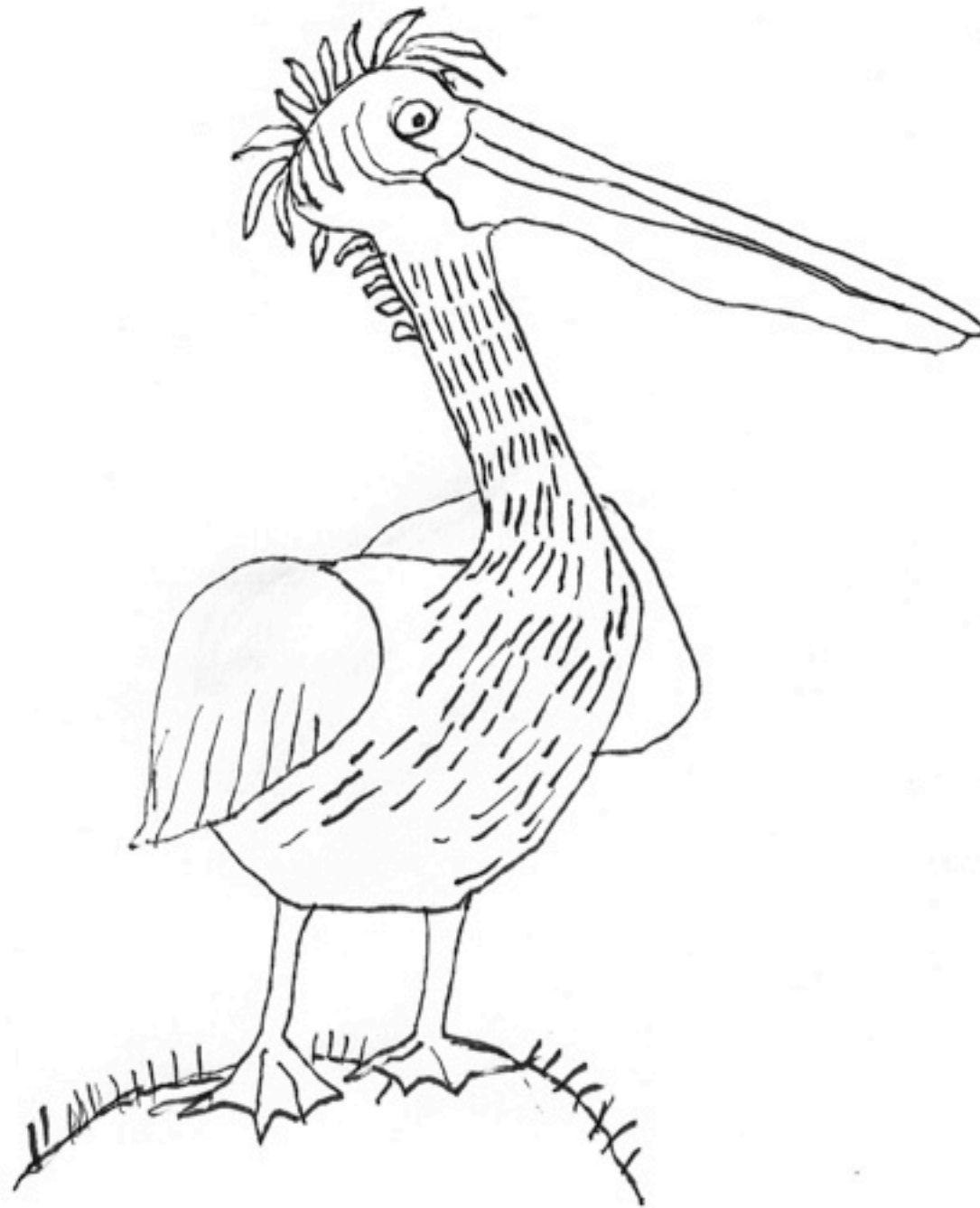
### VOCABULARY WORDS

Turn your map over and  
define these words!

massive  
migrate  
colony  
vegetation  
plumage

### SPELLING WORDS

disturb  
heaviest  
grunt  
prey  
pelican  
distance



DALMATION PELICAN



Photo: Razumhak, [Creative Commons](#)

## OVER THE RIVER!

The President Bridge is the second longest bridge in Russia and the longest bridge in Europe. It is just over 8 miles long.

This massive bridge crosses the Volga River and joins the two cities of Ulyanovsk and Ulyanovsk Oblast. It is a very travelled bridge: over 40,000 vehicles cross it every day.



The total weight of The President Bridge is 4,000 tons: how many pounds is this?

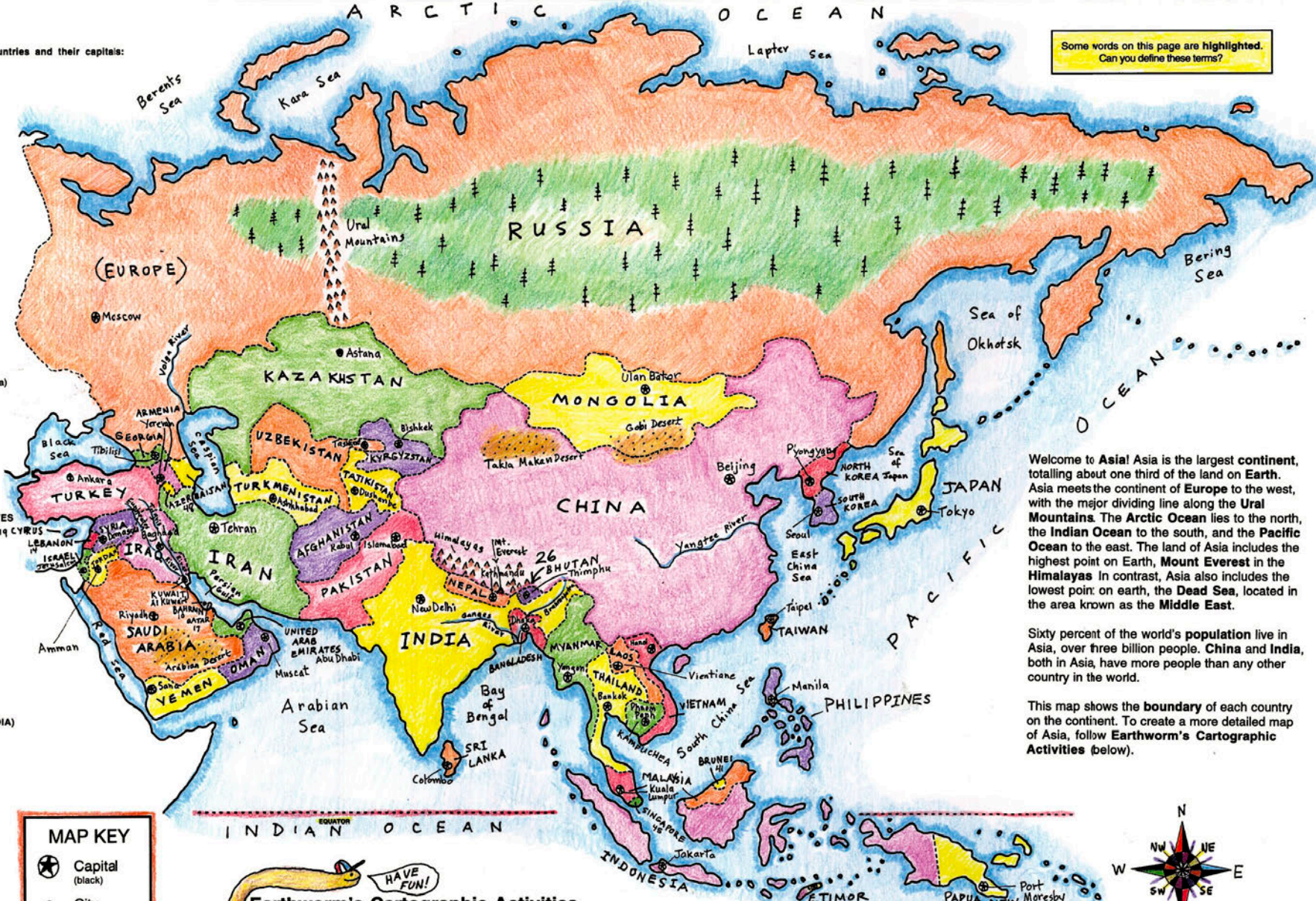
Not counting a highway that it is connected to, The President Bridge across the Volga is 5.85 kilometers long: how many miles is this?



Here is a list of Asian countries and their capitals:

- 1 RUSSIA  
Moscow
- 2 KAZAKHSTAN  
Astana
- 3 UZBEKISTAN  
Tashkent
- 4 TURKMENISTAN  
Ashkhabad
- 5 KYRGYZSTAN  
Bishkek
- 6 TAJIKISTAN  
Dushanbe
- 7 IRAN  
Tehran
- 8 JORDAN  
Amman
- 9 KUWAIT  
Al Kuwait
- 10 SAUDI ARABIA  
Riyadh
- 11 OMAN  
Muscat
- 12 SAUDI ARABIA  
Riyadh
- 13 TURKEY  
Ankara
- 14 LEBANON  
Beirut
- 15 EGYPT (Sinai Peninsula)  
Cairo
- 16 ISRAEL  
Jerusalem
- 17 QATAR  
Doha
- 18 IRAQ  
Bagdad
- 19 CYPRUS  
Nicosia
- 20 SYRIA  
Damascus
- 21 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES  
Abu Dhabi
- 22 YEMEN  
Sana'a
- 23 PAKISTAN  
Islamabad
- 24 NEPAL  
Kathmandu
- 25 INDIA  
New Delhi
- 26 BHUTAN  
Thimphu
- 27 BANGLADESH  
Dhaka
- 28 AFGHANISTAN  
Kabul
- 29 SRI LANKA  
Colombo
- 30 KAMPUCHEA (CAMBODIA)  
Phnom Penh
- 31 MYANMAR  
Yangon
- 32 LAOS  
Vientiane
- 33 THAILAND  
Bangkok
- 34 VIETNAM  
Hanoi
- 35 CHINA  
Beijing
- 36 MONGOLIA  
Ulan Bator
- 37 NORTH KOREA  
Pyongyang
- 38 SOUTH KOREA  
Seoul
- 39 JAPAN  
Tokyo
- 40 TAIWAN  
Taipei
- 41 BRUNEI  
Bandar Seri Begawan
- 42 INDONESIA  
Jakarta
- 43 MALAYSIA  
Kuala Lumpur
- 44 PHILIPPINES  
Manila
- 45 SINGAPORE  
Singapore City
- 46 PAPUA NEW GUINEA  
Port Moresby
- 47 ARMENIA  
Yerevan
- 48 AZERBAIJAN  
Baku
- 49 GEORGIA  
Tbilisi
- 50 EAST TIMOR  
Dili

Some words on this page are highlighted. Can you define these terms?



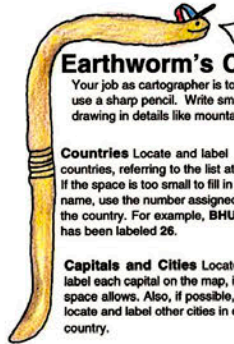
Welcome to Asia! Asia is the largest continent, totalling about one third of the land on Earth. Asia meets the continent of Europe to the west, with the major dividing line along the Ural Mountains. The Arctic Ocean lies to the north, the Indian Ocean to the south, and the Pacific Ocean to the east. The land of Asia includes the highest point on Earth, Mount Everest in the Himalayas. In contrast, Asia also includes the lowest point on earth, the Dead Sea, located in the area known as the Middle East.

Sixty percent of the world's population live in Asia, over three billion people. China and India, both in Asia, have more people than any other country in the world.

This map shows the boundary of each country on the continent. To create a more detailed map of Asia, follow Earthworm's Cartographic Activities (below).

**MAP KEY**

- ★ Capital (black)
- City (red or black)
- ▲▲▲ Mountains (brown or green)
- ☼ Desert (light brown)
- 🌲 Forest (green)
- River (blue)



**Earthworm's Cartographic Activities**

Your job as cartographer is to fill in some details not shown on this map of Asia. Refer to an atlas or encyclopedia. Be neat when labeling—use a sharp pencil. Write small, always print. Refer to the Map Key for symbols and suggested colors. Colored pencils work best when drawing in details like mountains or rivers. When filling in areas with color, shade very lightly so you don't obscure other features.

**Countries** Locate and label the countries, referring to the list at left. If the space is too small to fill in the name, use the number assigned to the country. For example, BHUTAN has been labeled 26.

**Capitals and Cities** Locate and label each capital on the map, if space allows. Also, if possible, locate and label other cities in each country.

**Oceans and Seas** With blue, shade along the coastline of the oceans and seas. Label: Arctic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, Indian Ocean. With smaller letters, label: Black Sea, Caspian Sea, Red Sea, Persian Gulf, Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal, South China Sea, East China Sea, Sea of Japan, Sea of Okhotsk, Bering Sea.

**Major Rivers** Draw in and label the following major rivers: Volga River, Ganges River, Tigris River, Euphrates River, Brahmaputra River, Yangtze River.

**Mountains** Draw in and label these ranges: Himalayas, Ural Mountains. Locate Mount Everest ▲. Add other smaller ranges too.

**Forest** Draw in and label the vast forest of Siberia.

**Desert** With a light brown pencil, shade desert regions on the map: Gobi Desert, Arabian Desert.

**Decoration** To add a decorative touch to your map, color the following: ASIA title, Earthworm (our mascot), Compass Rose.



# ASIA

**Places and Geographic Features**

**Map of the Month**

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East Side Station, P.O. Box 2484  
Providence, RI 02906-0484  
www.mapofthemoth.com

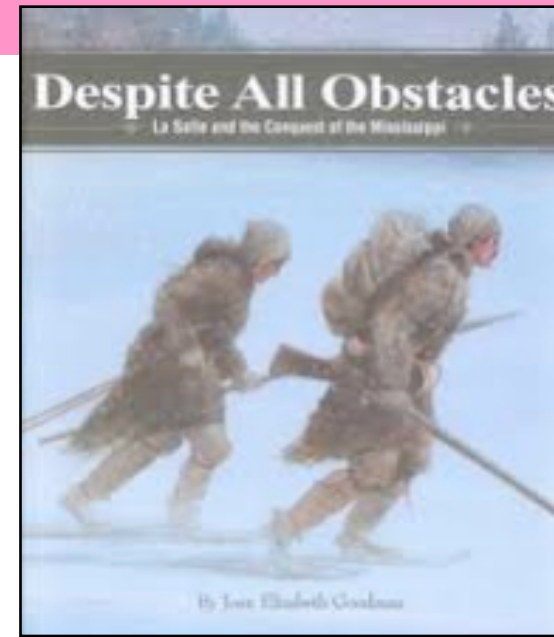
# RIVER READING!

BOOKS ABOUT RIVER EXPEDITIONS ARE INSPIRING!



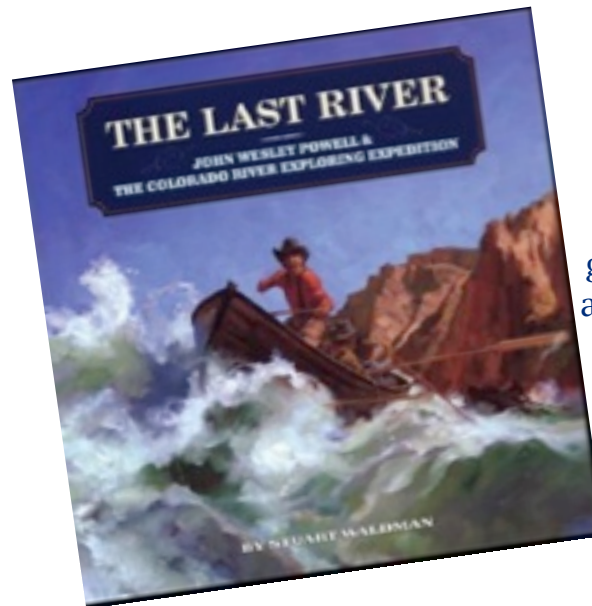
## DESPITE ALL OBSTACLES: LASALLE AND THE CONQUEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI by Joan Elizabeth Goodman

La Salle made his way from Eastern Canada to the Great Lakes traveling by canoe down the Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico. This vast unexplored wilderness was controlled by the fierce Iroquois. Through one setback after another, La Salle kept on going. Part adventure, part biography, this book is the fascinating story of this stubborn and courageous man !

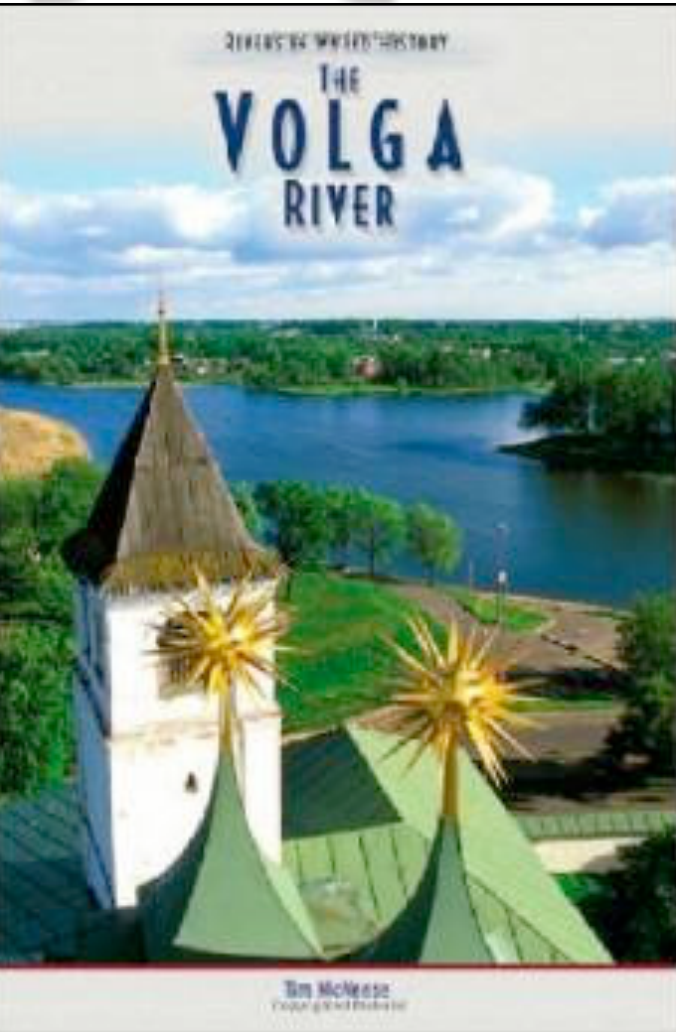


## THE LAST RIVER: JOHN WESLEY POWELL & THE COLORADO RIVER EXPLORING EXPEDITION by Stuart Waldman

This book is an inspiring adventure that brings history to life. Major John Wesley Powell was a small, bookish, one-armed geology professor. Powell's twin passions -- adventure and scientific exploration -- drew him to the Colorado River. Excerpts from journals of crew members personalize the gripping text. Original paintings and a fold-out map allows the reader to simultaneously follow the expedition's route and its adventures.



## THE VOLGA RIVER



## The Volga River

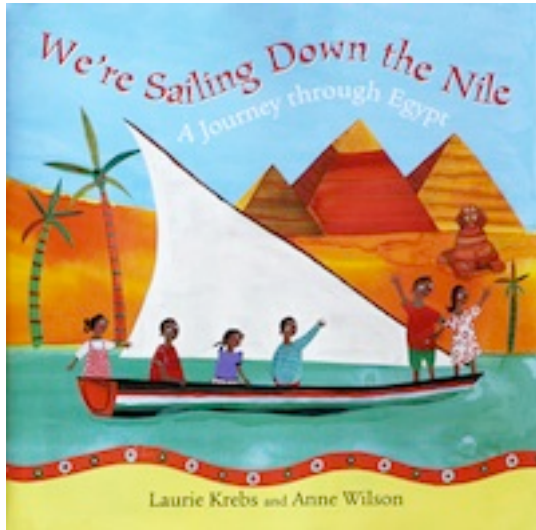
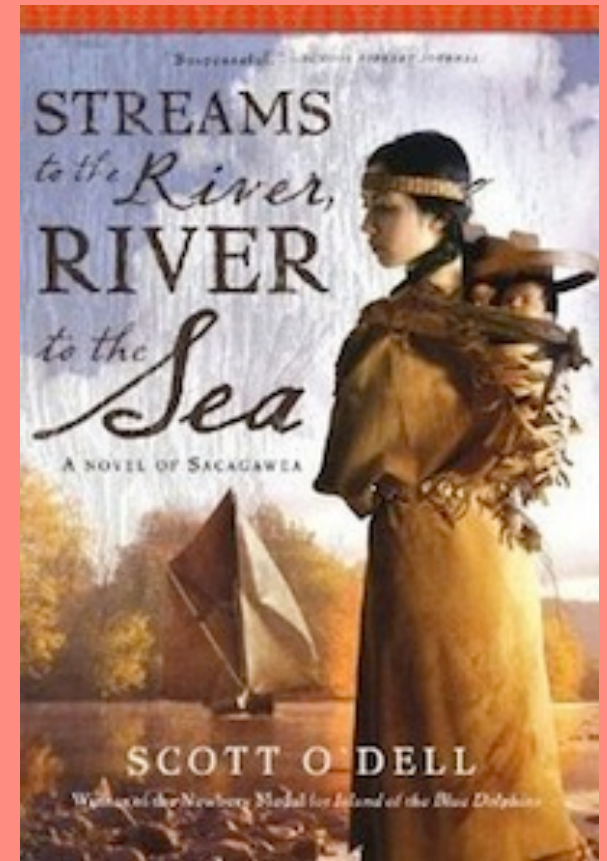
by Tim McNeese

Learn all about life on the Volga River -- geography, culture, people and animals.

**Streams to the River, River  
to the sea: a novel of  
Sacagawea**

by Scott O'Dell

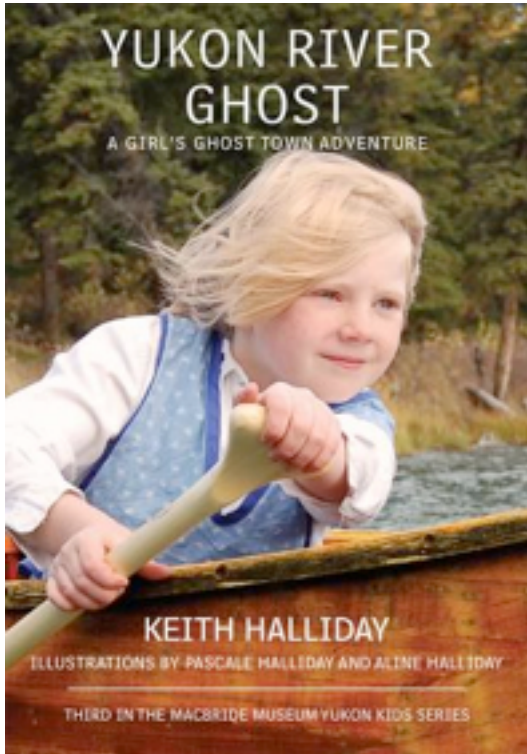
A young Indian woman,  
accompanied by her  
infant and cruel  
husband,  
experiences joy and  
heartbreak when she  
joins the Lewis and  
Clark Expedition  
seeking a way to the  
Pacific



**We're Sailing Down the Nile**

**We're Roaming in the Rainforest: An Amazon Adventure**

both by Laurie Krebs



## Yukon River Ghost: A Girl's Ghost Town Adventure

by Keith Halliday

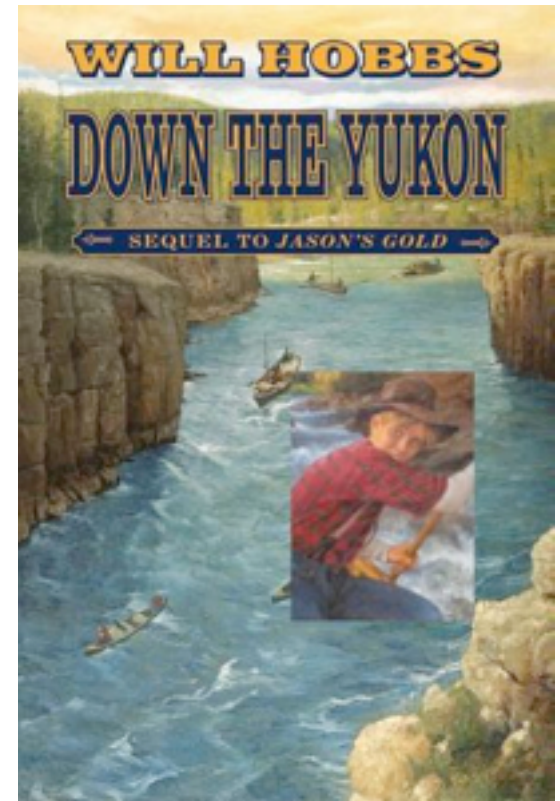
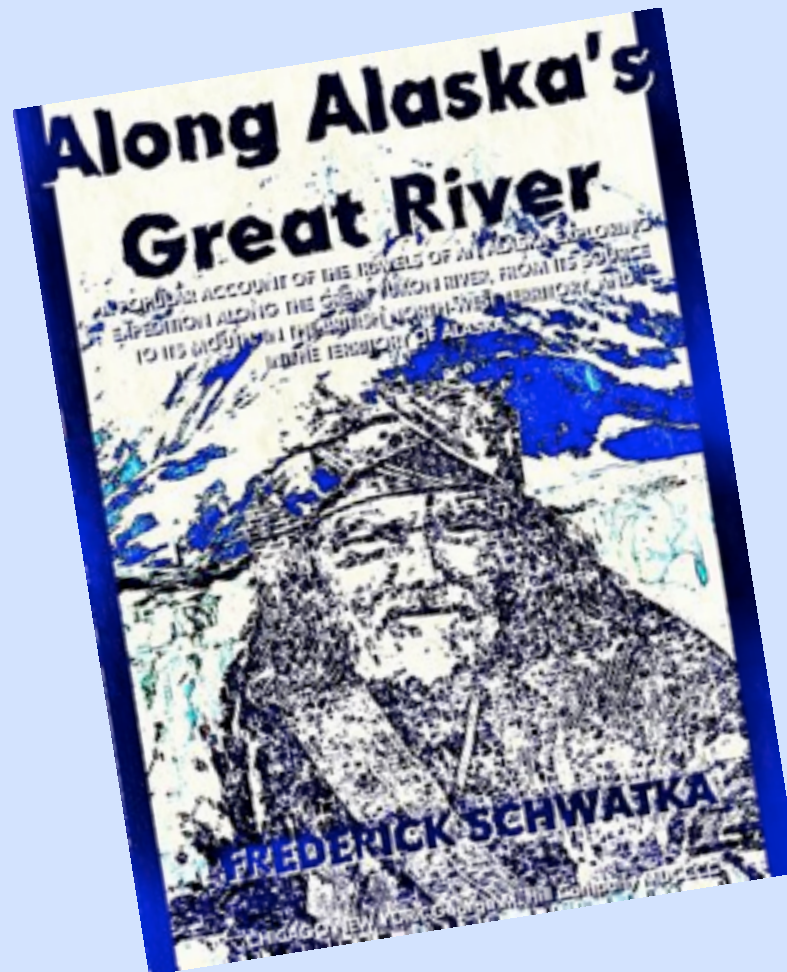
An idyllic Yukon River trip turns into a mysterious adventure as the kids discover a gold rush ghost town that seems to have a ghost!

## Along Alaska's Great River

by

Frederick Scwhatka

A great river expedition.....



## DOWN THE YUKON

by Will Hobbs

The great race across Alaska! As Dawson City goes up in flames, Jason Hawthorn itches to join the new rush for gold in Nome, 1,700 miles away.