

Forgotten Mississippi Towns

Objectives

Using digitized historic Mississippi maps students will find forgotten towns. Students will gain an understanding of changing Mississippi geography, how to use historic maps to plot forgotten towns on current state maps and to write brief histories on these towns. Students will use the current state map, historic maps, historic digitized newspapers, and their written histories to make their own museum exhibit.

Adaptable for grades 4-9

Mississippi Department of Education Curricular Connections		
Common Core Language Arts	4th Grade	RI 1, 3, 6, 7, W 2, 5, 7, 8, 9 SL 4, 5
	5th Grade	RI 1, 3, 6, 7, W 2, 5, 7, 8, 9 SL 4, 5
	Grades 6-8	RH 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9 WHIST 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9
	Grades 9-10	RH 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9 WHIST 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9
Social Studies	4th Grade Mississippi Studies	3a, 5a, e, f, 6 a, c
	6th Grade World Geography and Citizenship	5b, 7b
	8th Grade U.S. History from Exploration through Reconstruction	2a, b, 5b
	9th Grade Mississippi Studies	1f, 5a

Forgotten Mississippi Towns

Objectives

Using digitized historic Mississippi maps students will find forgotten towns. Students will gain an understanding of changing Mississippi geography, how to use historic maps to plot forgotten towns on current state maps and to write brief histories on these towns. Students will use the current state map, historic maps, historic digitized newspapers and their written histories to make their very own museum exhibit.

Materials: *Finding Forgotten Mississippi Towns* handout, *Tracing the History of Mississippi's Forgotten Towns* handouts (3), Internet access, Historic Newspapers Resource Packet, *Forgotten Mississippi Exhibit Worksheet*, poster board or exhibit board, Historic Maps Resource Packet, state highway map, magnifying glasses, scissors, glue, historic images.

Procedures may be adaptable for several grade levels and specific subject matter:

Activity One: *Finding Forgotten Mississippi Towns*

1. Divide students into groups of 3–4.
2. Distribute *Finding Forgotten Mississippi Towns* handout, Mississippi state highway map print out and Historic Maps Resource Packet. (**Note:** *The historic maps are better viewed on the computer screen because they can be blown-up. If printed, print on legal paper.*)
3. Have students locate towns on historic maps and make notes of locations on the handout.
4. Have students locate and plot the location of the former towns on the printed highway map.
5. Discuss the questions listed on page two of the *Finding Forgotten Mississippi Towns* handout.

Activity Two: *Forgotten Mississippi Towns, a History*

1. Keep students in same groups of 3–4.
2. Distribute *Tracing the History of Mississippi's Forgotten Towns* handouts (one city per group) and Historic Newspapers Resource Packet (print on legal paper).
3. Assign each group one town to research and find information from the scanned newspapers located in this lesson.
4. Have students answer and discuss the questions on *Tracing the History of Mississippi's Forgotten Towns* handout using the information from scanned newspapers and maps.
5. Have students write a brief 1-2 page history on their town using the maps, scanned newspapers and class discussion as sources.

Activity Three: *Forgotten Mississippi Towns, an Exhibit*

1. Keep students in same groups of 3–4.
2. Have students bring a poster board or exhibit board to create and display their forgotten town project.
3. Have students expand and type their town history of answered questions from *Tracing the History of Mississippi's Forgotten Towns* to use as their exhibit text.
4. Arrange and attach the printouts of historic maps and any related articles found in the historic newspapers.
5. Have students present their history project to the class or teacher.

Extension Activity:

1. Have students find images of these towns or communities today to add to their exhibits. Discuss the fate of the towns and what remains (local cemeteries, at risk landmarks, etc.) today.
2. Have students use their creative writing skills to write historical fiction about the town, people or places they have researched.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Finding Forgotten Mississippi Towns

Locate the following towns on the historic maps of Mississippi. Make notes in the space provided. Then plot the towns on the current highway map. *Notes such as county name, nearby town, river, or road will help you locate the town on the state highway map.*

Westville _____

Rodney _____

Mississippi City _____

Cotton Gin Port _____

Selsertown _____

Rocky Springs _____

Holmesville _____

Commerce _____

Grand Gulf _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer the questions below after locating the towns on the highway map. Use all the information on the maps provided.

1. List the towns on or close to a river. _____

2. How would being near a river influence a town's establishment and demise? _____

3. Over time what forms of transportation were used in these towns? _____

4. How would other forms of transportation lead to the destruction of these towns?

5. Can you list anything else that may have helped these towns fade into history? _____

Name: ANSWER KEY Date: _____

Finding Forgotten Mississippi Towns

Locate the following towns on the historic maps of Mississippi. Make notes in the space provided. Then plot them on the current highway map. *Notes such as county name, nearby town, river, or road will help you locate the town on the state highway map.*

Westville Simpson County, Pinola, Westville Creek, and Strong River

Rodney Jefferson County, Port Gibson, and Mississippi River

Mississippi City Harrison County, Biloxi, and Gulf of Mexico

Cotton Gin Port Monroe County, Aberdeen, Columbus, and Tombigbee River

Selsertown Jefferson County, Washington, and Mississippi River

Rocky Springs Claiborne County

Holmesville Pike County

Commerce Tunica County

Grand Gulf Claiborne County, Port Gibson, and Mississippi River

Name: ANSWER KEY (cont.) Date: _____

Answer the questions below after locating the towns on the highway map. Use all the information on the maps provided.

1. List the towns on or close to a river. _____

Westville, Selsertown, Grand Gulf, Cotton Gin Port, Rodney, Commerce

2. How would being near a river influence a town's establishment and demise? _____

Rivers can change course and either run over or flood a town. Droughts can make loading ships with trade goods difficult. River channels can also cut towns off from the main river, negating its importance as a port town. As main modes of transportation shifted from river to rail to highway, these towns lost their importance as ports of trade.

3. Over time what forms of transportation were used in these towns? _____

Boats, horses, and carriages were the initial forms of transportation. Railroads became the next form of transportation of goods and people over time. Then highways replaced railroads as the main routes of transportation.

4. How would other forms of transportation lead to the destruction of these towns? _____

Moving the main transportation routes away from these towns would make conducting business and transporting goods to/from there impractical. Thus people and businesses would move to where more opportunities were available.

5. Can you list anything else that may have helped these towns fade into history? _____

Industries such as timber and agriculture surrounding towns died out, changes in county lines or county seats, storms (such as hurricanes) destroyed towns, and disease caused entire towns to be wiped out.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Tracing the History of Mississippi's Forgotten Towns: Westville

Answer the questions below using the historic newspapers.

Using the September 22, 1898 *Westville News* vol. 26, no. 48, page 1:

1. Find the names of two attorneys and one dentist who work in Westville. _____

Using the September 22, 1898 *Westville News* vol. 26, no. 48, page 2:

2. Find the article "New Steamboat Line." Name another forgotten town mentioned in this article.

3. What is the purpose of the Crescent City Packet Company? _____

Using the September 22, 1898 *Westville News* vol. 26, no. 48, page 4:

4. Name four businesses located in Westville. _____

Using the August 31, 1899 *Westville News* vol. 27, no. 45, page 1:

5. Find the article referring to Westville High School. What does the article announce? _____

6. Name one interesting detail from this announcement. _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

7. What are some reasons parents would not send their children to school? _____

Using the August 31, 1899 *Westville News* vol. 27, no. 45, page 6:

8. Read through the “Local Items” and write a brief description of one item that took place in Westville.

9. “Local Items” was a common way for people to tell others what they were doing or who came to visit.
How do we do this today? _____

Name: _____ ANSWER KEY _____ Date: _____

Tracing the History of Mississippi's Forgotten Towns: Westville

Answer the questions below using the historic newspapers.

Using the September 22, 1898 *Westville News* vol. 26, no. 48, page 1:

1. Find the names of two attorneys and one dentist who work in Westville.

Attorneys: A.W. Dent and C.M. Whitworth

Dentists: C.B. Dunning

Using the September 22, 1898 *Westville News* vol. 26, no. 48, page 2:

2. Find the article "New Steamboat Line." Name another forgotten town mentioned in this article.

Mississippi City

3. What is the purpose of the Crescent City Packet Company?

The running and maintenance of steamboats.

Using the September 22, 1898 *Westville News* vol. 26, no. 48, page 4:

4. Name four businesses located in Westville.

E. Giles and Sons, Racket Store, Dr. G.J. Caraway, the Westville News, F.E. Shivers

Using the August 31, 1899 *Westville News* vol. 27, no. 45, page 1:

5. Find the article referring to Westville High School. What does the article announce?

That school will start on September 2.

6. Name one interesting detail from this announcement.

"Remember that you are hurting no one but your own children when you fail or refuse to send them to school."

Name: ANSWER KEY (cont.) Date: _____

7. What are some reasons parents would not send their children to school?

They are needed to work on the family farm, in the fields or elsewhere in order to make money and help support the family.

Using the August 31, 1899 *Westville News* vol. 27, no. 45, page 6:

8. Read through the “Local Items” and write a brief description of one item that took place in Westville.

Joe Smith returned home after a long visit in Westville.

9. “Local Items” was a common way for people to tell others what they were doing or who came to visit. How do we do this today?

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, email, texting, etc.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Tracing the History of Mississippi's Forgotten Towns: Rodney

Answer the questions below using the historic newspapers.

Using the October 22, 1834 *Southern Telegraph* vol. 1, no. 37, page 4:

1. Find the advertisement for "1,000" shoes and "blankets." What do they call the shoes? _____

2. What is J.B. Warren's advertisement selling? _____

Using the September 3, 1834 *Southern Telegraph* vol. 1, no. 30, page 2:

3. There is more than one reason that this and other towns on our list became forgotten. What were they?

4. Find the article referring to a new invention "that will double the value of the steam engine." What is the machinery mentioned in the article? _____

5. Which of these machines was widely used in Mississippi and the South? _____

Using the September 3, 1834 *Southern Telegraph* vol. 1, no. 30, page 3:

6. Find the advertisement for paint oil. What type of oil was and still is used to make paint? _____

7. Find the article regarding a race. What is the race? _____

8. What are the horse's names? _____

9. Announcements regarding enslaved people were also included in newspapers at this time. Who are the slaves mentioned?

Name: _____ Date: _____

10. Why are they mentioned in the newspaper? _____

12. Compare the announcements about the enslaved people with the advertisements for the horse race and linseed oil. What does that tell you about the society's attitude toward slavery at the time?

Name: _____ ANSWER KEY _____ Date: _____

Tracing the History of Mississippi's Forgotten Towns: Rodney

Answer the questions below using the historic newspapers.

Using the October 22, 1834 *Southern Telegraph* vol. 1, no. 37, page 4:

1. Find the advertisement for “1,000” shoes and “blankets.” What do they call the shoes?

Brogans

2. What is J.B. Warren’s advertisement selling?

Winter clothing

Using the September 3, 1834 *Southern Telegraph* vol. 1, no. 30, page 2:

3. There is more than one reason that this and other towns on our list became forgotten. What were they?

Those located on the river where the river changed course and endangered the town and those that became extinct after the construction of the railroad.

4. Find the article referring to a new invention “that will double the value of the steam engine.” What is the machinery mentioned in the article?

Sixth column, fourth article. Steamboat, steam engine, and cotton gin.

5. Which of these machines was widely used in Mississippi and the South?

Cotton gin

Using the September 3, 1834 *Southern Telegraph* vol. 1, no. 30, page 3:

6. Find the advertisement for paint oil. What type of oil was and still is used to make paint?

Linseed oil

7. Find the article regarding a race. What is the race?

Horse race

8. What are the horse’s names?

Henry Clay and Wallace

9. Announcements regarding enslaved people were also included in newspapers at this time. Who are the slaves mentioned?

Sarah, Warren, and Henry

Name: _____ ANSWER KEY (cont.) _____ Date: _____

10. Why are they mentioned in the newspaper?

Sarah is a runaway slave. Warren and Henry are slaves that were found and put in jail, the advertisement in the newspaper is to let their owners know to come and get them.

12. Compare the announcements about the enslaved people with the advertisements for the horse race and linseed oil. What does that tell you about the society's attitude toward slavery at the time?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Tracing the History of Mississippi's Forgotten Towns: Mississippi City

Answer the questions below using the historic newspapers.

Using the July 2, 1892 *Coast Beacon* vol. 12, page 2:

1. How many articles can you find regarding Mississippi City? _____

2. What do many of these articles have in common? _____

3. What does that make Mississippi City? _____

4. Mississippi City was once the center of county government business. What is the county seat for Harrison County now? _____

5. What do you think led to the demise of Mississippi City as a town and county seat?

Name: _____ Date: _____

6. Can you find the name of the railroad on the same page of this newspaper? _____

Using the July 2, 1892 *Coast Beacon* vol. 12, page 3:

7. Find the article referring to a "grand ball." What do you call this now? _____

Name: _____ ANSWER KEY _____ Date: _____

Tracing the History of Mississippi's Forgotten Towns: Mississippi City

Answer the questions below using the historic newspapers.

Using the July 2, 1892 *Coast Beacon* vol. 12, page 2:

1. How many articles can you find regarding Mississippi City?
 - a. **third column top: county school board meeting at Mississippi City**
 - b. **fifth column: three "Homestead Notices"**
 - c. **sixth column: second and third article "Sale of Bridge Contract"**
 - d. **seventh column: ad for Evans attorney at law**

2. What do many of these articles have in common?
Refer to business being conducted at the courthouse in Mississippi City.

3. What does that make Mississippi City?
The county seat.

4. Mississippi City was once the center of county government business. What is the county seat for Harrison County now?
There are two: Biloxi and Gulfport.

5. What do you think led to the demise of Mississippi City as a town and county seat?
The building and completion of the railroad in Gulfport.

6. Can you find the name of the railroad on the same page of this newspaper?
Third column, last article, "G. & S. I. Railroad" (the Gulf and Ship Island Railroad).

Using the July 2, 1892 *Coast Beacon* vol. 12, page 3:

7. Find the article referring to a "grand ball." What do you call this now?
Second column, "A grand ball will take place at the Gulf View Hotel." It is a dance for boys and girls. Today, some people call these "boy-girl parties."

Name: _____ Date: _____

Tracing the History of Mississippi's Forgotten Towns: Grand Gulf

Answer the questions below using the historic newspapers.

Using the June 2, 1831 *The Port Gibson Correspondent*:

1. Find four advertisements from Grand Gulf, Mississippi. _____

2. Find advertisements from or regarding two Forgotten Mississippi Towns. _____

3. Find the advertisement for a holiday you currently celebrate and list two activities to be performed.

4. Which of these advertisements mentioned slavery? _____

5. Find the article with the following quote: "In 1831, we saw the Grand Gulf for the first time; the houses were then as scattering and the population as sparse as the taste of Daniel Boon". What is the article talking about? If this town was so important why did it become a Forgotten Town?

Name: _____ Date: _____

6. Find the advertisement for "Pleasure Rides". What is the ad referring to? _____

Using the August 7, 1839 *The Grand Gulf Advertiser*, page 3:

7. Find the article "Look out for a Villian." What did the "Villian" do? How were horses used at the time? What town were they stolen from? How would the theft of the horse effect the owner?

Using the August 7, 1839 *The Grand Gulf Advertiser*, page 4:

8. Find the advertisement about a new company to Grand Gulf. What did this mean for Grand Gulf? What happened to the cotton once it was pressed?

9. Name three people who recently moved their business or practice to Grand Gulf. Why did they move to Grand Gulf?

10. Find an advertisement from one other Forgotten Town.

Name: ANSWER KEY Date: _____

Tracing the History of Mississippi's Forgotten Towns: Grand Gulf

Answer the questions below using the historic newspapers.

Using the June 2, 1831 *The Port Gibson Correspondent*:

1. Find four advertisements from Grand Gulf, Mississippi.
C.W. Muncaster – General Assortment of Goods
C.W. Muncaster – Bacon, Flour & Lard
R.H. Sterling – Storage & Commission
Ananias Pate – English Teacher
2. Find advertisements from or regarding two Forgotten Mississippi Towns.
Boarding House – Andrew Ellis mentions Rocky Springs
Thomas W. Beck – Fall and Winter Goods – Rodney
Thomas W. Beck – Mill Stones & Spinning Machine – Rodney
3. Find the advertisement for a holiday you currently celebrate and list two activities to be performed.
Independence Day – Fourth of July
Splendid balloon and fireworks
4. Which of these advertisements mentioned slavery?
Thomas W. Beck – Fall and Winter Goods – Rodney
5. Find the article with the following quote: “In 1831, we saw the Grand Gulf for the first time; the houses were then as scattering and the population as sparse as the taste of Daniel Boon”. What is the article talking about? If this town was so important why did it become a Forgotten Town?
The town of Grand Gulf and its future importance as a port for cotton.
The railroad took its role as a transporter of cotton, reducing the need for its transport via steamboat. The city was also too close to the Mississippi River, so when the river changed course the town was flooded.

Name: _____ ANSWER KEY (cont.) _____ Date: _____

6. Find the advertisement for “Pleasure Rides”. What is the ad referring to?
The public can rent a horse and carriage for rides.

Using the August 7, 1839 *The Grand Gulf Advertiser*, page 3:

7. Find the article “Look out for a Villian.” What did the “Villian” do? How were horses used at the time? What town were they stolen from? How would the theft of the horse effect the owner?
Stole a horse.
Transportation from one town to the next like cars are today, farming and hauling goods like trucks or trains are today.
Grand Gulf

Using the August 7, 1839 *The Grand Gulf Advertiser*, page 4:

8. Find the advertisement about a new company to Grand Gulf. What did this mean for Grand Gulf? What happened to the cotton once it was pressed?
Grand Gulf Steam Cotton Press
Farmers from all around Grand Gulf would do business in Grand Gulf because of this press and their being on the Mississippi River.
It would eventually travel to New Orleans on the Mississippi River.
9. Name three people who moved their business or practice to Grand Gulf. Why did they move to Grand Gulf?
Dr. F.W. Hart & Drs. Ballard & Moorehead,
More people were moving to Grand Gulf because of business opportunities and medical doctors were needed.
10. Find an advertisement from one other Forgotten Town.
James C. Weekes – Attorney & Counselor at Law - Westville

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY LESSON PLANS
TEACHER EVALUATION

COMPLETE BOTH SIDES AND PLEASE MAIL OR FAX TO THE ADDRESS ON THE NEXT PAGE. THANK YOU!

TEACHER NAME _____

SCHOOL NAME & ADDRESS _____

EMAIL (OPTIONAL) _____

TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS _____ GRADE LEVEL _____

LESSON TITLE _____

1. In your opinion, did this unit elicit better than average student response; if so, how?
2. Which segments of the unit exceeded your students' attention span?
3. Will this unit be of assistance to you in developing future classroom activities; if so, how?
4. How did this unit add to your earlier teaching on the same subject?
5. Would this teaching unit be handier to use as a:
___ multi-day unit ___ multi-week unit ___ other
6. Were the activities and lessons appropriate for your students? How?

Please rate the following lesson materials and activities by circling the appropriate number.

4=excellent, 3=good, 2=average, 1=inadequate

Directions and Notes	4	3	2	<u>1</u>
Curricular Connections	4	3	2	<u>1</u>
Student Worksheets	4	3	2	<u>1</u>
Interactive Activities	4	3	2	<u>1</u>
Historic Images	4	3	2	<u>1</u>
References and Resources	4	3	2	<u>1</u>

Activity One	4	3	2	<u>1</u>
Activity Two	4	3	2	<u>1</u>
Activity Three	4	3	2	<u>1</u>
Extension Activity	4	3	2	<u>1</u>
Overall Lesson	4	3	2	<u>1</u>

We would appreciate any additional comments on this teaching unit and any suggestions for improvement. Comments may be entered in the space below.

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