

EXPLORE THE HUDSON RIVER WATERSHED

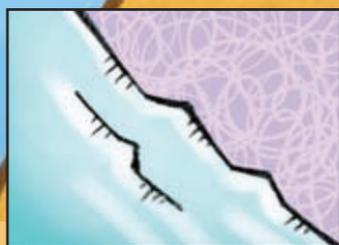
MAINE

Any way you look at the Hudson River watershed, it's big. A **watershed** is an area of land that drains into a specific body of water, like a river, stream or lake. It includes all the land, mountains, deserts, streams, cities and farms within its borders. The Hudson River watershed covers an area as large as the states of Connecticut and Massachusetts combined (13,390 square miles/ 34,680 square km). From its **headwaters** (source) in Lake Tear of the Clouds high in the Adirondack Mountains, the Hudson gathers strength and flows 315 miles (507 km), all the way to the New York-New Jersey Harbor. It's as deep as 175 feet (53 m) at World's End near West Point and as wide as 3.5 miles (5.6 km) at Haverstraw Bay.

battles between the British and Americans. Artists made its scenery world famous, which inspired others to appreciate its beauty and work to protect it. The opening of the Erie Canal allowed the Hudson to connect the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean. As the Hudson became a busy shipping route, the New York-New Jersey Harbor became a major port.

The Hudson River as we know it today was mostly carved out by glaciers more than 20,000 years ago but its earliest beginnings go as far back as 65 to 75 million years. In addition to having many different **habitats** (places where plants and animals usually live), the Hudson River and its watershed are of interest to people wherever they live.

Named after Henry Hudson, the first European to explore it in 1609, the Hudson is often called America's River because of its national importance. During the Revolutionary War, it was the site of many



GLACIER: 20,000 years ago much of the Hudson Valley was covered by mile (1.6 km) -high ice! Glaciers helped shape the river we see today.

GET TO KNOW THE HUDSON RIVER WATERSHED

Wetlands: A wetland is 'wet land' where the soil is waterlogged all or part of the year. Wetlands capture and store water and slow its movement. There are several types of wetlands, such as swamps, salt marshes and bogs.

Headwaters: Source, or beginning of the river.

Mouth: End of the river, where it flows into an ocean, sea or lake.

Tributaries: Small rivers that flow into the main river.

Confluence: The place where two or more rivers or streams meet.

Boundary: Border.

Floodplain: Found alongside many rivers, these flat areas are normally dry, but are underwater when water levels rise.



Lake Tear of the Clouds



Cohoes Falls



Troy Dam and Lock



Kaaterskill Falls



The Palisades



Statue of Liberty

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Mount Marcy

VERMONT

Adirondack Mountains

Mohawk River

Albany

Troy

Poughkeepsie

Catskill Mountains

CONNECTICUT

Newburgh Bay

West Point



The Walkway

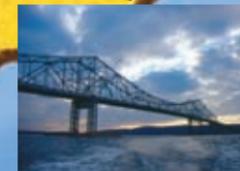
Haverstraw Bay

Palisades Interstate Park

Yonkers

Jersey City

New York City



Tappan Zee Bridge

NEW JERSEY

Except as noted, photos on these pages by Steve Stanne/NYSDEC.

GOT THE SPOT!

Follow these clues to locate the special spots on the map. Draw a line to connect each clue with the matching place on the map. Check your answers on the back of this book.

1. This tiny lake is on Mount Marcy, New York State's highest peak, and is the source of the Hudson River.
2. On the Hudson River, just downstream from the confluence with the Mohawk River, boats are raised and lowered to reach a canal from the Hudson to the Great Lakes.
3. This river-wide waterfall is on the Hudson's largest tributary.
4. This high waterfall attracts hikers to the Catskill Mountains.
5. Railroad trains once used this 6,000 foot (1829 m) long bridge; now people walk across 200 feet (61 m) above the Hudson.
6. This bridge crosses one of the widest places on the Hudson River.
7. The Palisades Interstate Park protects these beautiful cliffs across from Yonkers.
8. This famous lady greets ships entering New York-New Jersey Harbor at the mouth of the Hudson River.



Mastodons were hairy elephant-like mammals that moved into the valley as glaciers retreated. In 1999, workers in Hyde Park found a mastodon skeleton while digging out a pond.