Meet the Hudson River

High in the Adirondack Mountains, a river begins. It starts at Lake Tear of the Clouds. The river’s journey is 315 miles long. It ends at New York City near the Atlantic Ocean. This river is called the Hudson.

The Hudson River changes during this journey. It begins as fresh water flowing from the mountains. Here it rushes over rapids and waterfalls.

Later the Hudson passes small towns and big cities. It grows wider and deeper. Long bridges cross the river.

Near the ocean, salty seawater enters the Hudson River. It mixes with fresh water from the mountains. A place where this happens is called an estuary. Here you find crabs and other animals that like salty water.

At the seashore, tides make the water slowly rise and fall. At high tide the water’s edge is far up the beach. At low tide it is low down on the beach. You can also see tides in the Hudson estuary. The tides and salty water show that this end of the river is an arm of the sea.
Mapping the Hudson River

Maps can show us land, rivers, lakes, mountains, roads, and cities.
Maps show us where things are.

Directions: Read the article Meet the Hudson River. Then make a map of the Hudson River. Look at the article and its map if you need help.

1. On a clean sheet of paper draw the Hudson River.
2. Draw a compass rose to show directions.
3. Write the name of your town in the blank label below.
4. Cut out the labels. Paste each label in the correct place on your map. Again, if you need help look at a map of New York State or the map in the article Meet the Hudson River. Label your map with River miles. NYC is RM 1, Lake Tear is RM 315. Research your own town’s river mile.
5. Draw in mountains, the Atlantic Ocean, and your town. Add bridges, the seashore, or any other places you might find on your map.

7. Sunfish live in fresh water. Sea robins live in salt water. Banded killifish live in fresh or brackish water. Cut out the pictures below. Place the sunfish on your map where there is fresh water in the Hudson. Place the sea robin where there is salt water in the Hudson.