Name: Date: Score: / 6

The Mississippi River: Comprehension

Nonfiction: Places · about 95 words

Read the passage. Then answer each question. Circle the best answer or write your answer on the lines.

The Mississippi River

The Mississippi River is one of the longest rivers in North America. It begins as a small stream at Lake Itasca in Minnesota. You can walk across it on stepping stones there! From there, it flows south about 2,340 miles to the Gulf of Mexico.

Along the way, the river grows wide and deep as other rivers join it. Big boats called barges carry corn, coal, and other goods up and down the river. Cities like St. Louis and New Orleans grew up along its banks. Many fish, birds, and turtles live in and near the river.

1. **Main idea:** What is this passage mostly about?
   A. the Gulf of Mexico B. Lake Itasca C. the Mississippi River

2. **Detail:** Where does the river begin?
   A. Lake Itasca in Minnesota B. New Orleans C. the Gulf of Mexico

3. **Detail:** Where does the river end?
   A. Lake Itasca B. the Gulf of Mexico C. Canada

4. **Vocabulary:** Barges are...
   A. river banks B. big boats that carry goods C. small fish

5. **Inference:** Why does the river grow wider?
   A. It rains only there. B. Other rivers join it. C. People dig it out.

6. **Detail:** Name one city along the river.

ANSWER KEY

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