**March 12, 2024**

Another in the series of Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom non-fiction text examples to be used in your classroom. Remember, these will be available every MONDAY afternoon that *FarmWeek* is published during the school year.

Questions about this can be directed to Kevin Daugherty, Education Director of Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom at [kdaugherty@ilfb.org](mailto:kdaugherty@ilfb.org).

\*\*Reminder these questions are designed to use with the on-line version of *FarmWeek.*

<https://www.farmweeknow.com/eedition/>

Note, by request of teachers we have included the answers to the questions immediately following the questions on a separate worksheet.

**NAME:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ CLASS PERIOD\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Directions:** Please use the online version of *FarmWeek.*  <https://www.farmweeknow.com/eedition/>

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Or use the article at <https://iaitc.co/riverdroughtover>

Use the article titled: Mississippi River drought over, but situation still shaky

1. When did the low water conditions on the Mississippi River begin?
2. What happened because of the low water conditions on the Mississippi River?
3. How were farmers impacted by the low water levels?
4. How long is the Mississippi River?
5. How much cargo during ‘normal years’ on the river?
6. How does shipping on the Mississippi River save over $12.5 billion each year?
7. How does shipping on the river save transportation costs?

Answers

1. September 2022.
2. Agriculture shipment delays and higher transportation costs.
3. Barges had reduced ability to navigate driving up farmers costs, and farmers had to seek alternative storage options and ways to market their crops during this time, both added additional costs to farmers.
4. Over 4,267 miles of river that barges can navigate on.
5. 589 million tons of cargo move on the river each year.
6. If the river can’t be used, items shipped on the river can also be transported by roadways (semi) or rails. Both have additional costs.
7. Answers will vary, barges can move cargo with less fuel than a truck or train.

Answers

1. Define the following:
   1. Cooperation—working or acting together for a common purpose
   2. Controversial—characteristic of prolonged dispute,
   3. Infrastructure—framework, facilities and systems serving a country, city, area. Roads, bridges, rails, all fall into this category.
   4. Trilateral—having three sides.
2. Michale Regan
3. Vilsack (Tom Vilsack)
4. Answers will vary, but in the past EPA and USDA have been at odds with farmers in the middle of the issues.
5. Weather, lower prices and higher inputs.
6. US, Canada, Mexico will be discussing biotechnology and GMO, reducing trade barriers in Canada and keeping China as a strong trading partner and developing more markets in Southeast Asia, Central and South America and Africa.