

34.1 Life of a River



Summarize main points from each video.

Video Title / topic _____

Video Title / topic _____

Video Title / topic _____

Topic Introduction



Summarize your understanding of each paragraph.

Most (if not all) high school students already have a reasonable sense of what a river is. This topic stretches that thinking somewhat. For example, moving water in a 'creek' or 'stream' could also be called a river – depending on the definition one uses.

There are no hard and fast rules regarding what actually constitutes a river. The word 'river' is basically a catch-all term; creeks, brooks, and streams are, in effect, different names for small rivers. But, also manmade pipelines might very well meet the definition of 'river.'

This topic emphasizes natural flowing fresh water rivers. Water flows toward an ocean, sea, lake or another river. These streams of flow through a channel. The passage where the river flows is called the river bed – on the sides, a river bank.

Some sources list as many as 15 different types of rivers. For purposes here, the major types of rivers are: distributaries, episodic, manmade, perennial, periodic, tributary, and winding Rivers. Sometimes a river begins as one type and turns into another type.

Read/Summarize Text



1. Read the passage.
2. Underline key expressions in each sentence.
3. Re-write each word (or expression) you underlined.
4. Summarize the passage.

The Mississippi/Atchafalaya River Basin (MARB).

The Mississippi River originates as a tiny outlet stream from Lake Itasca in northern Minnesota.

During a meandering 2,350 mile journey south to the Gulf of Mexico, the Mississippi River is joined by hundreds of tributaries, including the Ohio and Missouri Rivers.

Water from parts or all of 31 states drains into the Mississippi River, and creates a drainage basin over 1,245,000 square miles in size.

The Arkansas River, is another large tributary of the Mississippi River. It originates in Colorado, flowing through Kansas, Oklahoma and Arkansas before entering the Mississippi.

<https://www.epa.gov/ms-htf/mississippiatchafalaya-river-basin-marb>

Re-write words you underlined

Using a complete sentence, summarize or rephrase the passage

Read Text for Comprehension

Read this article for deeper understanding. No summary is required, although you may want to circle, underline, or mark key ideas and words.

Mississippi National River & Recreation Area, 2008

The Mississippi is much more than a ribbon of water; it is a watershed that drains all or parts of 31 states and 2 Canadian provinces. It is the dominant watershed in North

America, and drains 41% of the continental United States; it is the third largest watershed in the world.

The Mississippi River is the third longest river system in the world when including the

Missouri River tributary. The Mississippi itself stretches approximately 2,350 miles from Lake Itasca to the Gulf of Mexico.

Today approximately 230 million tons of sediment are carried annually to the Gulf by the river.

The Upper Mississippi River carved its path with the meltwater of receding glaciers from the last Ice Age more than 10,000 years ago. In geological terms, the Upper Mississippi from its headwaters to the Twin Cities is a very young river.

Two hundred and forty-one species of fish are at home in the Mississippi River watershed; 292 bird species use the Mississippi Flyway. Other wildlife of the river, bottomlands and bluffs of the Mississippi watershed includes 57 species of mammals, 45 species of reptiles and amphibians, 40 different species of mussels, and countless invertebrates.

The river and its major tributaries supply drinking water for more than 18 million people. To enable towboats and barges to travel upstream from St. Louis, 29 locks and dams have been built on the river.



River Facts

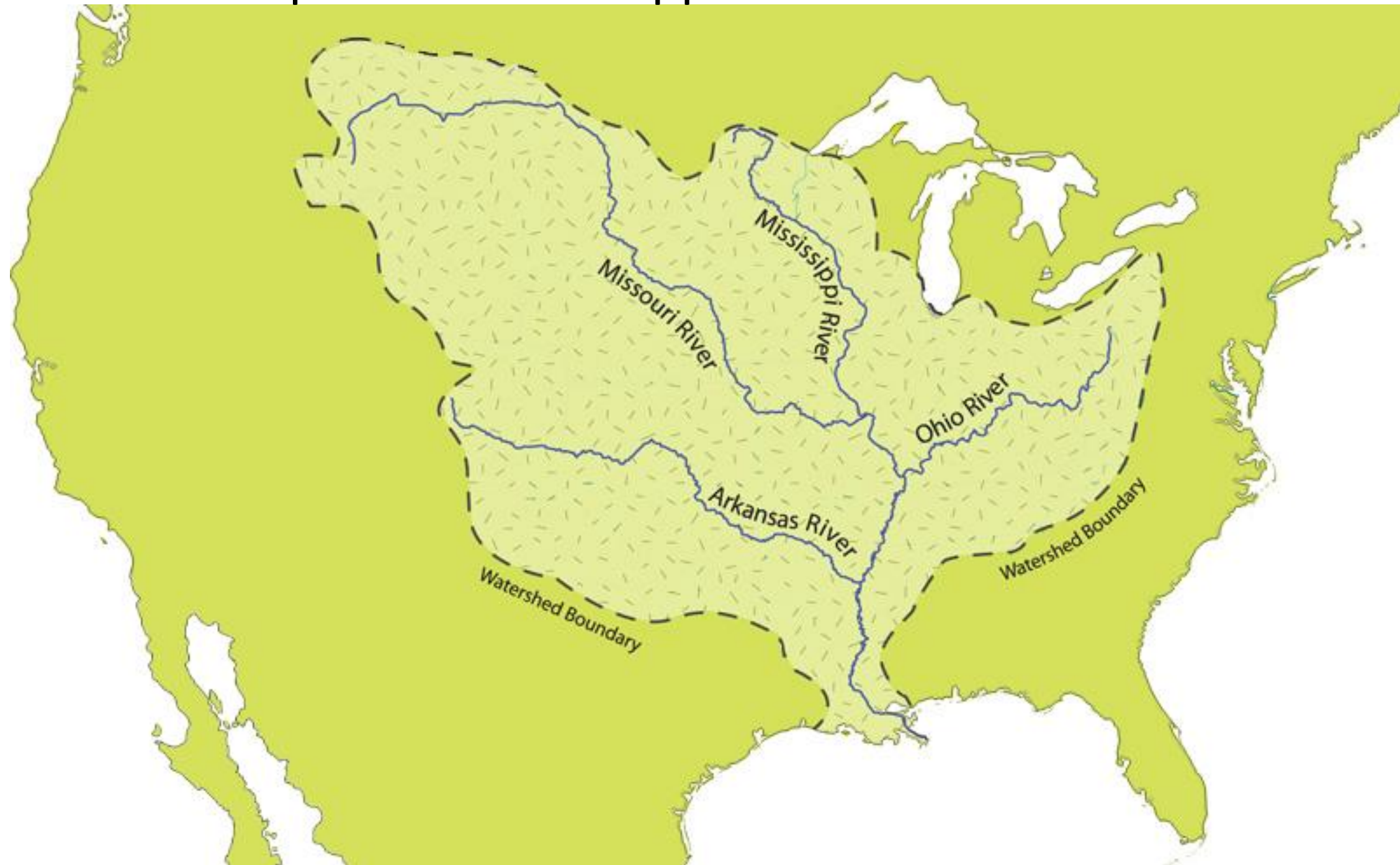
Summarized from <https://www.nps.gov/miss/learn/education/upload/brjfact.pdf>

Draw Illustration



Copy and Label the Illustration in the Space Provided

Map of the Mississippi River watershed



By National Park Service - <http://www.nps.gov/miss/riverfacts.htm>, Public Domain,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=85188174>

Draw (Copy) the Illustration Here

Interpret a Graph



Write the title of the graph _____

Circle the type of chart this represents

Bar Chart Line Chart Pie Chart Other

If applicable,

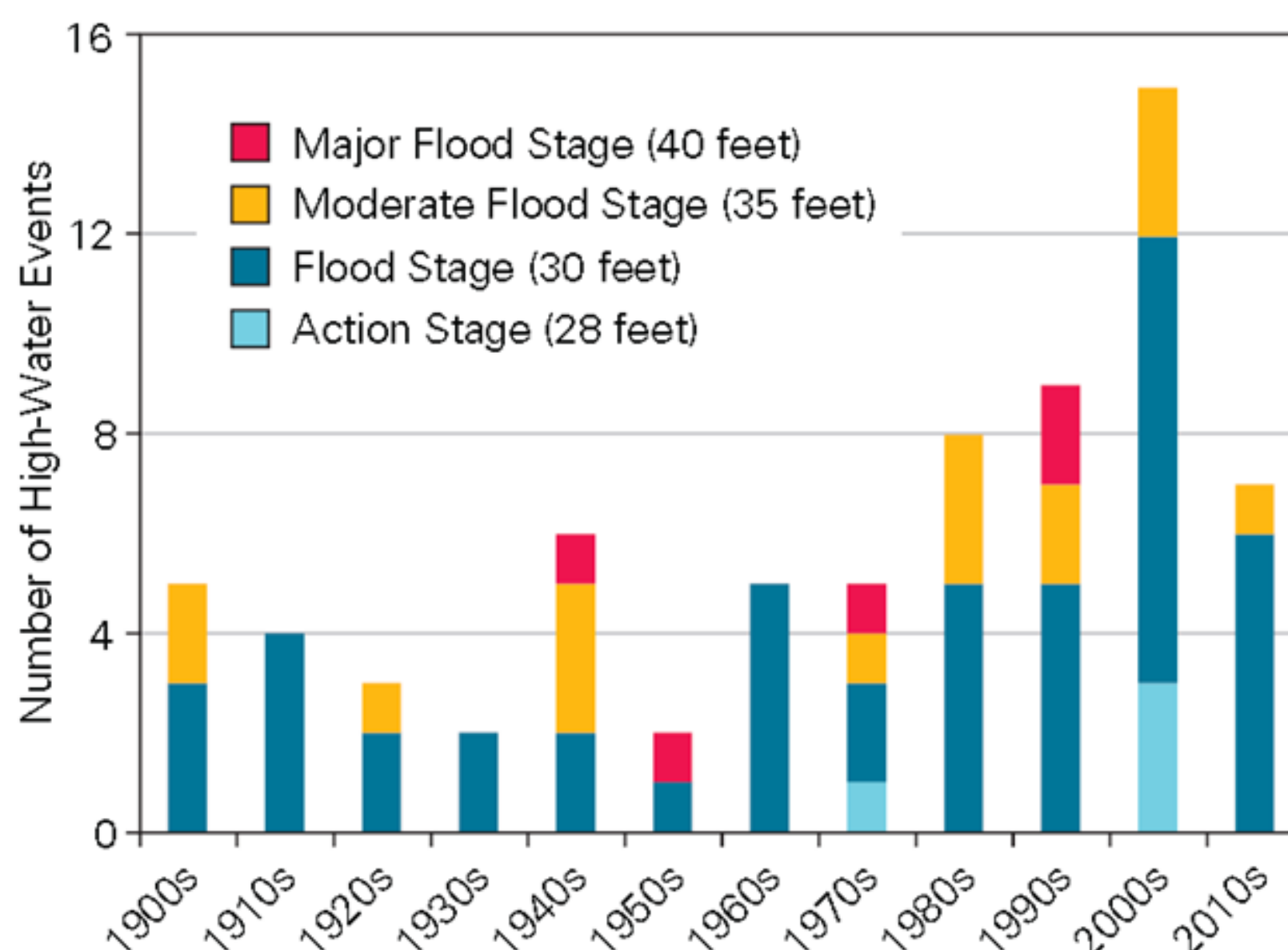
What does the X-axis represent _____

What does the Y-axis imply _____

Summarize what this graph represents or conveys

<https://desdemonadespair.net/2011/09/graph-of-day-distribution-of-3.html>

Mississippi River Crest Levels Per Decade, 1900s-2010



Note: Information to date includes only the year 2010.

Source: NRDC/Data from NOAA

Show-Off Your Smarts!



Instructions

- Complete as an individual or small group.
- Discuss your ideas/answers/responses in a small group.
- Select one person to present your responses to the class.

Q1. How can this information be applied to a young-person's life?

Q2. How does this information apply to (or impact) communities?

Q3. When do scientists need to apply this information? How?

Q4. How would a person from 100 years ago view this information?

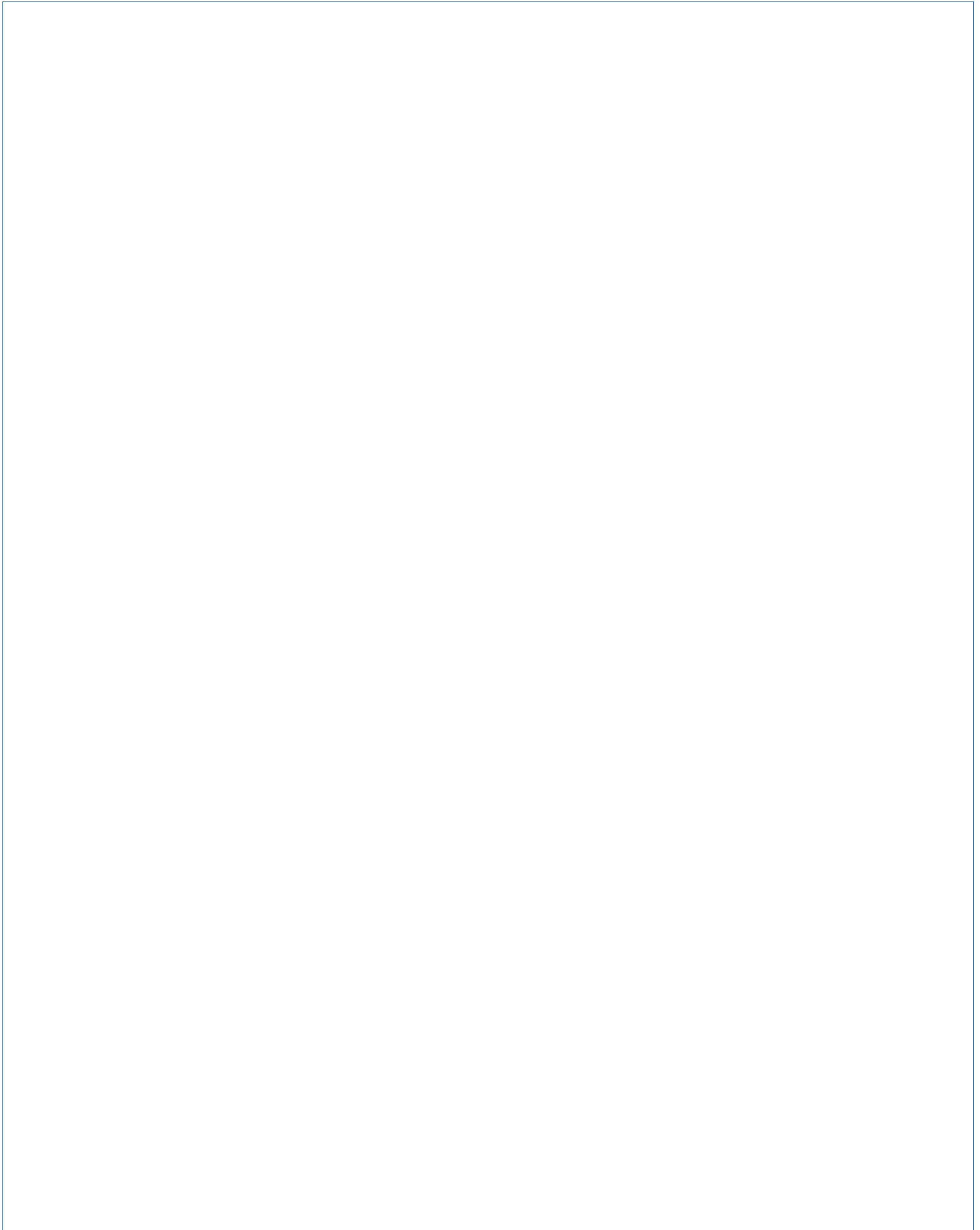
Q5. How does this topic connect to other science topics or math?

Write down at least three words introduced or covered by this topic.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Make a Poster

In the space provided here, create/draw a poster which conveys the concepts you have learned on this topic.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin blue border, intended for the student to create a poster. The box occupies most of the page below the instructions.