

# Lesson Plan #9:

## Rivers Connect Us

### Objectives

Students will:

- learn or review the 4 cardinal directions.
- learn or review the 4 ordinal directions. (optional)
- complete a compass rose.
- identify a few important reasons why the mighty Snake River is vitally important.
- track the Snake River's route to discover its headwaters, flow direction(s), and path through 4 states.

### Overview

Depending on age, students can complete this as a group/discussion, with partners, or individually. Answers to the student page are in the Reflection/Evaluation if needed.

### Materials

- printed copies of student page (pg. 3 of this document)
- colored pencils (at least 2 colors per student- IF completing individually)

### Background Information

The [Snake River](#) originates in Wyoming and arcs across southern Idaho before turning north along the Idaho-Oregon border. The river then enters Washington and flows west to the Columbia River. The Columbia River's largest tributary is 'The Mighty Snake', an important source of irrigation water for potatoes, sugar beets, and other crops. The Snake River also supports a vibrant recreation industry.

### Procedure

Use the map on the student page to answer these questions.

1. Complete the 4 cardinal directions. (*N*), (*E*), (*S*), and (*W*) on the compass rose. Complete the 4 intercardinal (or ordinal)\* directions by bisecting the above directions, creating (*NE*), (*SE*), (*SW*), and (*NW*). \*optional
2. Find the headwaters of the Snake River... where it starts. (*Bridger Teton National Forest, southwest of Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming*)
3. Choose a color to fill in the 6 dots and then connect the dots to discover the path of the Snake River.
4. Choose a different color to fill in the 3 squares and then connect the dots to discover the path of the Columbia River.
5. Which 4 states does the Snake River flow through? (*Wyoming, Idaho, Oregon, Washington*)
6. What is the main river the Snake joins up with before arriving at the ocean? (*Columbia River*)

BONUS: What ocean do these tributaries flow into? (*Pacific Ocean*)

### **Reflection/Evaluation**

As a reflection and evaluation activity, students can answer the following questions: Depending on the student(s)' age, this page can be completed as a group, individually, or in partners.

Answers to student page:

Starts in (1.) *Bridger Teton National Forest, southwest of Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming or Wyoming*, heads S/SW through (2.) *Idaho* then dips into (3.) *Oregon*, and flows N then W to (4.) *Washington*.

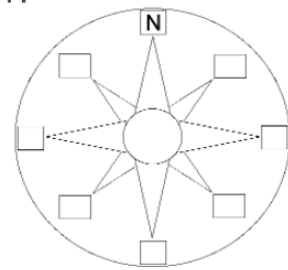
The Snake River joins up with the *Columbia River*.



What states does the Snake River flow through?

It starts in:

1. \_\_\_\_\_, heads \_\_\_\_\_ through
2. \_\_\_\_\_, then dips into
3. \_\_\_\_\_, and flows \_\_\_\_\_ then \_\_\_\_\_, to
4. \_\_\_\_\_.



What is one river it joins up with before getting to the ocean?

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