Name _____ Date _____

Bodies of Water: Rivers, Lakes, Gulfs and Bays

Directions: Begin by matching the water words to their meanings. Then answer questions about real rivers, lakes, gulfs and bays.

1. Match each water word to its meaning.

Write the letter of the matching answer on each line.

1. _____ River
2. _____ Lake
3. _____ Gulf
4. _____ Bay

Choices for question 1

A. Salt water that covers most of Earth's surface

B. A large part of the ocean or sea that reaches deep into the land

C. A body of water with land on every side

D. Land that has water on three sides

E. Water that flows in a long channel toward a lake, a sea or another river

F. A smaller curve of water that reaches into the land from a sea, ocean or lake

2. South of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida lies a huge part of the ocean. Land curves around most of it. What kind of water body is it?

A. Gulf B. River C. Bay D. Lake

3. On the coast of California, the Pacific Ocean curves gently into the land near the city of Monterey. The curve is wide, and it does not reach far into the land. What kind of water body is it?

A. Lake B. Gulf C. River D. Bay

4. Four of the five Great Lakes are shared by the United States and Canada. Which Great Lake lies entirely inside the United States?

A. Lake Michigan B. Lake Erie C. Lake Huron D. Lake Superior

5. Rivers carry a little salt into Great Salt Lake in Utah. No river flows out of it, so its water leaves only by drying up into the air. What happens to the salt?

A. It turns into fresh water.

B. It stays behind in the lake.

C. It flows out to the ocean.

D. It dries up into the air with the water.

6. The Mississippi River begins at Lake Itasca in Minnesota. It ends at the gulf below Louisiana. Minnesota is far north of Louisiana. Which way does the river mostly flow?

A. East B. West C. North D. South

7. The Hudson River begins high in the Adirondack Mountains of New York. It ends at New York City, where it empties into the Atlantic Ocean. What is the end of a river called?

A. Its mouth B. Its bed C. Its bank D. Its source

8. Use the word bank to finish the two sentences about rivers that join.

Word bank
Hudson • Mississippi • delta • tributary

The Missouri River flows into the _____ River near St. Louis, Missouri. A river that flows into a bigger river is called a _____.

9. Chesapeake Bay stretches about 200 miles from the Atlantic Ocean into the land. Which two states surround most of the bay?

A. Maine and New Hampshire B. Maryland and Virginia

C. Delaware and New Jersey D. Georgia and Florida