

Michigan's Rivers - The Clinton River

Name & Number: _____

The main branch of the Clinton River rises from wetlands in Springfield Township, Oakland County, northwest of Pontiac. A series of dams create a number of small lakes west of Pontiac, the last of which is Crystal Lake. The river is piped under downtown Pontiac, re-emerging to the east of downtown. The north branch and the middle branch rise in northern Macomb County and join the main branch in Clinton Township, which was named after the river. The main branch flows 83 miles from its headwaters to Lake St. Clair in Harrison Township.



The Clinton River watershed drains 760 square miles, including most of Macomb County, a large portion of Oakland County and small portions of Lapeer and St. Clair Counties. More than 1.4 million people in over 60 municipalities live in the watershed.

The Detroit River

By Emily Rose Bennett - MLive.com

The Detroit river is only 32 miles long, but those 32 miles are full of **islands, wildlife, history,** and in the warmer months, **kayakers, pleasure boats, cruise ships** and **freighters.** And the Detroit River is unique in so many ways. It's more than a river. It's also a **strait,** since it connects Lake St. Clair with Lake Erie. It's also an **international border,** and home to the **continent's only international wildlife refuge,** a 6,000-acre group of islands, wetlands and waterfront lands, just 20 miles south of Detroit.

The river is important to the rich history of the city Detroit, and it occasionally offers up reminders. Such as when a Revolutionary War cannon was pulled from the river in 2014, left behind by the British when they finally surrendered Detroit in 1796.



J.W. Westcott

Hopefully by now you realize that Michigan is a very unique place, with many interesting features. The last item we should learn about, that relates to Michigan's rivers, is the only floating post office in the United States. On the web site there are four things you can use to learn about this unique feature so close to home: there are two YouTube videos, a great web site and link to a great book written by Colin Bergel, called Mail by Pail. If you are really lucky, your teacher will watch the MOST website and sign up to do the video conference with the Westcott captain so you can ask him questions directly. Have fun exploring!