

## Teacher's Guide

This unit is designed for five classroom periods and one field trip to see the U.S. Snagboat *Montgomery*, if possible. It may be enriched by including lessons about steamboats based on the website *Mark Twain Times* at <http://twaintimes.net/>.

*These lessons work towards fulfilling the following objectives:*

Locate geographical features within the southeastern United States.

Increase map use skills.

Use cardinal directions on a map.

Extend orientation skills by following specific directions as applied to maps.

Understand the impact both socially and economically of technological progress.

Understand the basic economics of trade.

Understand the governments role in providing for safe and effective transportation routes.

Increase vocabulary and reading comprehension.

Learn about famous inventors such as Robert Fulton and how their inventions affected everyday life.

### **Day 1:**

1. Give each child a copy of *A History of Steamboats*.
2. Use the handout first as an oral reading assignment and then allow the students to finish reading the narrative.
3. Students should be directed to underline any words they do not understand.
4. Students should be encouraged to view some of the websites listed at the end of the document, if possible.

**Day 2:**

1. Discuss *A History of Steamboats*. Pay particular attention to unfamiliar vocabulary.
2. Use classroom dictionaries to look up these words and discuss their meaning.
3. Use the classroom map of the United States to locate the states and rivers mentioned in the narrative.
4. Give each child a copy of the Steamboats crossword puzzle as a follow-up to reinforce the vocabulary lesson. This puzzle may be used as a graded assignment.

**Day 3:**

1. Give each child a copy of *The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Snagboat Montgomery*.
2. Use the handout first as an oral reading assignment and then allow the students to finish reading the narrative.
3. Students should be directed to underline any words they do not understand.

**Day 4:**

1. Discuss *The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Snagboat Montgomery*. Pay particular attention to unfamiliar vocabulary.
2. Use classroom dictionaries to look up these words and discuss their meaning.
3. Use the classroom map of the United States to locate the states and rivers mentioned in the narrative.
4. Give each child a copy of the Montgomery crossword puzzle as a follow-up to reinforce the vocabulary lesson. This puzzle may be used as a graded assignment.

**Day 5:**

1. Give each child a copy of *The Geography of the Snagboat Montgomery*.
2. This assignment should be done individually. Students will need to use an atlas to answer some of the questions. This assignment may be graded.

**Day 6:**

Field trip to the *Montgomery*. Please tell Rangers at Tom Bevill Visitor Center that your class has completed these lessons.

The Tom Bevill Visitor Center has several displays about local wildlife, the construction of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, and the placement of the Montgomery into the dry berth. Rangers can arrange for several short video presentations to be shown to classroom groups.