Mississippi River  
   
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The Mississippi River is the primary river of the largest drainage basin in the United States. It is the  
second-longest river in the United States, behind only the Missouri. From its traditional source of Lake  
Itasca in northern Minnesota, it flows generally south for 2,340 mi (3,770 km) to the Mississippi River  
Delta in the Gulf of Mexico. With its many tributaries, the Mississippi's watershed drains all or parts of  
32 U.S. states and two Canadian provinces