

Hudson is a tidal estuary, where saltwater from the Atlantic mixes with freshwater. The stunning scenery of the Hudson Valley inspired the Hudson River School of painting, and the river remains a crucial transportation corridor and ecological asset, though it also carries a legacy of industrial pollution, most notably from General Electric's PCBs.

- **The Arkansas River:** This river is one of the major tributaries of the Mississippi. It flows for 1,469 miles from the Rocky Mountains of Colorado through Kansas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. It is a key source of water for irrigation and municipal use in the semi-arid High Plains and is also a popular destination for whitewater rafting in its upper reaches.
- **The Delaware River:** Flowing for 330 miles along the borders of Pennsylvania, New York,

New Jersey, and Delaware, the Delaware River is a major water supply for over 15 million people, including New York City and Philadelphia. It is famous for George Washington's crossing during the American Revolution and is also a strong example of successful interstate cooperation in water management and pollution control.

CONCLUSION: THE ENDURING IMPORTANCE OF AMERICA'S RIVERS

The major rivers of the United States are far more than lines on a map. They are the defining features of the American landscape, providing water, food, energy, transportation, and inspiration. They have been the conduits of exploration and