

Rivers Run Through It

A **physical map** shows the **landscape** of the area covered: its mountains, rivers, and valleys, for example. A **relief map** is a one kind of physical map; it shows the heights and steepness of these features of the landscape. Like all maps, relief maps have a **legend**, a **compass rose**, and a **scale**.

Use the Relief Map of New York State to answer the questions below.

1. The following states border New York. Fill in the blank boxes on the map with the correct state names.

Pennsylvania New Jersey Connecticut Massachusetts Vermont

2. On the map, major bodies of water are labeled with numbers. Identify each one by writing the proper number next to each name below.

_____ Atlantic Ocean

_____ New York Harbor

_____ Long Island Sound

_____ Hudson River

_____ Lake Champlain

_____ Mohawk River

_____ Lake Erie

_____ Lake Ontario

3. An **estuary** is a body of water in which salty ocean water mixes with fresh water. Estuaries are located near the ocean and connected to it but partly surrounded by land. Three of the water bodies listed in Question 2 are estuaries. Which three are they?

4. The Hudson flows through or past three large sets of mountains. They are labeled with numbers on the map. Identify each one by writing the proper number next to its name below.

_____ Adirondack Mountains _____ Catskill Mountains _____ Hudson Highlands

5. Using the compass rose on the map, complete the following sentences by writing in the proper direction—north, south, east, or west.

Example: Vermont is north of Massachusetts.

- a. Near Kingston, the Catskill Mountains are _____ of the Hudson River.
- b. The Hudson flows _____ from the Adirondacks to New York Harbor.
- c. Albany is _____ of New York City.
- d. Starting near Syracuse, the Mohawk River flows _____ to the Hudson.

6. Using the scale on the map, estimate the distances below.

- a. The length of the Hudson from Kingston to Albany _____
- b. The distance between Syracuse and Albany _____
- c. The length of the Hudson from the Troy Dam to New York Harbor _____

7. The Erie **Canal** was built so that **cargo** and people could travel by water all the way from Lake Erie to New York City. The canal ran from Buffalo to the Hudson River at Albany, following the Mohawk River for much of its length. Why didn't the canal run in a straight line from Buffalo to New York City?

Relief Map of New York State

