

## The Tennessee Valley Authority

## GEOGRAPHY WORKSHEET 34

### Human-Environment Interactions

Directions: Read the paragraphs below and study the map carefully. Then answer the questions that follow.

The story of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is a story of people improving their environment. The Tennessee River flows southwest and then north through a valley in the southeastern United States. The river basin covers parts of seven states. For years, people living in the valley accepted annual floods as a way of life. Heavy rains on steep slopes caused soil erosion, and the excess water often choked the river, causing it to flood. At other times, lack of water kept the river too low for navigation.

People's misuse of natural resources also caused problems. Excessive timber harvesting depleted the surrounding forest, and the barren lands promoted soil erosion. Poor farm management and farming practices further damaged the soil.

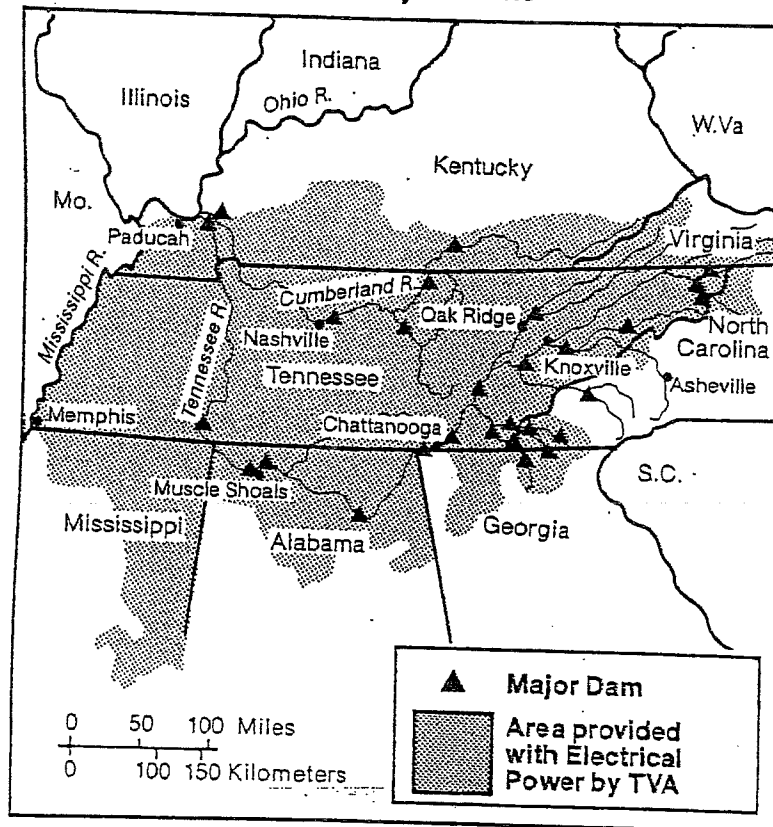
By 1933 the Tennessee Valley had become synonymous with poverty. People there earned two-fifths the national average income, suffered from disease and malnutrition, and, in many cases, lived without electricity. The area

boasted little manufacturing; the few urban centers were small and economically depressed.

The Tennessee Valley Act of 1933, part of President Roosevelt's New Deal legislation, delegated six important tasks to the Tennessee Valley Authority. The tasks were to control flooding of the Tennessee River, to improve navigation, to improve the use of land, to develop electric power facilities, to reforest the valley, and to improve socioeconomic conditions.

The project included nine major dams on the Tennessee River and eighteen smaller dams on its tributaries. New industries were attracted to the area because water power created by the dams provided inexpensive electricity. Employment opportunities multiplied, and large projects such as the NASA rocket center came to the valley. Urban centers, such as Knoxville and Chattanooga, now make major contributions to the economy.

The TVA Area and its Major Dams



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_

Score \_\_\_\_\_

**Extending Map Skills**

1. Compare the map shown here with a physical map of the United States in an atlas. From which mountains do the Tennessee River's tributaries flow?

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2. From which larger river does the Tennessee River appear to flow? Where do they meet?

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3. Which other major river within the Tennessee Valley is shown on the map?

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4. Which seven states receive TVA-generated electric power?

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5. Where are most of the TVA dams located?

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6. Approximately how many kilometers wide is the area that the TVA covers?

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7. Name three urban centers shown on the map.

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**Making Judgments**

8. The system of dams along the Tennessee River controls flood waters in the Tennessee Valley. It also helps lessen the severity of flooding along the lower Mississippi River each year. How is this made possible?

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**Understanding Cause and Effect**

9. What two major factors caused the problems in the Tennessee Valley?

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10. List four benefits of the system of dams created by the TVA.

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