

River Choices Answer Key

1. The river was wide, fast, and dangerous, which made the explorers unsure if they should cross.
2. It is spring. The passage mentions "spring snowmelt," which causes the river to rush.
3. To keep the men safe and avoid the strong current that could sweep them away.
4. The group worked together to make decisions and listened to each other before acting.
5. Answers will vary, but students should make a reasonable guess based on the text (for example, they might face more challenges or find safer places to launch their canoes).

Teacher's Guide

- Preview key terms: "current," "delayed," and "shore"
- Have students highlight clues in the passage that support their answers
- Encourage students to justify responses with "because" statements

Differentiation

- Provide sentence starters for developing writers:
 - "I think they hesitated because..."
 - "The season must be... because the text says..."
- Challenge advanced learners to rewrite the scene from another point of view (e.g., York or Sacagawea)

Engagement and Extension Ideas

- Tie in geography: Show a map of the Missouri River and identify tricky spots
- Science connection: Discuss what causes rivers to flow faster after snowmelt