MATHEMATICS

River Math Worksheet

Traveling Waterways

For generations, the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw People have traveled rivers to visit family, gather resources, trade, and participate in community events. Today we will investigate how mathematics can help us think about travel.

Noticing a Pattern

Imagine a canoe traveling down a river. The canoe travels 3 miles in 1 hour.
Complete the Table.

Time	Distance Traveled	Explain Your Thinking
1 hour	3 miles	
2 hours	____ miles	
3 hours	____ miles	
4 hours	____ miles	
5 hours	____ miles	

Notice: What pattern do you see?

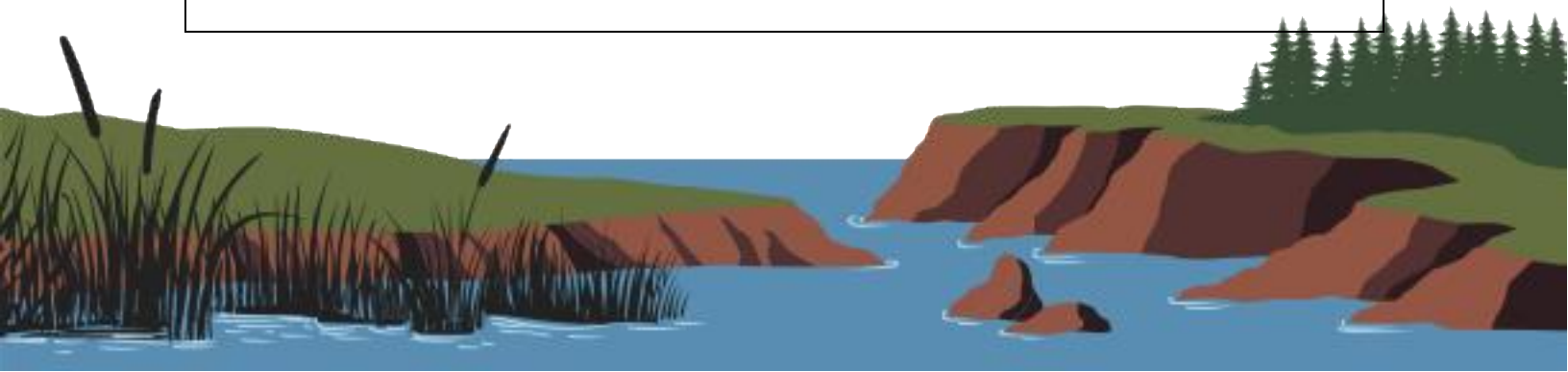
_____

_____

Canoe Challenge

A family wants to travel 12 miles by canoe.
Use the pattern above:

How many hours would the 12-mile trip take? _____
Show or explain your thinking below:



River Investigation

River	Total River Length	Planned Travel Route Length
Coos River	5 miles	5 miles
Siuslaw River	110 miles	15 miles
Umpqua River	111 miles	24 miles

Rivers can stretch for many miles, but travelers usually journey along only part of a river. For this investigation, we will calculate travel times for planned canoe routes rather than the entire river length. Communities have long used knowledge of waterways to plan travel and stay connected.

Complete the table below:

River	Planned Travel Route Length	Time Traveled
Siuslaw River	18 miles	____ miles
Umpqua River	24 miles	____ miles
Challenge: Coos River	5 miles	Will the trip take: ☐ Less than 1 hour ☐ Exactly 1 hour ☐ More than 1 hour

A New Situation

Now imagine the canoe travels 6 miles in 1 hour.

Choose one river from above.

Calculate how long the trip might take if the canoe travels 6 miles each hour. _____

What changes? What stays the same?

_____

_____

Reflection

What knowledge besides mathematics might help someone plan a canoe journey?

_____

_____

