

## Make Your Own Page 5 of Thomas Jefferson's Manuscript of *Notes on the State of Virginia*

### Summary statement about the manuscript

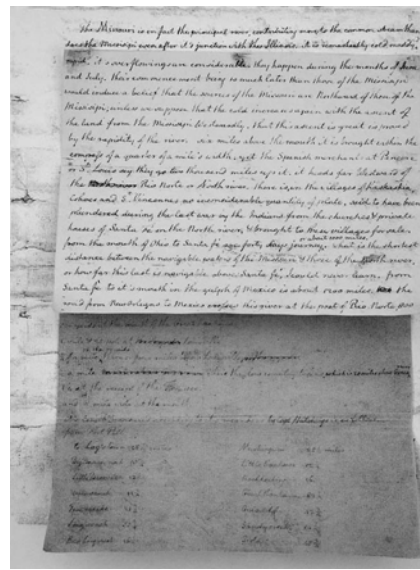
The Massachusetts Historical Society owns a remarkable manuscript copy of Thomas Jefferson's only full-length book, *Notes on the State of Virginia*. Jefferson reworked an earlier version of this text by attaching additional smaller pieces of paper to some of the full pages, using sealing wax, and he also inserted additional full pages. Jefferson seems to have written this manuscript mainly in 1783 and 1784 by incorporating, correcting and expanding on what he had written in 1781 and 1782. This handwritten document illuminates the evolution of Jefferson's thinking and was the copy used by the printer who typeset the first privately printed edition in Paris in 1785.

We selected page 5, which has two attachments, as a good example of how Jefferson expanded on a full page of text. Assembling these components to recreate Jefferson's page will illustrate how the tabs function throughout the manuscript. A tab was a hinged (or folded) attachment with handwriting on both sides, which Jefferson affixed to the full page as an insertion in the running text. The hinge allowed the reader to flip the tab up, and easily follow the text from the recto (front side of tab) to the verso (back side).

### Components relating to page 5

- Full page 5
- Attachment 5.1 recto (front)
- Attachment 5.1 verso (back)
- Attachment 5.2 recto (front)
- Attachment 5.2 verso (back)

### Image of page 5 with the two attachments in place



### Instructions

After printing out this PDF:

1. Cut out the 4 images of the attachments (5.1 recto, 5.1 verso, 5.2 recto, 5.2 verso).
2. Glue together the blank sides of 5.1 recto and 5.1 verso, matching up the dotted lines. This creates the completed attachment 5.1. It is double-sided and one side reads upside down from the other.
3. Glue together the blank sides of 5.2 recto and 5.2 verso, matching up the dotted lines. This creates the completed attachment 5.2. It is double-sided and one side reads upside down from the other.
4. With the recto side facing up, fold the completed 5.1 attachment up towards you, along the dotted line.
5. Glue attachment 5.1 to full page 5 using the red outlines as guides.
6. With the recto side facing up, fold the completed 5.2 attachment up towards you, along the dotted line.
7. Glue attachment 5.2 to full page 5 using the black outlines as guides.

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Red outline shows where to affix attachment 5.1.

The Missouri is in fact the principal river, contributing more to the current than does the Mississippi even after it's junction with the Illinois. It is remarkably cold, muddy & rapid. six miles above the mouth, it is brought within the compass of a quarter of a mile's width: yet the Spanish merchants at Pancore or S<sup>t</sup>. Louis say they go 2000 miles up it. it heads far Westward of the North river. there is in the villages of Kaskaskia, Cohoes and S<sup>t</sup>. Vincennes no inconsiderable quantity of plate, said to have been plundered during the last war by the Indians from the churches & private houses of Santa fe on the North river. & brought to these villages for sale. from the mouth of Ohio to Santa fe <sup>or about a thousand mile</sup> are 40 days journey. the overflowsings of the Missouri are considerable. they happen during the months of June & July. their commencement being so much later than those of the Mississippi would induce a belief that the Missouri is a more rapid river than the Mississippi. ~~the cold increases again with the ascent of the land from the Mississippi. the Missouri is a fine river, clear, gentle & without rapids; insomuch that it is navigable for batteaux to it's source. from thence is a portage of two miles only to the Chickago which affords a batteau navigation of 40 leagues to it's entrance into lake Michigan. the Illinois about 10. miles above it's mouth is 300 yards wide.~~

The Kaskaskia is 100 yards wide at it's entrance into the Mississippi & preserves that breadth to the Buffalo plains, 70 miles above. so far also it is navigable for loaded batteaux & perhaps much further. it is not rapid.

The Ohio is the most beautiful river on earth. it's current gentle, waters clear, & bosom smooth & unbroken by rocks or rapids, a single instance only, excepted.

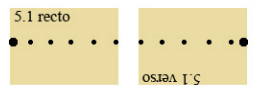
Black outline shows where to affix attachment 5.2.

it is 1/2 mile wide at the mouth.  
~~40~~ 45 miles above the mouth  
 5 1/2 at the receipt of the Tennessee  
 1/2 a mile, 20 miles above Green river where the champain country ends:  
 1/2 of a mile, 3 or 4 miles below Louisville on the rapids:  
 1/2 mile & 25. poles at Louisville:  
 500 yards at the mouth of the Great Kanaway:  
 1/2 of a mile at Fort Pitt.

in common winter & spring tides it affords 15. f. water to Louisville, 10 f. to La Tarte's rapids 40. miles above the mouth of the Great Kanaway, and a sufficiency at all times for light batteaux & canoes to Fort Pitt. <sup>the rapids are in latitude 38° 8'</sup> ~~the river is the~~  
~~the inundations of this river~~  
 begin about the last of March & subside in July. during these a first rate man of war

**INSTRUCTIONS TO  
CREATE  
ATTACHMENT 5.1**

1. Print out this page and cut out 5.1 recto and 5.1 verso.
2. Place 5.1 recto text-side up.
3. Place 5.1 verso text-side up, but with text upside down, so that the dotted lines on each printout line up with each other. (see diagram below).



4. Affix the back of 5.1 recto to the back of 5.1 verso so that the large dots on either end of the fold line come together. These two pieces, once affixed to each other, make up attachment 5.1. It is double-sided and one side reads upside down from the other.
5. With the recto side facing up, fold attachment 5.1 up towards you along the dotted line.
6. With the recto side facing up, glue attachment 5.1 to full page 5 using red outlines as guides.

rapid. it's overflowings are considerable. they happen during the month of June and July. their commencement being so much later than those of the Mississippi would induce a belief that the sources of the Missouri are Northward of those of the Mississippi; unless we suppose that the cold increases again with the ascent of the land from the Mississippi Westwardly. that this ascent is great is proved by the rapidity of the river. six miles above the mouth it is brought within the compass of a quarter of a mile's width: yet the Spanish merchants at Pancora or S. Louis say they go two thousand miles up it. it heads far Westward of the ~~North river~~ Rio Norte or North river. there is, in the villages of Kaskaskia, Cohoes and S. Vincennes, no inconsiderable quantity of plate, said to have been plundered during the last war by the Indians from the churches & private houses of Santa Fe on the North river, & brought to these villages for sale. from the mouth of Ohio to Santa fe are forty days' journey, <sup>or about 1000 miles.</sup> what is the shortest distance between the navigable waters of the Missouri & those of the North river, or how far this last is navigable above Santa fe, I could never learn. from Santa fe to it's mouth in the gulph of Mexico is about 1200 miles. ~~but~~ the <sup>North river</sup> ~~North river~~ crosses this river at the post of Rio Norte, 800

5.1 recto

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miles below Santa fe: and from this post to New Orleans is about 200 miles: thus making it 2000 miles between Santa fe and New Orleans, passing down the North river, Red river & Mississippi; whereas it is 2230 through the Missouri & Mississippi. From the same post of Rio Norte, passing near the mines of La Sierra & Laiguana, which are between the North river & the river Salina, <sup>to Sautilla,</sup> is 375 miles; and from thence, passing the mines of Charcas, Zaccatecas & Potosi, to the city of Mexico is 375 miles; in all 1550 miles from Santa fe to the city of Mexico. from New Orleans to the city of Mexico is about 1950 miles: the roads, after setting out from the Red river, near Natchitoches, keeping generally parallel with the coast, and about two hundred miles from it, till it enters the city of Mexico.

5.1 verso

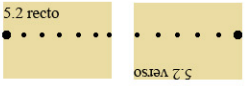
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Red outline shows where attachment 5.1 attaches to page 5.

After 5.1 verso has been affixed to 5.1 recto, glue this red outline to the red outline on full page 5. This will place attachment 5.1 correctly on to full page 5.

**INSTRUCTIONS TO  
CREATE  
ATTACHMENT 5.2**

1. Print out this page and cut out 5.2 recto and 5.2 verso.
2. Place 5.2 recto text-side up.
3. Place 5.2 verso text-side up, but with text upside down, so that the dotted lines on each printout line up (see diagram below).



4. Affix the back of 5.2 recto to the back of 5.2 verso so that the large dots on either end of the fold line come together. These two pieces, once affixed to each other, make up attachment 5.2. It is double-sided and one side reads upside down from the other.
5. With the recto side facing up, fold attachment 5.2 up towards you along the dotted line.
6. With the recto side facing up, glue attachment 5.2 to full page 5 using black outlines as guides.

5.2  
**5.2 recto**

It is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  a mile wide at Fort Pitt  
500 yards at the mouth of the Great Kanhoway.  
 $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile & 25 pole at the Rapids Louisville  
on the rapids  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  of a mile three or four miles below Louisville; ~~with rapids~~  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile ~~considerable rapids~~ where the low country begins which is 20 miles above <sup>river</sup> Green  
 $1\frac{1}{2}$  at the receipt of the Tennessee.  
and a mile wide at the mouth.  
The length of the river according to the records by Capt. Hutchings is as follows  
from Fort Pitt

to Log's town $18\frac{1}{2}$ miles	Muskogum $25\frac{1}{2}$ miles
Big Beaver creek $10\frac{3}{4}$	Little Kanhoway $12\frac{1}{2}$
Little Beaver cr. $12\frac{1}{2}$	Hockhocking $16$
Yellowcreek $11\frac{3}{4}$	Great Kanhoway $82\frac{1}{2}$
Two creeks $21\frac{1}{2}$	Guiana dt. $13\frac{3}{4}$
Long creek $53\frac{1}{2}$	Sandy creek $14\frac{1}{2}$
	Solo. $18\frac{3}{4}$

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**5.2 verso**

Little Miami $126\frac{1}{2}$ miles	Buffalo river $66\frac{1}{2}$
Licking creek $8$	Wabach $97\frac{1}{4}$
Great Miami $26\frac{1}{2}$	Big cave $42\frac{3}{4}$
Big bones. $32\frac{1}{2}$	Shawnee R. $52\frac{1}{2}$
Kentuckey $14\frac{1}{2}$	Cherokee R. $13$
Rapids. $77\frac{1}{2}$	Massac. $11$
Low country $155\frac{3}{4}$	Missouri $46$
	<u>1188.</u>

After 5.2 verso has been affixed to 5.2 recto,  
glue this black outline to the black outline on full page 5.  
This will place attachment 5.2 correctly on to full page 5.

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Black outline shows where attachment 5.2 attaches to page 5.