

Student Instructions for Natchez Trace Ecoregions:

Review: What is a biome? What is abiotic? What is biotic? What is a landform?

An ecoregion (or bioregion) is a part of a biome. A biome may contain many different types of soils and landforms. An ecoregion is part of a biome that has a particular soil type and landform. There can be many different types of ecoregions in a biome. Even though two of the same kind of ecoregion may not be near each other, they will usually have many of the same types of biotic factors (plant and animals). An easy example to imagine is our country's Atlantic shoreline. The shore is within a deciduous forest biome. The shoreline in northern Florida has similar soil and land form as the shoreline in Maryland even though they are far away. Both are different than the Appalachian Mountains that are in the same biome. They may be considered the same ecoregion. They would have the same or similar plants and animals. Different scientists may have different definitions to various ecoregions.

Ecosystems are smaller, localized areas within ecoregions.

The Natchez Trace Parkway has seven different ecoregions (see the diagram). Your assignment is to investigate the different ecoregions along the Trace. You will need access to the internet to do this assignment.

Fill out the information boxes and see if you can find pictures to go along with your information. Be sure to keep track of where you found the information.

When you are finished, you will present your information to the class and enter it into a class scrapbook.

When you have finished filling out the information in the table, answer these questions:

How would you describe the biodiversity of your ecoregion.

Are there any unique, unusual or special ecosystems in your ecoregion? Describe them.

Imagine a specific disaster and explain how that disaster would affect your ecoregion.

What's in 444 miles?
More than you think!

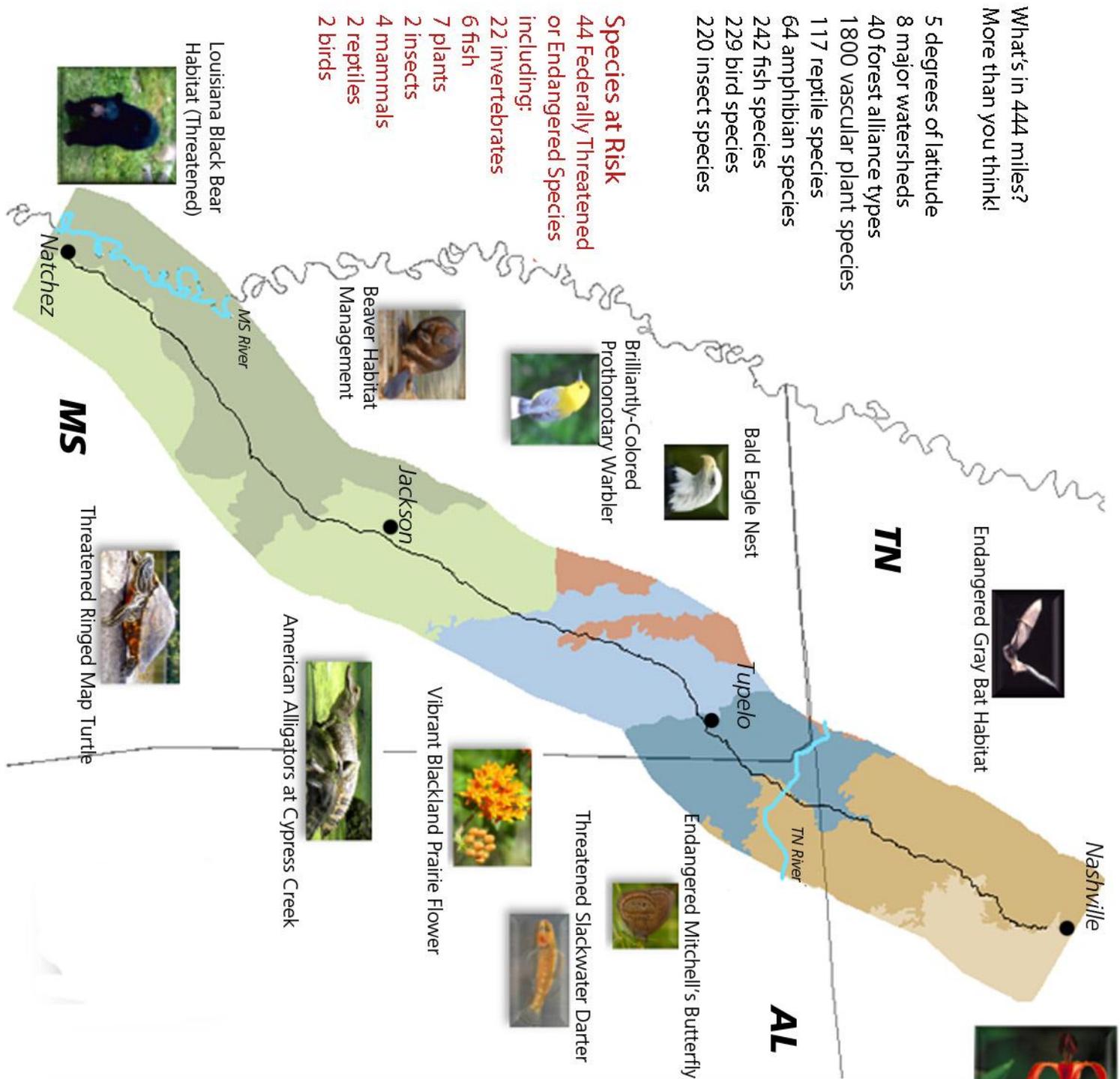
- 5 degrees of latitude
- 8 major watersheds
- 40 forest alliance types
- 1800 vascular plant species
- 117 reptile species
- 64 amphibian species
- 242 fish species
- 229 bird species
- 220 insect species

Species at Risk
44 Federally Threatened or Endangered Species including:

- 22 invertebrates
- 6 fish
- 7 plants
- 2 insects
- 4 mammals
- 2 reptiles
- 2 birds



Michigan Lily
TN state threatened species



	Natchez Trace PKWY
	Nashville Basin
	Highland Rim
	Fall Line Hills
	Blackland Prairie/Margins
	Northern Hilly Gulf Coastal Plain
	Southern Rolling Hills
	MS Valley Bluff Hills and Loess Plains

Name _____

Ecoregion _____

Abiotic Factors	Soil Characteristics	
	Landforms	
	Water Factors	Land
		Precipitation

Biotic Factors	Plants - Common	
	Plants - Rare or Threatened	
	Animals - Common	
	Animals - Rare or Threatened	