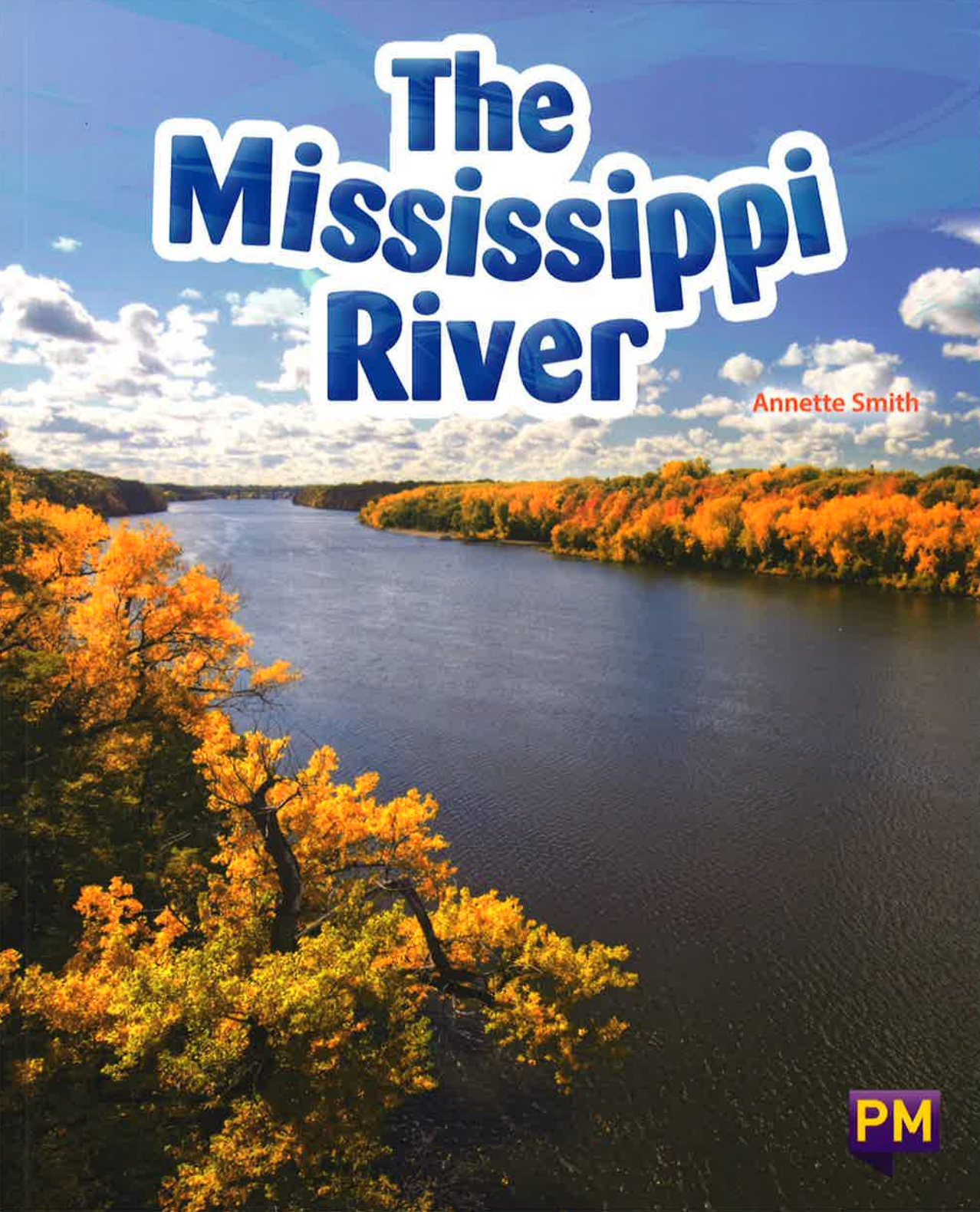

The Mississippi River
Annette Smith
PM

For teachers' inspection ONLY

The Mississippi River

Level 21

Running Words 685 **Text Type** Description (Informative)

Curriculum Area Humanities – Geography

Retelling to encourage critical thinking about the content

Ask each student to retell the description in his or her own words.

Record the retelling for further discussion and reflection.

Think and Talk About ...

Fact boxes in the book encourage each student to explore the statements further and to share the information with others.

Questions to reinforce meaning and stimulate discussion

Literal

1 Where does the Mississippi River meet the ocean?
2 Why do people farm the land alongside the river?
3 Why do eagles build their nests high in trees?

Inferential

4 How do levees protect the towns and cities from flooding?
5 Why could steamboats move safely beneath the arches of the Eads Bridge?
6 Where are the best places to waterski on the river?
7 Why are boating and fishing enjoyed on the Mississippi River?
8 Why have stories and songs been written about the Mississippi River?

Applied Knowledge

9 Why do otters often hunt at night?
10 Why is the Mississippi River an important waterway?

Links with other PM Guided Reading Books and Cards

Level 21	Card	Recount	*The Bird-Spotting Challenge*
Level 22	Card	Poetry	*The Fishing Challenge*
Level 22	Card	Description	*The Moon*

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Mississippi River Facts

The Mississippi River is one of the longest rivers in North America. It begins as a small stream flowing from Lake Itasca, in the state of Minnesota.

The **mouth** of the Mississippi River is near the city of New Orleans, almost 4000 kilometres downstream.

The name "Mississippi" comes from the word "*misi-ziibi*". It is a word from a Native American language. It means "great river".



Think and Talk About ...

Many rivers join the Mississippi River as it flows slowly towards the ocean.

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The Mississippi River



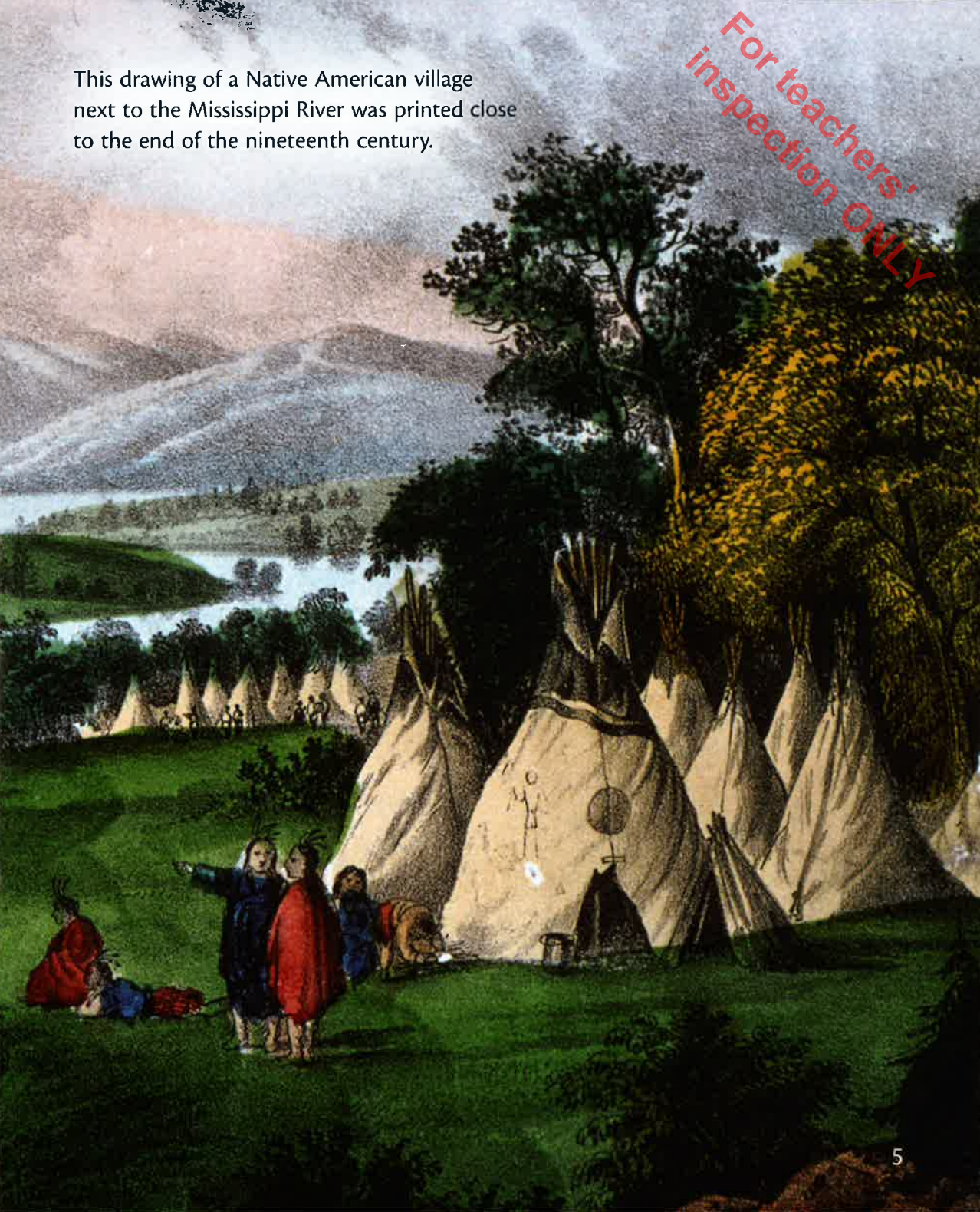
The Mississippi River begins at Lake Itasca.

The land on each side of the great river is **fertile**. It is very good for farming. Farmers use water from the river for their animals and for growing **crops**.

People have always travelled on the Mississippi River. For thousands of years, Native American people used canoes and boats to travel up and down the river.



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This drawing of a Native American village next to the Mississippi River was printed close to the end of the nineteenth century.

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In the nineteenth century, steamboats and **barges** were built. These could carry much larger and heavier loads up and down the river.

Today, ships are used close to the ocean, where the river is deeper and wider. They carry huge loads of wood, grain, **steel** and other cargo.



Some steamboats with paddlewheels are still used on the Mississippi River today.

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A ship carries a heavy load on the Mississippi River.

Think and Talk About ...

Many steamboats had large paddlewheels made from wood.