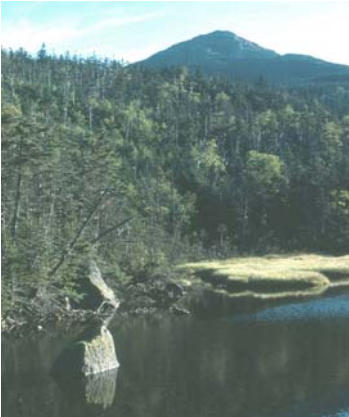


*Read the following essay and answer the questions.*



## Reading: From the Mountains to the Sea

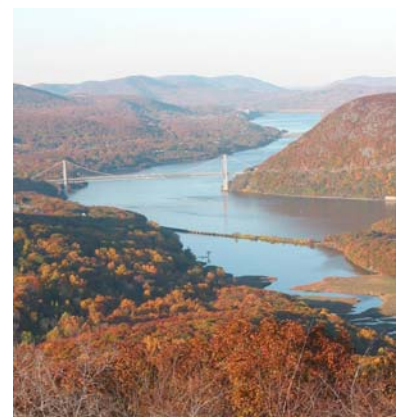
High in the Adirondack Mountains, surrounded by evergreen trees, is a little pond called Lake Tear of the Clouds. The tiny brook that flows from Lake Tear is starting a journey 315 miles long. Joining with many other streams, it will become the mighty Hudson River flowing to New York Harbor.

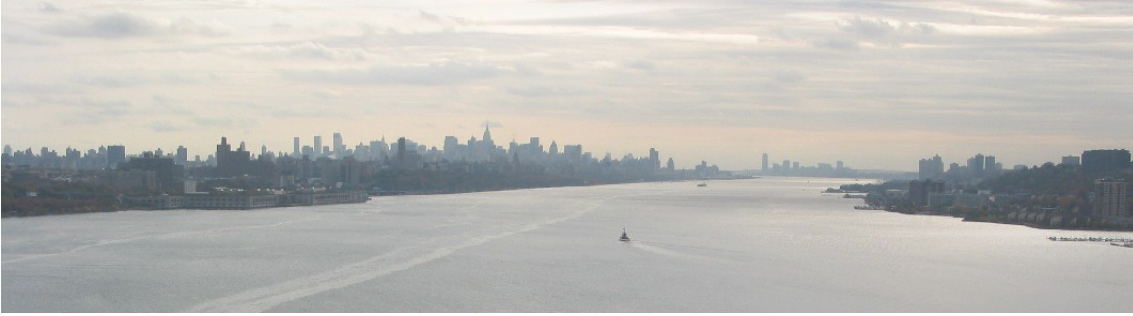
At first, the Hudson rushes downhill over rapids and waterfalls. The water from Lake Tear drops 4,000 feet as it winds through the Adirondacks to the city of Glens Falls. In Fort Edward, the next town downstream, the Hudson becomes part of a canal from Lake Champlain to the city of Troy. The river steps downstream over a set of dams, each with a lock that raises or lowers boats from one section of the canal to the next.



The last of these dams and locks is at Troy. When the river goes over this dam, it drops almost to sea level. Even though the Atlantic Ocean is more than 150 miles away, it influences the Hudson all the way to Troy. The water level here goes up and down with ocean tides. These are the same high and low tides that affect beaches on Long Island and the New Jersey shore.

Closer to the Atlantic, the river flows through mountains called the Hudson Highlands. Here the ocean starts to influence the Hudson in another way. Seawater pushes into the Hudson and mixes with fresh water, making the river taste slightly salty. This mix of salt and fresh water is called brackish water, and places where this mixing occurs are called estuaries.





The Hudson River estuary becomes saltier near New York City. Anglers here catch ocean fish such as flounder. Ocean-going cruise ships dock at river piers.

The first ship to sail up the river was the *Half Moon* in 1609. Its captain was the explorer Henry Hudson, who was looking for a way to sail to Asia. Perhaps the estuary's salt water and tides gave Hudson hope that this was the way to China. He was disappointed in the end, but his voyage was remembered. This great river flowing from the Adirondacks to the Atlantic was named after him.

1. This story is mostly about
  - a. how people use the Hudson River
  - b. the kinds of fish that live in the Hudson River
  - c. the course of the Hudson River
  - d. Lake Tear of the Clouds
2. What is an estuary?
  - a. a stream with rapids and waterfalls
  - b. a place where fresh water and salt water mix
  - c. a kind of ship
  - d. a water route to Asia
3. Where did the Hudson River get its name?
  - a. from an explorer
  - b. from a Native American
  - c. from an ocean fish
  - d. from an estuary
4. Where does the Hudson River begin its journey?
  - a. the City of Troy
  - b. the Adirondack Mountains
  - c. the Hudson Highlands
  - d. the Atlantic Ocean
5. Do you think the Hudson goes over any waterfalls between the dam at Troy and the Atlantic Ocean? Why or why not?
6. When Henry Hudson sailed up the river, why did he decide that it did not lead all the way to China?

