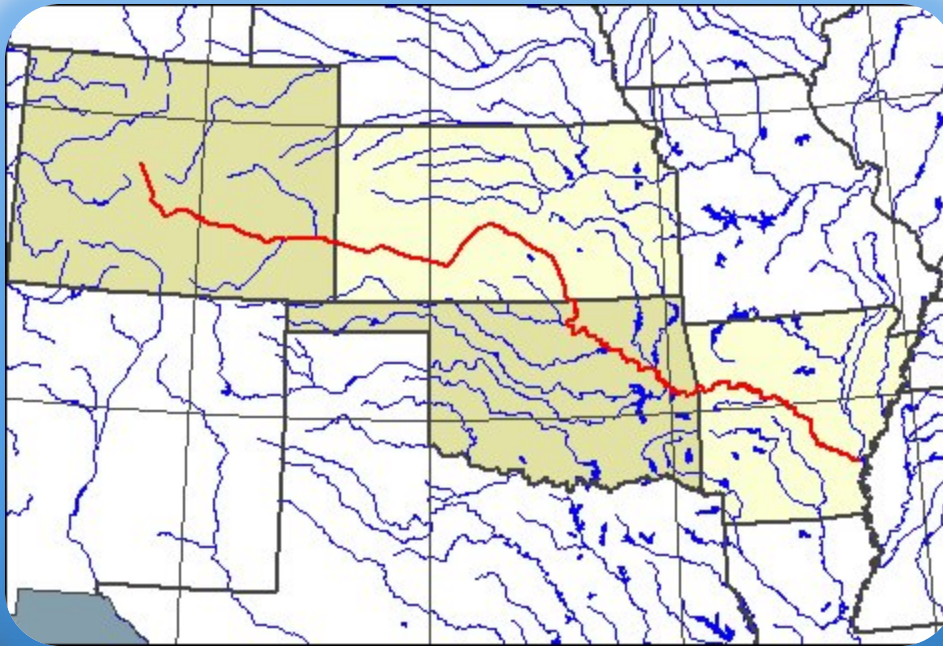


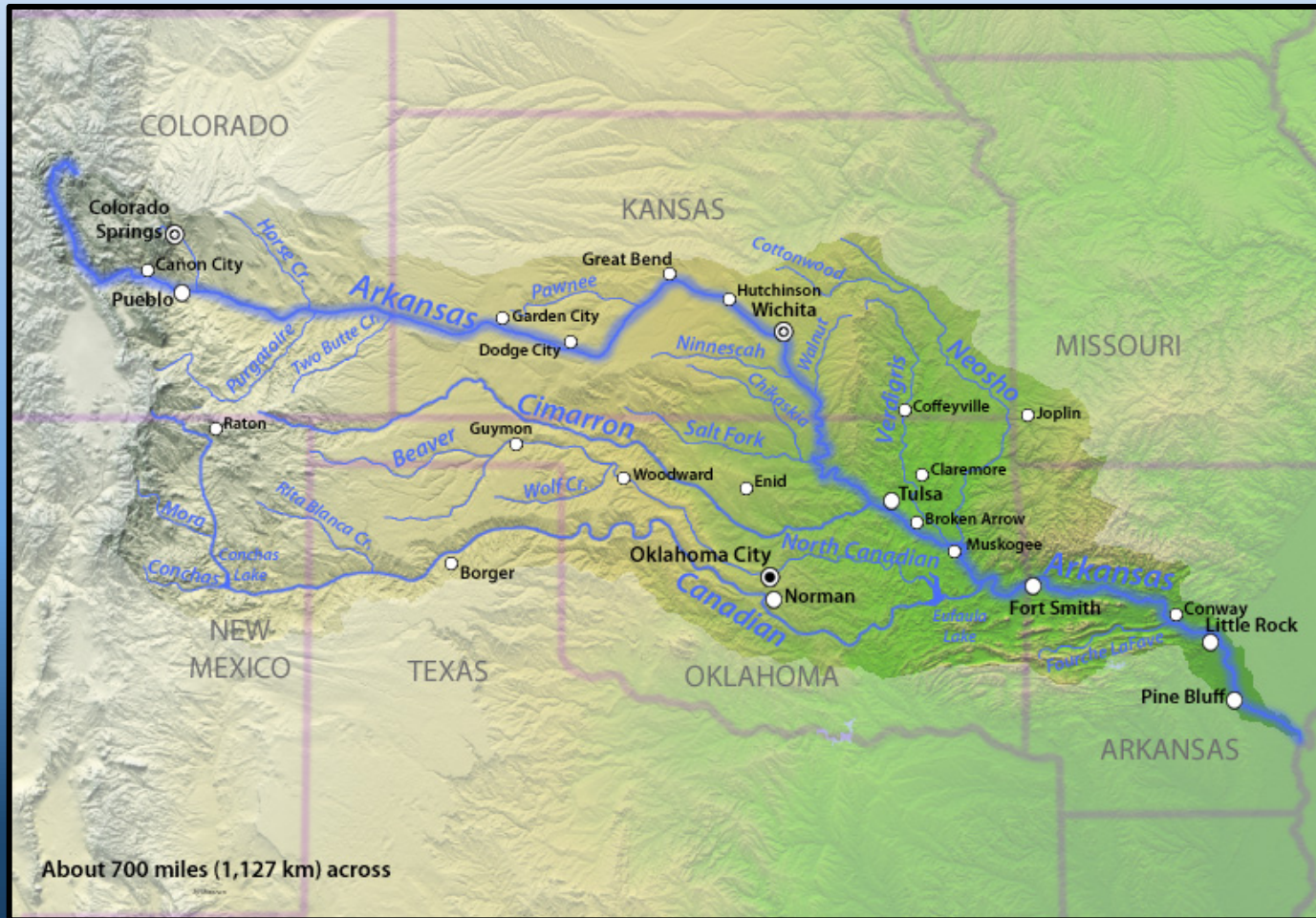
The Arkansas River
Our River – Our Responsibility
Past, Present and Future

Kay Drennen
Arkansas River Coalition

6th Longest US River



7th Largest US Watershed





(Courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service)

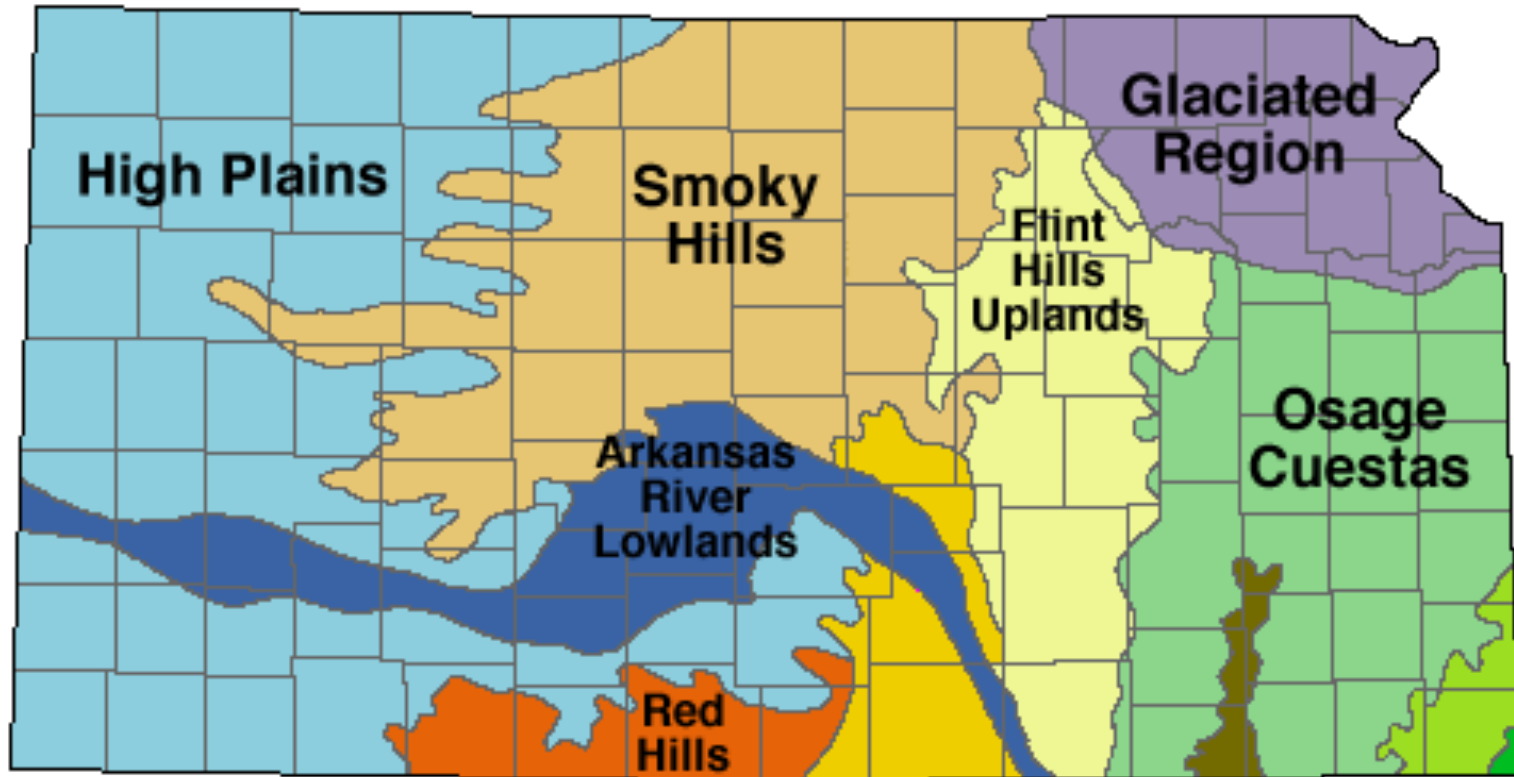
Headwaters of the Ark River



Out Onto the Plains



Generalized Physiographic Map of Kansas



**Wellington-McPherson
Lowlands**

**Chautauqua
Hills**

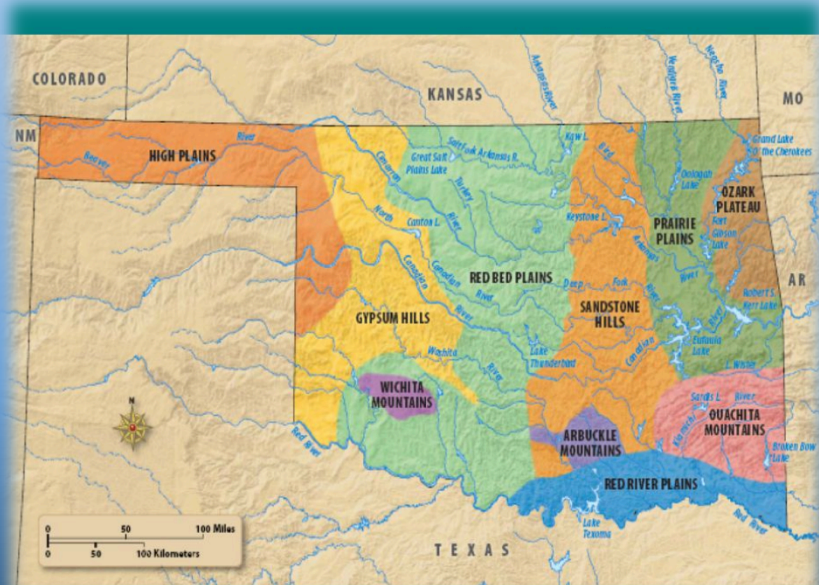
**Cherokee
Lowlands**

**Ozark
Plateau**

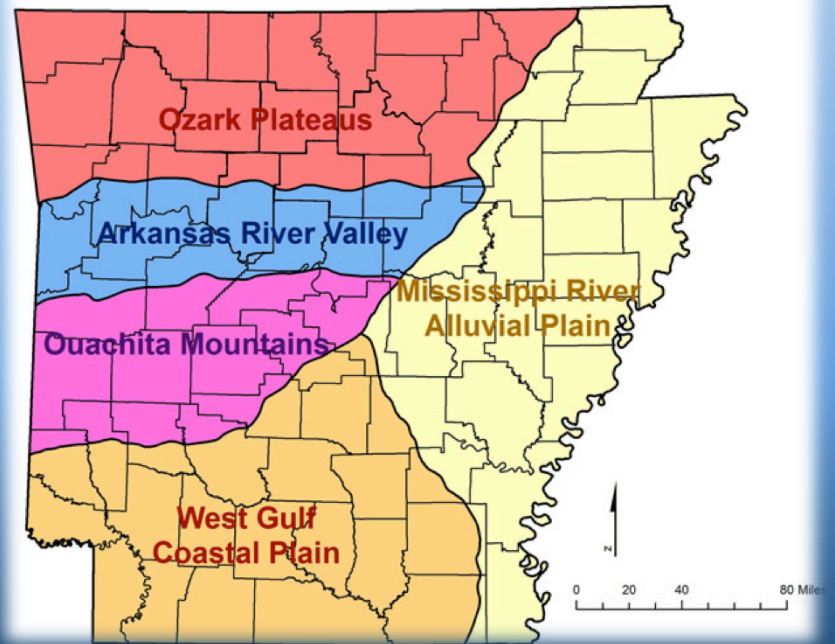
A Braided Sandy Prairie River...



...that Used to Meander



Physiographic Regions of Arkansas



A Hard Working River



Photo courtesy of Oklahoma DOT



BRIEF ACCOUNT OF HUMAN AND THE ARKANSAS RIVER HISTORY

(Photo courtesy of Wichita State Special Collections)

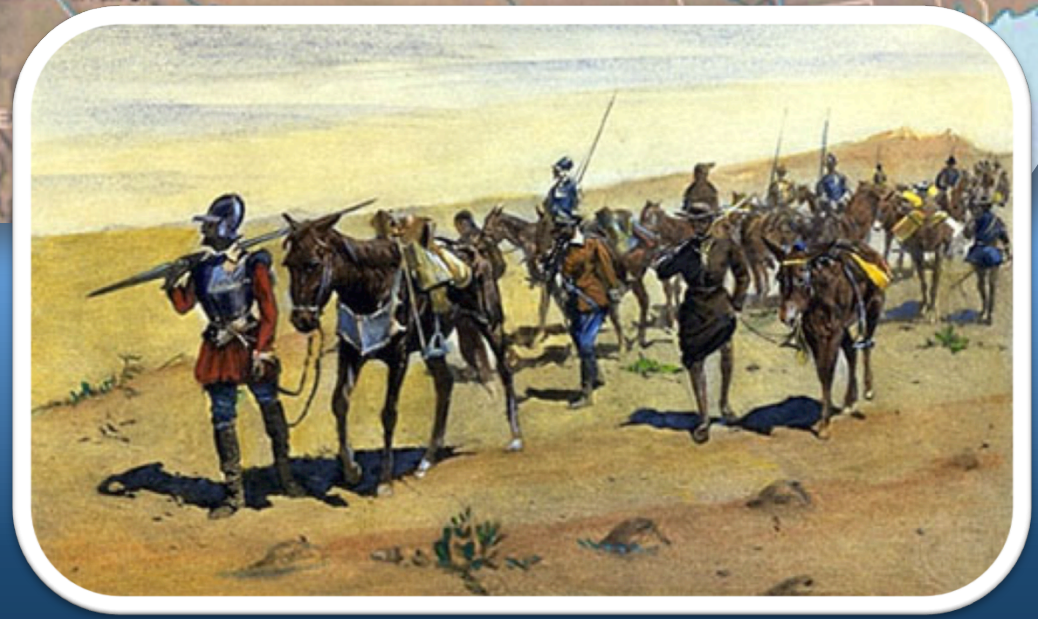
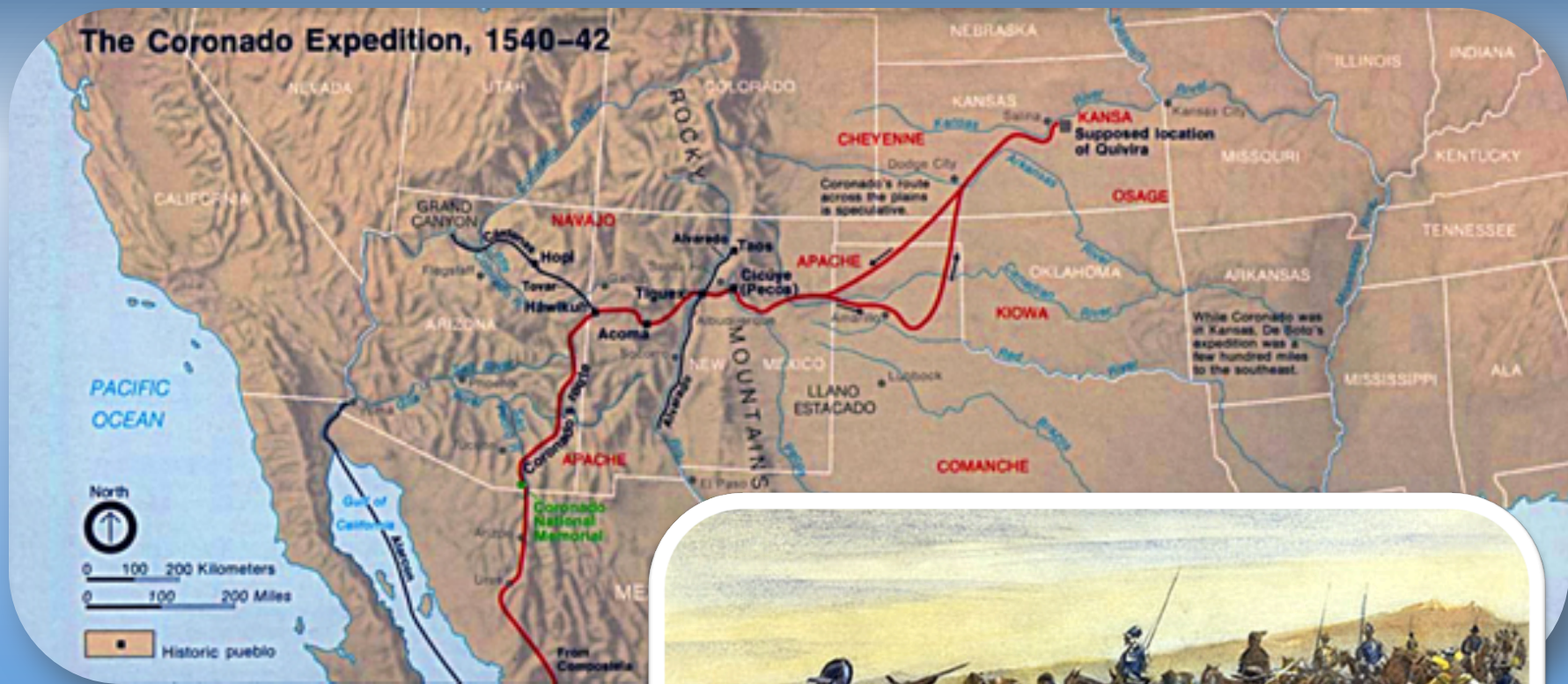
1879



600 – 900 CE



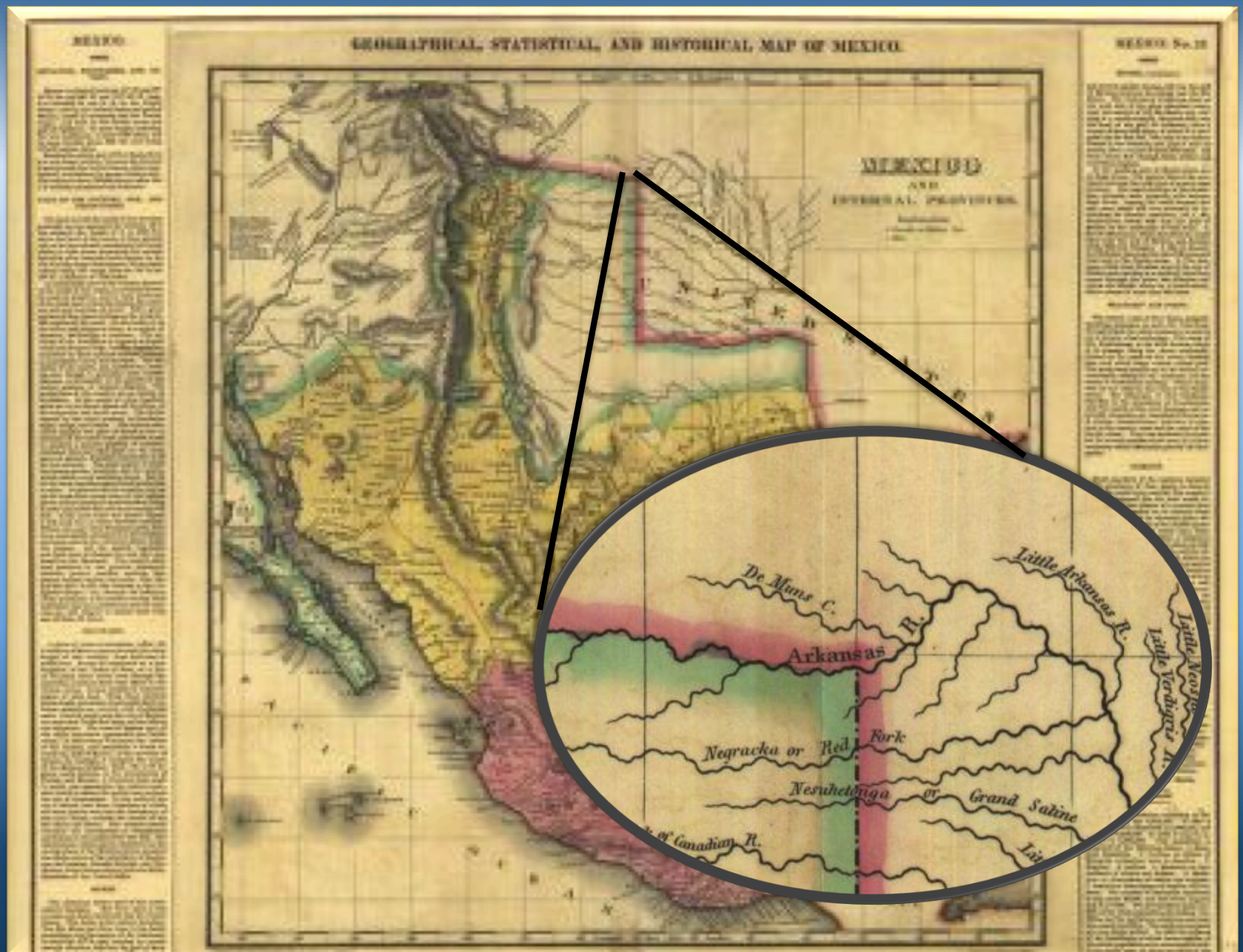
Photo courtesy of The Megalithic Portal



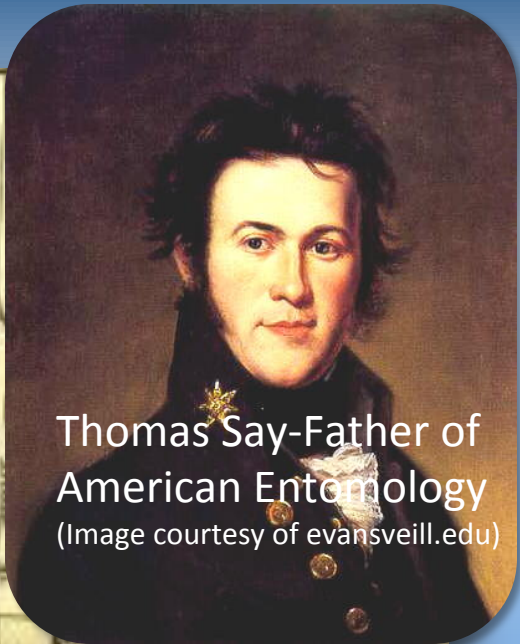
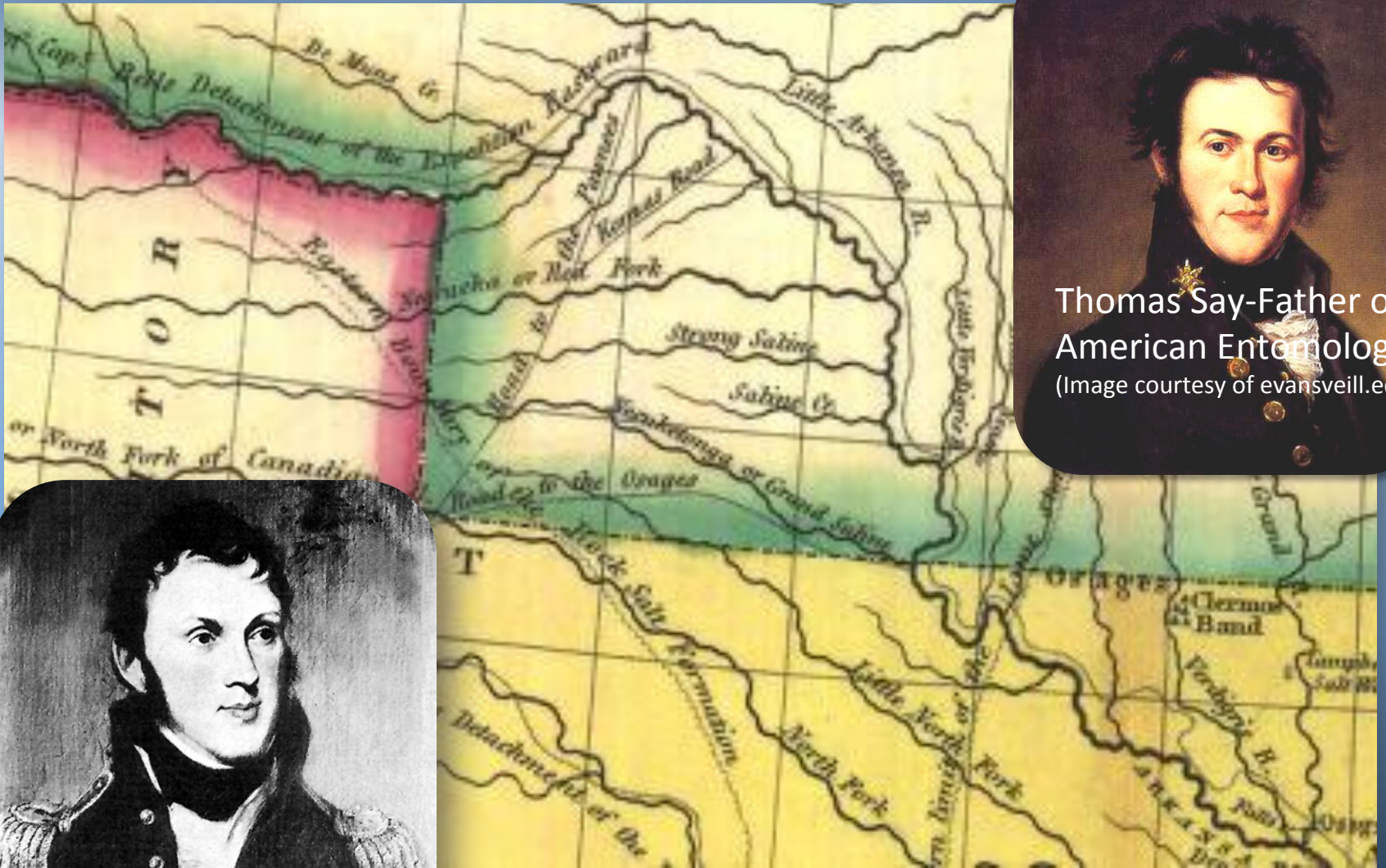
Coronado's Expedition Map,

courtesy of the University of Texas at Austin Libraries.

Coronado's Expedition,
Frederic Remington, 1898.



(Map and Inset courtesy of Wichita State Special Collections)



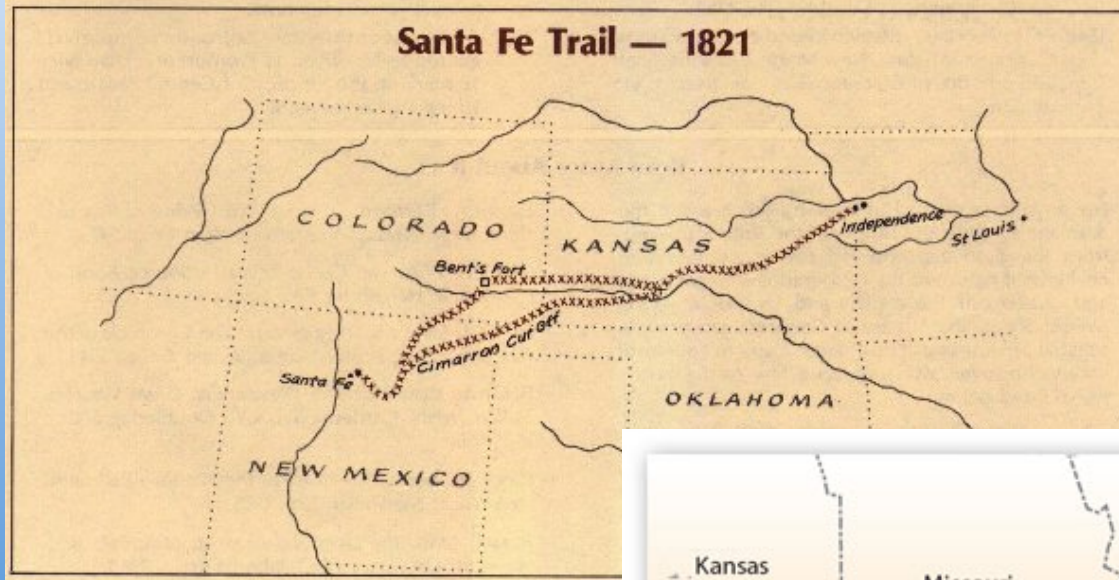
Thomas Say-Father of
American Entomology
(Image courtesy of evansveill.edu)



Major Stephen Harriman Long
(Image courtesy of Legends of America)

(Image courtesy of Wichita State University Special Collections)

A River To Follow



A River for Water

As agriculture came to the plains so did the need for water. The first irrigation ditch was dug in western Kansas around Garden City in 1880 following a drought in the late 1870s. Communities in eastern Colorado quickly followed the Kansans' example.



Photo: Kansas Historical Society



**THE RIVER'S PROBLEMS ARE CREATED
BY HUMANS**

We Do Not Treat the Ark River as a Great American River



Erosion Problems



And the Hits Keep On Coming



Our Lifestyle is the River's Problem



The River Begins At Our Downspout



Our River Our Responsibility

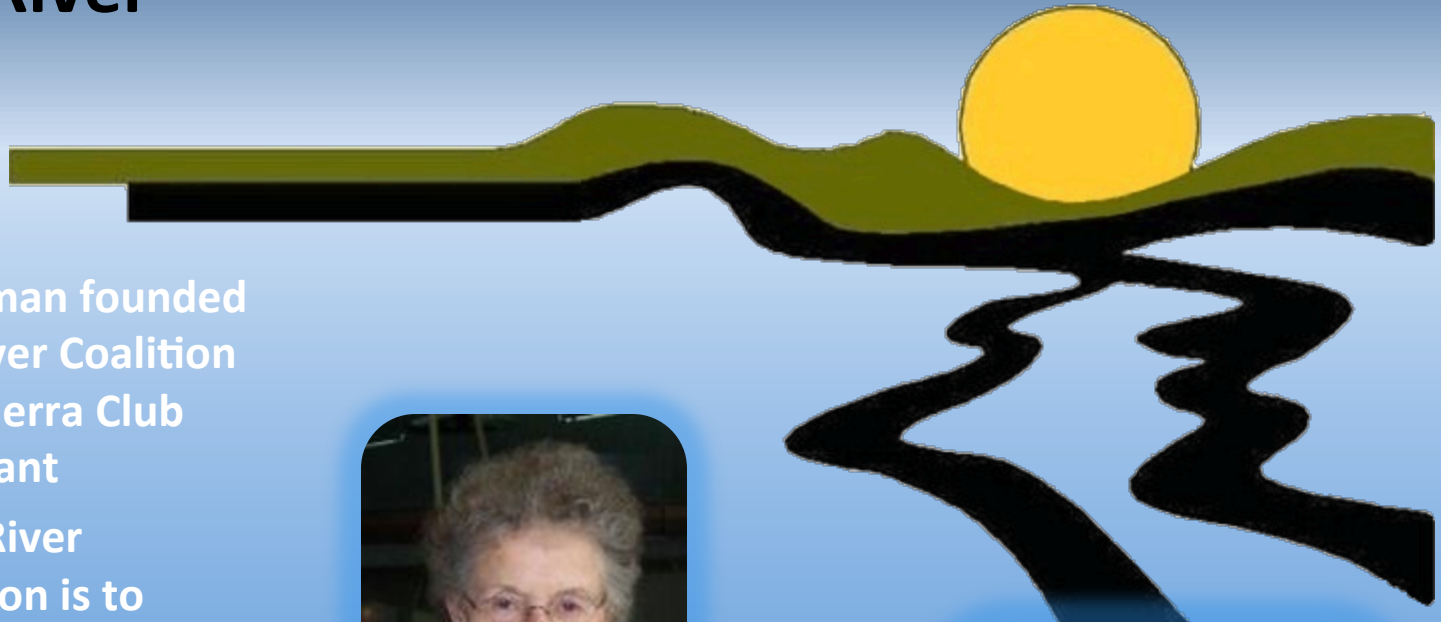
“You cannot protect and preserve one portion of a river without being concerned about the whole river.”

-E. DeEtte Huffman, 2010

THE ARKANSAS RIVER COALITION

Arkansas River Coalition

- E. DeEtte Huffman founded the Arkansas River Coalition in 1997 with a Sierra Club sustainability grant
- The Arkansas River Coalition's mission is to protect, restore and improve the entire watershed and enhance the well-being of all life it sustains.
- It is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit incorporated organization



“You cannot protect and preserve one portion of a river without being concerned about the whole river.”

-E. DeEtte Huffman, 2010

- Members of the ARC lobby at the local and the state level on behalf of the Arkansas River
- The ARC is trying to set up small groups of concerned citizens in every town along the Arkansas River. We want people who live near the river to form groups and work with us to ensure a clean and healthy river. Each group would take responsibility for a section, observe it, clean it up when necessary, and be alert to problems.
- There is a great need to get the public to know and be proud of the river instead of looking at it as something to tolerate because they don't understand it.
- Making the river accessible for everyone 's enjoyment is a goal of the ARC



PROJECTS: River Bank Restoration



PROJECTS: River Floats



PROJECTS: River Access Points



PROJECTS: Supported the Fish Ladder/ Kayak & Canoe Pass



PROJECTS: Rain Gardens & Storm Drain Marking



PROJECTS: River Clean Ups



PROJECTS: National Water Trail

192 miles of the Arkansas River was designated as a National Water Trail in 2016. The stretch begins at Great Bend and extends to the Kansas/Oklahoma border. Only two U.S. states have two National Water Trail rivers, and Kansas is one. The other National Water Trail river is the Kansas River.



Photo credit: Mark Flynn



Great Things are Worth It!

- DeEtte shared the following quote by David M. Bolling with the readers of the ARC newsletter a few years ago, and anyone who has known her will understand why.
- *“Choosing to save a river is more often an act of passion than of careful calculation. You make the choice because the river has touched your life in an intimate and irreversible way, because you are unwilling to accept its loss.”*



ARKANSAS RIVER COALITION

Join Us!

Our members are families,
individuals, organizations,
towns & cities

www.arkrivercoalition.org

The ARC Board meetings
are held the Second
Tuesday of every other
month beginning in January
Everyone is Welcomed!

- THANK YOU FOR LISTENING!
- WE ARE OUR RIVER'S GUARDIANS

