

## **Reversing the Flow of the Chicago River: An Engineering Marvel or Environmental Catastrophe?**

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### **Lesson 4: The US Army Corps of Engineers and the Environment Today: New Orleans**

- The US Army Corps of Engineers is still active in projects in the US and abroad.
- Look at Vision and Mission from website. Have they succeeded with this project with the Chicago River?
  - Mission: Provide vital public engineering services in peace and war to strengthen our Nation's security, energize the economy, and reduce risks from disasters.
  - Vision: A GREAT engineering force of highly disciplined people working with our partners through disciplined thought and action to deliver innovative and sustainable solutions to the Nation's engineering challenges.
- What about future projects? The most famous...New Orleans levees, became an issue after Hurricane Katrina in 2005.
- Show [graphic](#) of elevation levels and levees in New Orleans. Use Google Earth to show levees, river and lake of New Orleans. Humans started the problem by making this region a major population center. Something bound to happen eventually regardless of the size of the levees. Show [YouTube clip](#) about the rebuilding of levees and current issues.
- Start project that will be finished in the final day of the mini-unit

### **Lesson 5: US Army Corps of Engineers Project (started in second half of Day 4)**

- In groups of 4, students will take the role of a US Army Corps of Engineers team. They will have to pick a real or fictional environmental issue and design a project that will address both human needs and environmental concerns.