

Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival  
2020 Community Bake-Off Playwriting Event  
*Mahicantuck, The River That Flows Both Ways*  
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Hello, HVSF Bake-Off Playwrights! Here are some history resources to check out as inspiration for your plays. This year's theme is rich in metaphors, as rivers and deltas have been used in literature, song, and the visual arts to portray life's movements and confluences. In past years, I have directed participants to their local historical societies, museums, and libraries, to look at collections. This year, I've added more digital links because of the Covid-19 quarantine, so you can get inspiration from home, and can think more broadly and symbolically about Mahicantuck. Have a great time writing and thinking about Hudson's River, as a 19<sup>th</sup> century map referred to it, and if you have the opportunity, go have a look at the Hudson River and let it inspire you in person. I look forward to the stories you will tell!



1909 Hudson-Fulton stamp

The 1909 Fulton-Hudson Celebration was organized to commemorate Hudson's 1609 "discovery" of the river. The stamp shows his ship the *Half Moon*, two Native American canoes, and Robert Fulton's 1807 *Clermont* steamship on the Hudson. The official program here:

<https://library.si.edu/digital-library/book/officialprogram00huds>

also illustrated in the 1909 2 cent stamp and history:

[https://repository.si.edu/bitstream/handle/10088/8161/npm\\_1909\\_stamp.pdf](https://repository.si.edu/bitstream/handle/10088/8161/npm_1909_stamp.pdf)

and 2009 commemoration, <https://www.themagazineantiques.com/article/the-hudson-fulton-celebration-100-years-later/>

#### **Geology & topography of the region:**

William J. Blake's 1849 *History of Putnam County* discussed local geology at length

<https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/009834252>

Two mountain ranges--Catskills Mountains and Taconic Range

Igneous rock cliff at the Palisades from the Jurassic Period

Tappan Zee is the widest point of the Hudson  
World's End is the deepest point near Gee's Point/Constitution Island near West Point  
Saltwater flows upriver as far as Poughkeepsie  
Deltas at Albany, Newburgh, Red Hook, Kingston, Hudson, Kinderhook  
Islands including Pollepel Island/Bannerman's Castle  
Ideas to explore—bed rock, ice sheets, constricted flows, deltas

Geographical reach of the Hudson, from Mount Marcy and Lake Tear of the Clouds, in the Adirondacks, and the history of land use in Adirondack Park:

[https://apa.ny.gov/about\\_park/history.htm](https://apa.ny.gov/about_park/history.htm)

As the Hudson flows south, it gathers water from many smaller rivers and creeks including the Indian, Schroon, Sacandaga, Mohawk, along the Appalachian Trail in the Hudson Highlands, and Manhattan, ending at New York Bay. Seen here in a 1776 topographical map from the Library of Congress: <https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3802h.ar106900?r=0.203,0.496,1.069,0.602,0>

The Hudson Estuary and wildlife: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/4923.html>

NY's Hudson: <https://epod.usra.edu/blog/2018/03/new-yorks-hudson-the-river-that-flows-two-ways.html>

Teaching resources from the Hudson River Museum in Yonkers: <https://www.hrm.org/teaching-resources/>

African-American History on the Hudson River:

<https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/reframed-black-history-in-the-hudson-river-museum-collection/NQKy8jHMEsExJA>

### **Native Americans in the Region:**

From the Native American perspective--National Museum of the American Indian/Smithsonian: <https://americanindian.si.edu/>

Lenape Ceremonial Club: <https://www.mcnny.org/story/lenape-ceremonial-club>

From the New York State Museum, Native Peoples of New York:

<http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/exhibitions/ongoing/native-peoples-new-york>

From the Hudson River Valley Institute:

<https://www.hudsonrivervalley.org/documents/401021/0/NativeAmerican.pdf/26d855fb-dce2-4557-a635-89d6c610cc70>

The Hudson Valley's Tribal History: <https://westchestermagazine.com/publications/hudson-valleys-tribal-history/>

Hudson Highlands Folklore, Jonathan Kruk, Storyteller in "The Story of Mahicantuck":

<https://www.gufsee.org/hudson-highlands-folklore.html>

### **European contact and the River:**

Henry Hudson and Native Americans:

[https://www.hudsonrivervalley.org/documents/401021/1055071/henry\\_hudson\\_and\\_native\\_americans.pdf/c14b530d-b3d9-439d-b8ba-982b575e230c](https://www.hudsonrivervalley.org/documents/401021/1055071/henry_hudson_and_native_americans.pdf/c14b530d-b3d9-439d-b8ba-982b575e230c)

Frank Hasbrouck's 1909 *The History of Dutchess County*, Volume I, Chapter 2, "The Aboriginal People": [https://books.google.com/books?id=hsYpAQAAAMAAJ&pg=PA24-IA2&source=gbs\\_toc\\_r&cad=4-v=onepage&q&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=hsYpAQAAAMAAJ&pg=PA24-IA2&source=gbs_toc_r&cad=4-v=onepage&q&f=false)

Check out Seth Colegrove's Empire Explorer podcast, "Legend of Danskammer Point: The Devil's Dance Chamber," here <https://www.empireexplorer.com/legend-of-danskammer/>

Read about European contact with Native American waterways in Drew Lipman's 2015 award-winning book, *The Saltwater Frontier: Indians and the Contest for the American Coast*.

Amsterdam/New Amsterdam: The Worlds of Henry Hudson 2009 exhibition at MCNY : <https://www.mcny.org/exhibition/amsterdamnew-amsterdam>



Louis Prang & Company lithograph of the Hudson River by Max Eglau in the Boston Public Library, [https://dp.la/item/5a177e75db79fef695ca5066ba507821?q=HUDSON RIVER](https://dp.la/item/5a177e75db79fef695ca5066ba507821?q=HUDSON%20RIVER)

Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area  
<https://www.nps.gov/places/hudson-river-valley-national-heritage-area.htm>

Hudson River as "highway"—canoes-sailing ships-steamboats-tug boats-fishing boats-kayaks  
Sailing ships: <https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/hudson-river-shipping-sail-freight-boats>  
Steamships—Mary Powell from the Hudson River Maritime Museum:  
<http://www.hrmm.org/mary-powell.html>

Fishing boat oral histories:

[https://cdm16694.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/hrmm/search/searchterm/oral\\_histories/field/digita/mode/all/conn/and/order/nosort](https://cdm16694.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/hrmm/search/searchterm/oral_histories/field/digita/mode/all/conn/and/order/nosort)

Tugboats & Icebreakers in 2019: <https://www.greenwichtime.com/business/article/Coast-Guard-to-keep-Hudson-River-ice-clear-as-icy-13538051.php>

Impediments to the river's flow:

Blockading the Hudson River with a Great Chain from British during the Revolutionary War, <https://guides.rcls.org/chain>

Attempts to dam (and remove dams from) the Hudson, especially in 1963 with the Storm King hydroelectric project, <https://www.scenichudson.org/about-us/our-legacy/>

<https://wri.cals.cornell.edu/hudson-river-estuary/watershed-management/aquatic-connectivity-and-barrier-removal-culvert-dams/dam-removal/>

The 2019 New York Historical Society exhibition, *Hudson Rising*, with lots of great resources: <https://www.nyhistory.org/exhibitions/hudson-rising>

**Songs in many genres about rivers**, try on a musical genre you don't know:

Water themed classical music: Bedrich Smetana, River Moldau; Handel's Water Music; Strauss, The Beautiful Blue Danube; Eric Whitacre, The River Cam

Johnny Cash, Big River, 1957

Ella Fitzgerald, Cry Me a River, 1961

Creedence Clearwater Revival, Proud Mary, 1969

Willie Nelson, Whiskey River 2, 1973

Pete Seeger, My Dirty Stream (The Hudson River Song), 1963

Bruce Springsteen, The River, 1980

Billy Joel, The River of Dreams, 1993

Lyle Lovett, Texas River Song, 1998

Lou Reed, Hudson River Wind Meditations, 2007

Justin Townes Earle, Harlem River Blues, 2010

Lucinda Williams, Lake Charles, 2011

Smithsonian Folkways compilation, Wade into the Water: Songs and Stories of the River-American Routes, 2012

Mary J. Blige, Mighty River, 2017

**The Hudson's Natural Resources & American industrialization**—clay and brickmaking from Greene & Columbia Counties all the way down to Westchester. The Hudson River Maritime Museum in Kingston has an excellent exhibition about the Hudson and brickmaking. See also George V. Hutton's book, *The Great Hudson River Brick Industry: Commemorating Three and a Half Centuries of Brickmaking*.

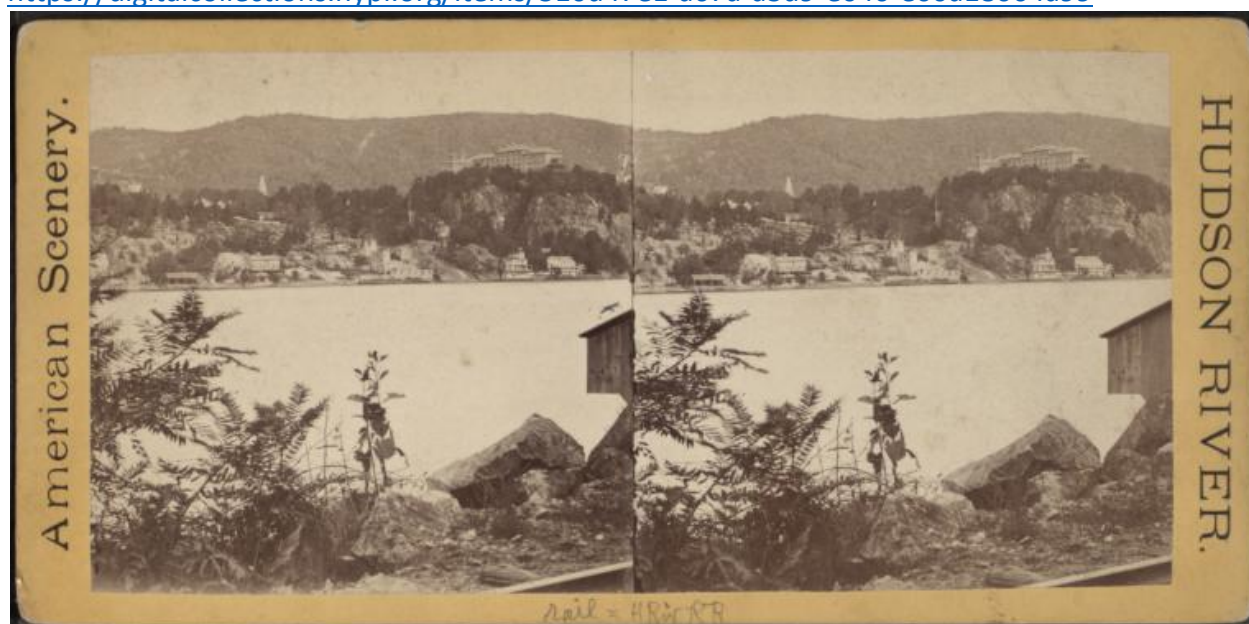
View of the Brick yards, Haverstraw, NY:

<https://cdm16694.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/larc/id/26/rec/5>

Clay was also used to make molds for cast iron store fronts made in Cold Spring, Troy & Albany:  
<https://www.vicsocny.org/castironnyc/history.htm>  
<http://www.nypap.org/preservation-history/soho-cast-iron-historic-district/>

General Motors plant in Tarrytown, locals say the river would run the color of that day's car production:  
<https://gmauthority.com/blog/2015/01/a-look-back-at-gms-north-tarrytown-sleepy-hollow-assembly-plant/>  
<https://www.riverkeeper.org/campaigns/river-ecology/waterfront-development-review/gm-redevelopment/>

The Hudson River Railroad and scenes of the lower Hudson, seen at the NYPL in the Robert N. Dennis Collection of Stereoscopic Views:  
<https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47e1-a67a-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99>



*Hudson Valley Ruins: Forgotten Landmarks of an American Landscape*  
<http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/exhibitions/hudson-valley-ruins>

#### **Hudson River School Painters:**

Here's a great introductory essay about the Hudson River School painters:

[https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/hurs/hd\\_hurs.htm](https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/hurs/hd_hurs.htm)

Wadsworth Atheneum's collection: <https://www.thewadsworth.org/collection/hudson-river-school/>

Catskills: <https://www.greatnortherncatskills.com/arts-culture/hudson-river-school-art>

The Poetry of Nature: Hudson River School Landscapes at NYHS:

<https://www.nyhistory.org/exhibitions/poetry-nature-hudson-river-school-landscapes-new-york-historical-society>

Thomas Cole National Historic Site: <https://thomascole.org/learn-about-the-hudson-river-school/>

Frederic E. Church & Olana: <https://www.olana.org/>

Asher B. Durand's papers at NYPL:

[https://browse.nypl.org/iii/encore/record/C\\_Rb11822968\\_Shudson\\_river\\_school\\_painters\\_P0,3\\_Orightresult\\_U\\_X1;jsessionid=6AB976591BB53C2D994CC96D6CF77A04?lang=eng&suite=def](https://browse.nypl.org/iii/encore/record/C_Rb11822968_Shudson_river_school_painters_P0,3_Orightresult_U_X1;jsessionid=6AB976591BB53C2D994CC96D6CF77A04?lang=eng&suite=def)

And Durand's sketchbooks at NYHS: <https://emuseum.nyhistory.org/collections/92583/asher-b-durand-sketchbooks/objects>

Women Hudson River School Painters: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/the-grand-women-artists-of-the-hudson-river-school-1911058/>

National Academy of Design: <https://www.nationalacademy.org/historical-overview>

### **Depictions of the Hudson River:**

Catalina Juliana Mason's 1837-1847 wool map embroidered sampler:

[https://collections.si.edu/search/detail/edanmdm:nmah\\_629453?q=River+scenes+%26+river+life&record=7&hlterm=River+scenes+%26amp%3B+river+life&inline=true](https://collections.si.edu/search/detail/edanmdm:nmah_629453?q=River+scenes+%26+river+life&record=7&hlterm=River+scenes+%26amp%3B+river+life&inline=true)

Photograph of Steamboats on the Hudson, 1885:

<http://digital.nypl.org/mmpco/browseFTresults.cfm?&trg=3&titleid=570508&strucID=578986&pstrucid=570508&title=%5BSteamboats On Hudson River, New York City.%5D&dstart=1>

Mortimer Borne, Docks on the Hudson, Public Works of Art Project, 1934:

[http://digital.nypl.org/mmpco/browseFTresults.cfm?&trg=2&image\\_id=805471&title=Docks On The Hudson.&strucID=578984&dstart=1&titleid=570508](http://digital.nypl.org/mmpco/browseFTresults.cfm?&trg=2&image_id=805471&title=Docks On The Hudson.&strucID=578984&dstart=1&titleid=570508)

The Westside Highway: <https://www.mcny.org/story/expressway-contemplative-oasis-elevated-west-side-highway>

Hudson River Quilt by Irene Preston Miller & the Hudson River Quilters, 1969-1972:

<http://collection.folkartmuseum.org/objects/19/hudson-river-quilt?ctx=16d737d9-5a0f-43d3-8f4b-d397590a8299&idx=1>

"Marathon Miranda" 1979: <https://www.mcny.org/story/marathon-miranda>

Untitled Painting with Hudson River view, Ionel Talpazan, 1994:

<http://collection.folkartmuseum.org/objects/2193/untitled-city-scene-with-river-boats-swirling-sky-and-sp?ctx=9d9f533f-22bc-4f67-931d-a3e74617994b&idx=0>

Literary depictions of the Hudson River: <https://www.hudsonrivervalley.org/literature>