**1927 Flood Lesson**

**High Water Everywhere by Charlie Patton**

Well, backwater done rose all around Sumner now,

drove me down the line

Backwater done rose at Sumner,

drove poor Charley down the line

Lord, I'll tell the world the water,

done crept through this town

Lord, the whole round country,

Lord, river has overflowed

Lord, the whole round country,

man, is overflowed

You know I can't stay here,

I'll go where it's high, boy

I would goto the hilly country,

but, they got me barred

Now, look-a here now at Leland

river was risin' high

Look-a here boys around Leland tell me,

river was raisin' high

Boy, it's risin' over there, yeah

I'm gonna move to Greenville

fore I leave, goodbye

Look-a here the water now, Lordy,

Levee broke, rose most everywhere

The water at Greenville and Leland,

Lord, it done rose everywhere

Boy, you can't never stay here

I would go down to Rosedale

image: http://static.urx.io/units/web/urx-unit-loader.gif

but, they tell me there's water there

Now, the water now, mama,

done took Charley's town

Well, they tell me the water,

done took Charley's town

Boy, I'm goin' to Vicksburg

Well, I'm goin' to Vicksburg,

for that high of mine

I am goin' up that water,

where lands don't never flow

Well, I'm goin' over the hill where,

water, oh don't ever flow

Boy, hit Sharkey County and everything was down in Stovall

But, that whole county was leavin',

over that Tallahatchie shore Boy,

went to Tallahatchie and got it over there

Lord, the water done rushed all over,

down old Jackson road

Lord, the water done raised,

over the Jackson road

Boy, it starched my clothes

I'm goin' back to the hilly country,

won't be worried no more.

1. Read John M. Barry’s Rising Tide pp.37-39.
2. Have the students watch the clip provided on the PBS film Fatal Flood.
3. The students should listen to High Water Everywhere by Charlie Patton.
4. The students should read Charlie Patton’s lyrics for High Water Everywhere.
5. The student should use their maps of the Mississippi Delta Region and locate the places on the map that Patton names in his songs.
6. Using an elevation map of the Delta the students should determine how devastating the flood may have been in the areas Patton names .
7. Have the students reflect on what life must have been like in the region during the flood of 1927.
8. Each student will write a letter as if they were living in the DElta during the 1927 flood.