FLOOD MAP

In “Rising Waters” (p. 8), you learned about the factors that led to record-breaking flooding along the Mississippi River and its tributaries in 2019. Each spring, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) makes predictions about where spring flooding will occur in the United States. The map below shows NOAA's projections for flooding risks for spring 2019. Study the map, and then answer the questions that follow.

Spring Flood Risk in the U.S.

1. Which major U.S. rivers on the map show the lowest flooding risk for spring 2019?

2. The lower Mississippi River refers to the Mississippi River south of the point where it meets the Ohio River. Name two states in contact with the lower Mississippi. What is their flooding risk?

3. Follow the Missouri River from its source until it meets the Mississippi River. How does its flooding risk change as it flows east and south? What factors could cause that change?

4. Compare the flooding risk in the lower Mississippi River with that in the upper parts of the river. Describe one factor you think might cause these differences.

5. Describe at least two factors scientists might use to make predictions about how much flooding could occur in different areas. Cite evidence from the article to support your answer.