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Island Living in the Tri-State Area

Planet Earth is not equipped with brightly colored political boundary lines for the convenience of those observing from low earth orbit. Thus it is likely that the ISS crew member who captured this image on October 23, 2017 was not even aware of the location's geographical coolness.

As it turns out, the borders of three US states - Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas - intersect on the large almond-shaped island to the right in this shot of the Mississippi River. At 2,340 slow-rollin' miles the Mississippi is the longest river in all of North America.

It's easy to see how the river's relaxed but relentless current carved these islands into these particular shapes. Do a quick online image search for "teardrop erosion on Mars" and you'll see why lots of scientists are convinced that the Red Planet was also once a wet planet.

