

The Amazon

The Amazon is 6,400 km long.

At its widest the river is 6 miles wide.

Although it is not the longest river in the world, it has the largest capacity.



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The source of the river is found high in the mountains of Peru and is formed by the melting of glaciers.

The river flows through Brazil, Ecuador, Bolivia, Colombia, Peru, and Venezuela.

The mouth of the river flows into the Atlantic Ocean.



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Amazon

The Amazon flows through, and supports life in, the largest Rainforest in the world.

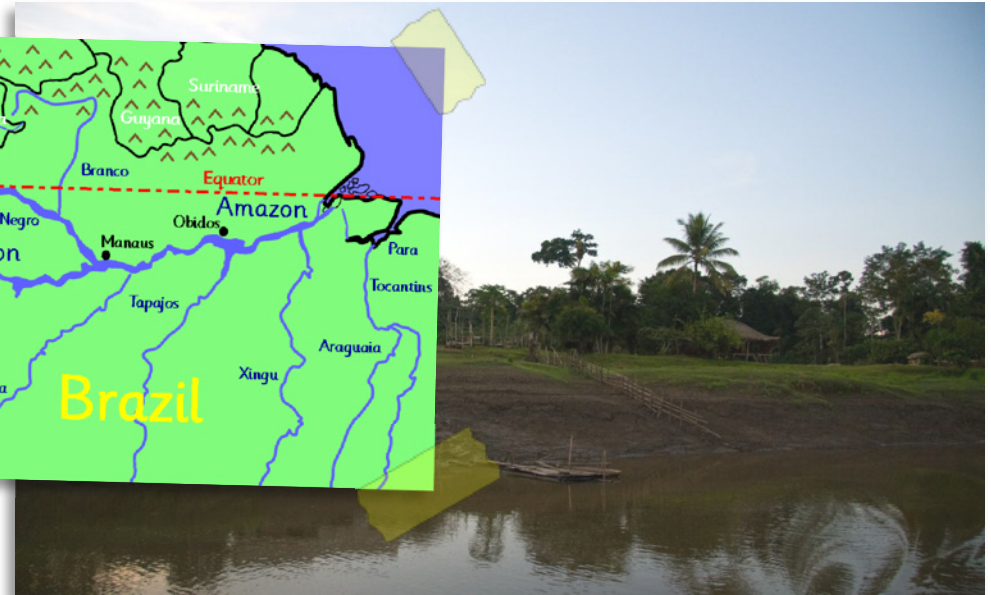
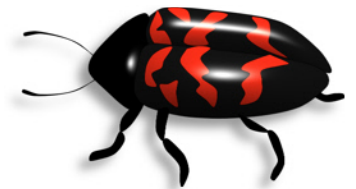


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The river is one of the main habitats of the river dolphin and it is home to over 3000 different species of fish.



The Amazon's name came from a Spanish explorer's stories of a tribe of female warriors who lived by the river.

The Nile



The Nile is the longest river in the world.

It is 6,650 km long.

The Nile flows through Sudan, Burundi, Rwanda, DR Congo, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia and Egypt.



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The source of the Nile is reported to be in the rainforests of Rwanda.

The mouth of the river is in the Mediterranean Sea.

Nile

Each year the Nile floods the surrounding land. When the flood waters recede, it deposits valuable minerals and nutrients onto the land. This enables farmers to grow a large variety of crops in the fertile soil. This has been occurring since the time of the Ancient Egyptians.



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Many animals live in and around the River Nile, one of the most well known of these is the Nile crocodile.

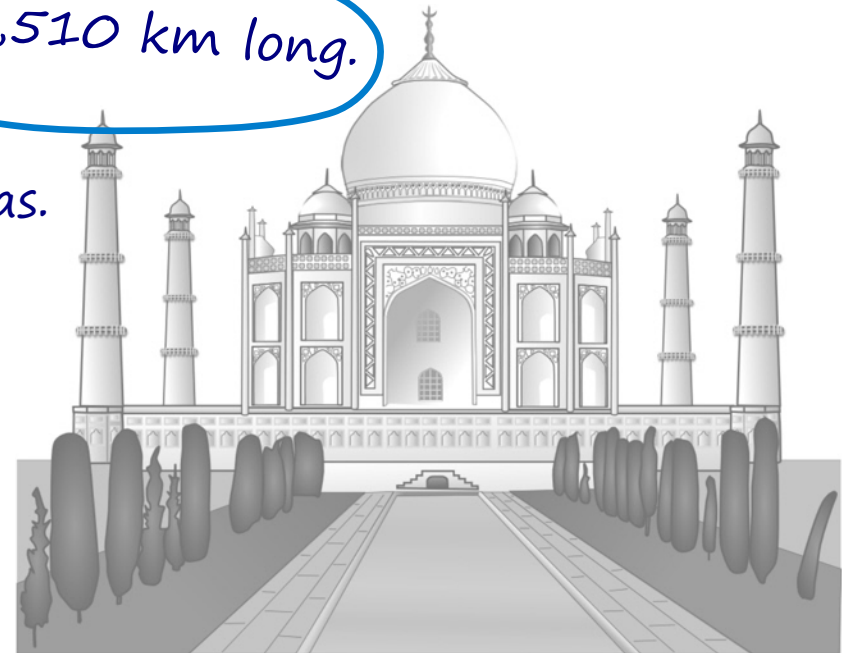


The Ganges

It is 2,510 km long.

The Ganges source is found in the Himalayas.

The Ganges flows through Nepal,
India and Bangladesh.



The mouth of the Ganges flows
into the Bay of Bengal.

The Ganges supports a large amount
of agriculture because of the minerals
and nutrients that are washed down
from higher land.



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Ganges

The Ganges passes through some large cities and is heavily polluted by the waste products that are poured into it. People who bathe in the waters are at a higher risk of catching an infection.



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The Ganges is a holy river to Hindus.

They believe that the river is a goddess and that if they bathe in the waters their sins will be forgiven and they will be cured of illnesses.

People are attracted from around the world to bathe in the waters.

The Thames

The River Thames is 346 km long.



The source of the Thames is at Thames Head, Kemble, Gloucestershire and the mouth is at Southend-On-Sea. It flows into the North Sea.



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The Romans were the first to use the river to build up trade in England. They built many settlements on the banks of the river.

The Thames has been an important part of life in the South East of England for thousands of years.

Thames

In the early 1980's a flood barrier was built to prevent flooding in the lower lying parts of London.

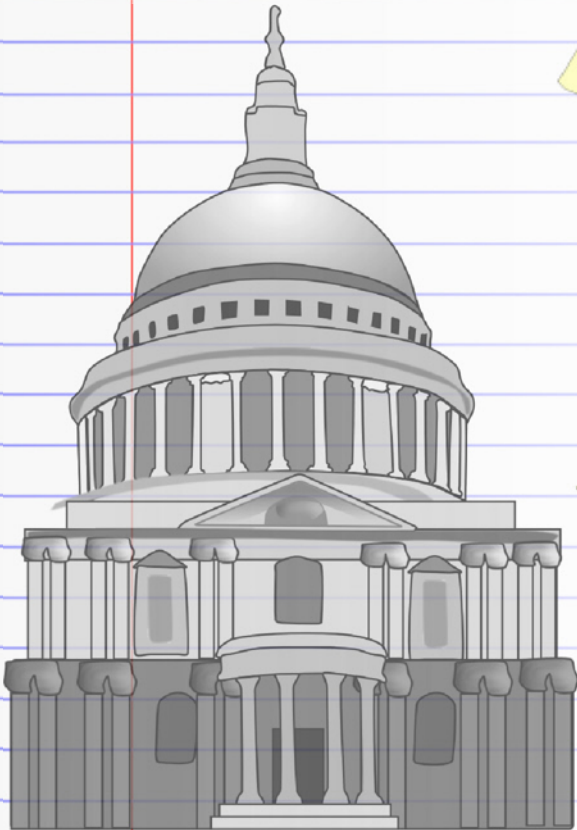
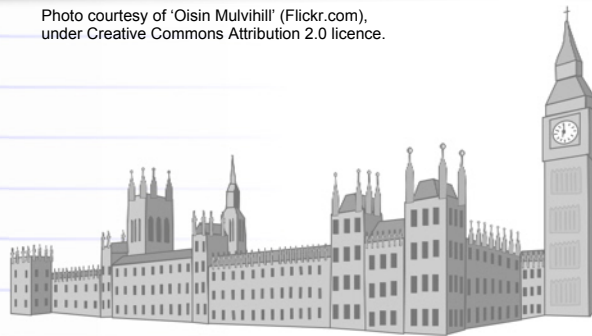


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Although once mainly used for carrying goods into and out of the country, the main use of the Thames, today, is tourism. The banks of the Thames are lined with many recognisable monuments including the Houses of Parliament, Big Ben, The London Eye and St Paul's Cathedral.

The Mississippi

The Source of the River is at Lake Itasca in Northern Minnesota, USA and it flows into the Gulf of Mexico.

The Mississippi is 3779 km long and is the longest river in America.

The longest road bridge in the world spans the river in New Orleans.

The bridge is
24 miles long!



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The river's name came from the Anishinabe people who called the river "Messipi" or "Mee-zee-see-bee" which means Big River or Father of the Waters.

Mississippi

The river was famous for the large steamers that sailed on it. They were distinctive because of the large paddle wheel that would propel the boat through the water.

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The river is home to 241 different species of fish.

The river has been an important route for trade and travel for centuries.

Water skiing was invented on the Mississippi river in 1922.



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The Volga

The river flows into the Caspian Sea.

The source of the river is in the Valdai Hills, Russia.

The river is 3,692 km long and is the longest river in Europe.



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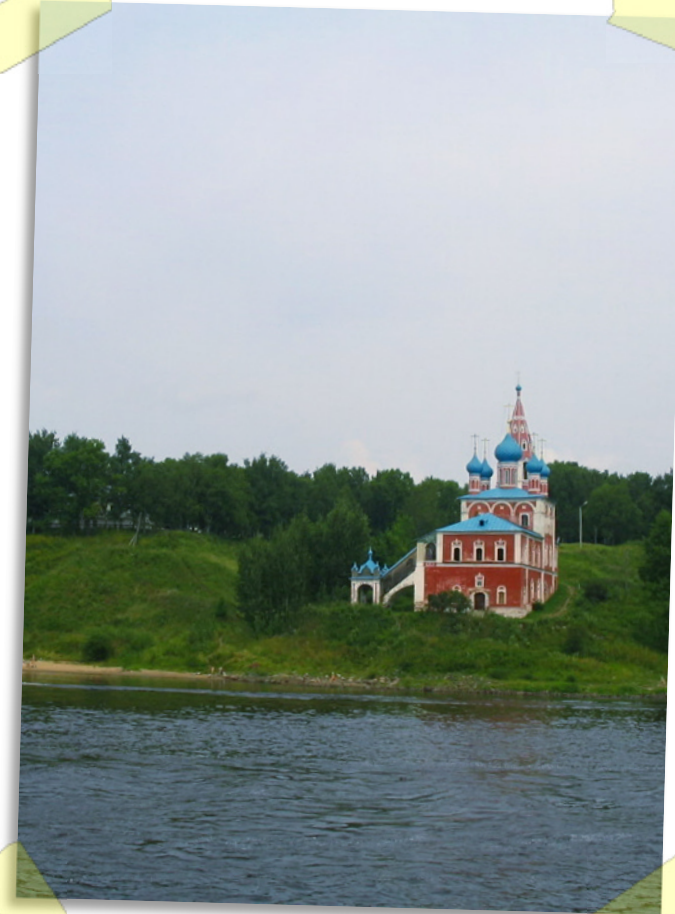


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Caviar, a delicacy from the eggs of the Sturgeon fish, is collected from the Volga.

Volga

The river flows through many industrialised areas, the pollution from these cause great environmental concern.

The river is very important for shipping of goods and transport.



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The river valley is very fertile and provides a great wheat-growing region. It is also rich in minerals.

There are many large hydro-electric plants on the Volga supplying electricity to the surrounding towns and cities.

The Murray

The Murray is named after the then British Secretary of War and the Colonies, Sir George Murray.

The river is 2,575 km long.

The source of the river is in the Australian Alps.



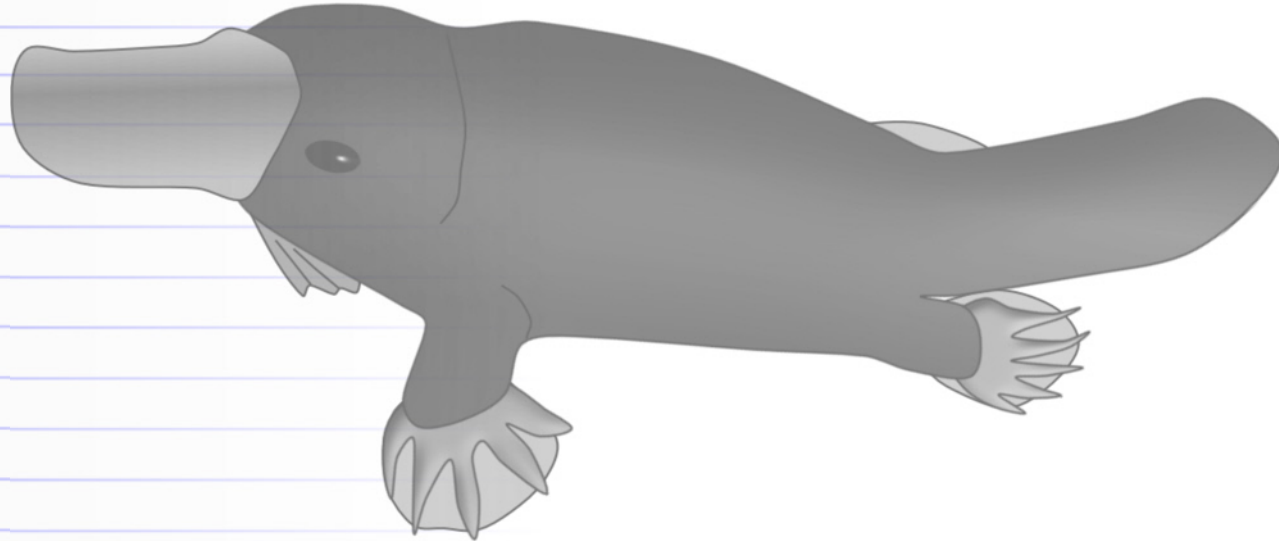
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The river flows into the Indian Ocean.

Human intervention has also affected many ecosystems. Dams were used to assist with irrigating the land in order to help grow crops. This has drawn water away from ecosystems that need it.

Murray

There are many animals in the Murray river that can be found only in Australian waters. These include Murray cod, Golden Perch and the Platypus.



Much of the native wildlife in the river is under threat from animals brought to the country by European settlers.

Aborigines believe that the river was created by the great ancestor Ngurunderi as he chased Pondi (the Murray Cod) who weaved through the terrain creating the meandering path and tributaries that form the river.

The Chang Jiang (Yangtze)



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The River's source is a glacier on the Dangla Mountain Range

It is the third longest river in the World - 6,300 km long.

The river flows into the East China Sea at Shanghai.



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Yangtze

The river is home to three endangered species: the Chinese Alligator, Chinese Paddlefish and Jiangzhu or River Pig (a finless porpoise).

The River Dolphin that lived in the river is already thought to be extinct. The Siberian Crane is also under threat.

Much of the river is heavily polluted by local industry.



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The Chinese government are building the world's largest dam, the Three Gorges Dam, across the river. This will lead to millions of people having to relocate as their homes are flooded.