

Rivers of the world

The Nile

The Nile is traditionally considered to be the longest river in the world. It is 4132 miles (6650 km) long - that's nearly seven times the distance from John O' Groats at the top of Scotland to Land's End at the bottom of England. The river flows through countries such as Uganda, Ethiopia and 20% of it flows through Egypt. It ends in the Mediterranean Sea. Some people disagree about where it starts, but it is now believed to be the hills of Burundi.

The river Nile makes the land nearby good for growing. This is why the ancient Egyptians settled there, living and farming along the river producing food for themselves and their animals.

The Rhine

The Rhine flows through Germany and is 766 miles (1233km) long. It also travels through another 5 countries before reaching the North Sea and in the Netherlands. Its source is a small stream coming from the glacier in the Swiss Alps (the Mountains of Switzerland).

This river has been used to transport foods and other goods since Roman times and there are many castles found on its banks.

Many years ago, the Rhine was labelled as one of the most polluted rivers in Europe. It was also badly affected by a chemical factory fire in 1986. Since then a lot of effort has been put into cleaning it up.

The Volga

This river runs from its source in the hills in North-West Russia to the Caspian Sea. It is the longest river in Europe and is 2294 miles (3692km) long. The Volga is so wide that you can not see the other side! Its name in Russian means moisture and wetness.

The river is quite polluted due to factories dumping their waste in it, which has a bad affect on the people who make caviar. (Caviar is very expensive food made from fish egg). The river is also used for

transporting goods all across Russia, however the river is frozen for 3 months of the year.

The Danube

This is the second largest river in Europe, it is 1785 miles (2680km) long and its source is the black forest mountain in Germany, flowing to the black sea. It flows through the border of many different countries such as: Austria, Hungary, Croatia, Bulgaria, and Romania. It also flows through capital cities of Belgrade, Budapest, Vienna, and Bratislava. The Danube has many tourists who enjoy river cruises.

The Amazon

The Amazon is the second largest river in the world, stretching 3944 miles (6347km). However, recent studies indicate that it is longer than the Nile. Its source is in the Andes Mountains in Peru and it flows through man countries before it finishes at the Atlantic Ocean.

During rainy seasons the Amazon fills up rapidly and can reach over 120miles (190km) in width.

Many species of fish live in the river and one of the largest snakes in the world, the anaconda. This snake lives in the shallow waters. (Anacondas can attack larger animals-even as big as goats!)

- 1) Name 3 places the Danube passes through.

- 2) What percentage of the Nile passes through Egypt?

- 3) Why can you not cross the Amazon easily?

4) Find the adverb in 'The Amazon' section and use it to write your own sentence

5) Which of these rivers would you like to visit and why?