

Rivers

Most rivers start life as a tiny stream high up a mountain. The river begins at the **source**, which could be a natural spring, melted ice and snow, or rainwater running down the land. Most rivers meet the sea at the **mouth** of the river.

The World's Greatest Rivers

The Amazon

Where? South America
How long? 6,400km
How wide at its widest point?



"Aerial view of the Amazon Rainforest" by lubasi is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0

The Amazon river feeds the incredible Amazon tropical rainforest.

The Nile

Where? Africa
How long? 6,650km
How wide at its widest point? 7.5km



The lights of the houses and streets along the Nile can be seen from space!

River Life

Rivers carry water and important nutrients all around the world and they are habitats for lots of plants and animals. Without rivers, many of our forests, lakes, cities and lives would not be the same.

Humans use rivers for many different things, such as:

- Drinking water
- Transport
- Washing
- Trading
- Cleaning clothes
- Leisure
- Fishing



"Fishing boats on Lymington River" by Ian Capper is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0

Water Pollution

River pollution from chemicals and waste is bad for humans and the environment. Some helpful ways to protect your local river are:

- Keep oil and grease out of the sink. Instead, collect it in a jar and then throw it away with solid waste.
- Put rubbish in the correct bins and don't flush anything down the toilet except for toilet paper.
- Always save water. Turn off taps when you are not using them as this means that less water has to be cleaned again.



Glossary

mouth – where a river empties into the sea or a lake

source – the beginning of a river, usually on high ground

Questions

1. Tick **one**.

The place where a river meets the sea is called the:

- ☐ head
☐ foot
☐ mouth
☐ neck

2. Complete the sentence with the correct words from the text.

Rivers carry _____ and important _____ all around the world and they are _____ for lots of plants and animals.

3. What is the meaning of the word 'source'?

4. Which river is longer: the Amazon or the Nile?

5. Name two ways in which humans use rivers.

6. Find and copy a **caption** from the text.

7. The subtitle 'Water Pollution' tells the reader what the next section of text is about. Can you think of another subtitle which could have been used?
