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? 11km

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.

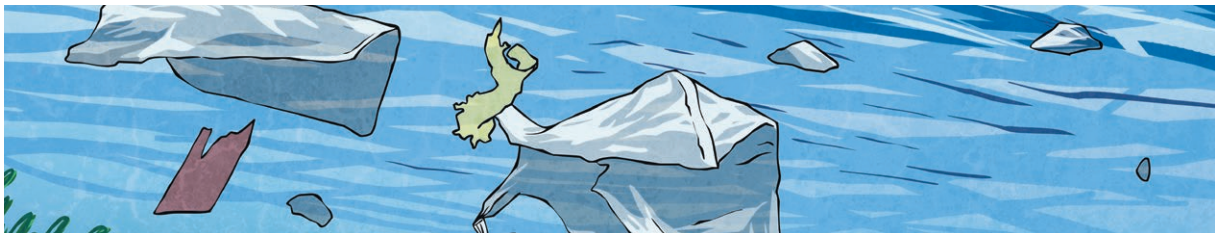
Humans use rivers for many different things, such as:

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

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?

   _____

   _____

Answers

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 **water** and important **nutrients** all around the world and they are **habitats** for lots of plants and animals.

3. What is the meaning of the word 'source'?
   Accept answers which suggest that children have found the word in the glossary, e.g. 'The source is the beginning of a river, usually on high ground'.

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

5. Name two ways in which humans use rivers.
   Accept any two of the following:
   - **Drinking water**
   - **Washing**
   - **Cleaning clothes**
   - **Fishing**
   - **Transport**
   - **Trading**
   - **Leisure**

6. Find and copy a **caption** from the text.
   Accept any of the following:

   - **'The Amazon river feeds the incredible Amazon tropical rainforest.'**
   - **'The lights of the houses and streets along the Nile can be seen from space!'**

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?
   Accept any subtitle which is short, catchy and gives the reader a sufficient summary of the section about polluted rivers.

Rivers

How Are Rivers Made?

Rivers are large, natural streams which flow to the sea or to a lake. Rivers begin life at the **source**, which could be a natural spring, melted ice and snow, or rainwater running down the land. Most rivers start as a tiny stream, high up a mountain. Smaller streams merge into one larger **channel** and **erode** the land until a river is formed. Most rivers end up in the sea at the **mouth** of the river.

The World's Greatest Rivers

Some rivers around the world are famous for being long, wide or fast-flowing. The Nile river in Africa is the longest river in the world. It is 6,650km long. The Nile river **basin** covers eleven countries and flows into the Mediterranean Sea.

The Amazon river in South America is the world's widest river. At its widest point, the river is about 11km wide. This river feeds the famous Amazon rainforest and is also the fastest-flowing river in the world.

The Nile river has so many people living alongside it that the lights of the houses and streets can be seen from space.

River Life

Rivers are essential for life as we know it. They carry water and important nutrients all around the earth and provide habitats for millions of species of plants and animals.

Humans use rivers for many different things, such as:

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

Millions of people around the world rely on rivers to make their living.

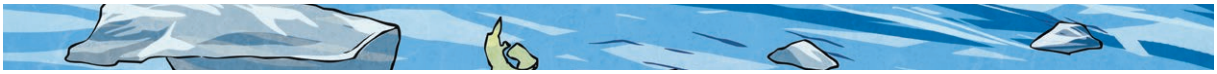
Water Pollution

Just like oceans and the air, rivers can become **polluted** in various ways. River pollution is damaging to humans and to the environment because it **contaminates** the fresh water.

- Types of river pollution include:
- Rubbish and solids (plastic, metal and other objects)
- Sediment (sand, grit etc.)
- Chemicals (factory waste, fertilisers, oils)
- Bacteria from animal and human waste

The best way to prevent river pollution is to stop the **pollutants** before they reach the river. 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.
- Don't flush anything down the toilet except for toilet paper. Anything else might end up in oceans, lakes or rivers.
- Always save water. Turn off taps when you are not using them as this means that less water has to be cleaned again for use.



Glossary

basin	a rounded bowl in a landscape where water, such as a river, may collect
channel	a path through the landscape formed by the movement of water
contaminate	to make something impure or dirty by adding a new poisonous or damaging substance
erode	to gradually wear away the land
mouth	where a river empties into the sea or a lake
pollutants	substances which make water impure or unclean
polluted	made impure or unclean by adding poisonous or damaging substances
source	the beginning of a river, usually on high ground

Questions

1. What is the Nile river famous for?

2. Why can the Nile be seen from space?

3. Complete the sentences with the correct words from the text.
   Rivers are _____ for life as we know it. They carry _____ and important _____ all around the world and provide _____ for millions of _____ of plants and animals.

4. Name three ways in which humans use rivers.
   1. _____
   2. _____
   3. _____

5. Find and copy a caption from the text.

6. a) What is the meaning of the word 'contaminate'?

   b) Why has the author put some words in **bold**?

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?

Why do you think the author suggests avoiding putting oil and grease down the sink?

Answers

1. What is the Nile river famous for?
   The Nile river is the longest river (6,650km) in the world.

2. Why can the Nile be seen from space?
   Accept answers referring to the fact that there are many people living along the Nile's banks and the lights shine brightly at night.

3. Complete the sentences with the correct words from the text.
   Rivers are **essential** for life as we know it. They carry **water** and important **nutrients** all around the world and provide **habitats** for millions of **species** of plants and animals.

4. Name three ways in which humans use rivers.
   Accept any three of the following:
   - **Drinking water**
   - **Cleaning clothes**
   - **Transport**
   - **Leisure**
   - **Washing**
   - **Fishing**
   - **Trading**

5. Find and copy a caption from the text.

   The Nile river has so many people living alongside it that the lights of the houses and streets can be seen from space.

6. a) What is the meaning of the word 'contaminate'?
   Accept answers which suggest that children have found the word in the glossary, e.g. 'To contaminate is to make something impure or dirty by adding a new poisonous or damaging substance.'

   b) Why has the author put some words in **bold**?
   Accept answers that refer to the fact that the words in bold are defined in the glossary. Also accept an acknowledgement that these are words that the reader may be unfamiliar with.

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?
   Accept any subtitle which is short, catchy and gives the reader a sufficient summary of the section about polluted rivers.

8. Why do you think the author suggests avoiding putting oil and grease down the sink?
   Accept answers which refer to the fact that sinks may drain into local rivers and that oil is on the list of chemicals which pollute water.

Rivers

How Are Rivers Made?

Rivers are large natural streams which flow to the sea or another body of water, such as a lake. Rivers begin life at the **source**, which could be a natural spring, melted ice and snow, or rainwater running down the land. Most rivers start as a tiny stream, high up a mountain. Smaller streams merge into one larger **channel** and **erode** the land away until a river is formed. When the ground grows less steep, the river becomes wider and flows more slowly. Moisture from the land nearby finds its way to the river to add even more water. Often, it is forced to wind (**meander**) around the land more. Most rivers end up in the sea at the 'mouth' of the river.

The World's Greatest Rivers

Some rivers around the world are famous for being long, wide or fast-flowing. The Nile river in Africa is the longest river in the world. It is 6,650km long. The Nile river **basin** covers eleven countries and flows into the Mediterranean Sea.

The Amazon river in South America is the world's widest river. At its widest point, the river is about 11km wide. This river feeds the famous Amazon rainforest and is also the fastest-flowing river in the world.

The Nile river has so many people living alongside it that the lights of the houses and streets can be seen from space.

River Life

Rivers are essential for life as we know it. They carry water and important nutrients all around the earth and provide habitats for millions of species of plants and animals. Every river is different and supports nature in its own unique way. Without rivers, many of our forests, lakes, cities and lives would not be the same.

Humans use rivers in many different ways. In some countries around the world, rivers are a source of drinking water for people who live alongside them. Others use their rivers for washing and cleaning clothes. All over the world, fishing takes place so that communities

nearby have enough to eat and, in some countries, fish and other types of goods are transported on rivers to trade with other locations. Millions of people around the world rely on rivers to make their living.

Water Pollution

Just like oceans and the air, rivers can become polluted in various ways. River pollution is damaging to humans and to the environment because it contaminates these freshwater habitats.

- Types of river pollution include:
- Rubbish and solids (plastic, metal and other objects)
- Sediment (sand, grit etc.)
- Chemicals (factory waste, fertilisers, oils)
- Bacteria from animal and human waste

The best way to prevent river pollution is to stop the **pollutants** before they reach the river. 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.
- Don't flush anything down the toilet except for toilet paper. Anything else might end up in oceans, lakes or rivers.
- Always save water. Turn off taps when you are not using them, as this means less water has to be cleaned again for use.

basin	a rounded bowl in a landscape where water, such as a river, may collect
channel	a path through the landscape formed by the movement of water
contaminate	to make something impure or dirty by adding a new poisonous or damaging substance
erode	to gradually wear away the land
freshwater	made of water that is not of the sea and therefore not salty
meander	to curve around the land forming a winding path
pollutants	substances which make water impure or unclean

Questions

1. In your own words, explain how a river is made.

2. a) Why can the Nile river be seen from space?

   b) Why do you think so many people are living by this river?

3. How do you think the Amazon rainforest might depend on the Amazon river?

4. Complete the sentences with the correct words from the text.
   Rivers are _____ for life as we know it. They carry _____ and important _____all around the world and are _____ for millions of _____ of plants and animals.

5. Name three ways in which humans use rivers.

6. Find and copy a caption from the text.

7. a) What is the meaning of the word 'contaminate'?

   b) Why has the author put some words in **bold**?

8. 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?

9. Why do you think the author suggests avoiding putting oil and grease down the sink?

10. What do you think the author's purpose for writing this text was? Use evidence to support your answer.

Answers

1. In your own words, explain how a river is made.
   Accept appropriate summaries of the first paragraph of the text.

2. a) Why can the Nile river be seen from space?
   Accept answers referring to the fact that there are many people living along the Nile's banks and the lights shine brightly at night.

   b) Why do you think so many people are living by this river?
   Accept answers referring to the fact that the river provides water and transport for the people who live near to it.

3. How do you think the Amazon rainforest might depend on the Amazon river?
   Accept answers which refer to the fact that trees need water to grow, or any reference to the water cycle.

4. Complete the sentences with the correct words from the text.
   Rivers are **essential** for life as we know it. They carry **water** and important **nutrients** all around the earth and provide **habitats** for millions of **species** of plants and animals.

5. Name three ways in which humans use rivers.
   Accept any three of the following:
   - **Drinking water**
   - **Cleaning clothes**
   - **Transport**
   - **Leisure**
   - **Washing**
   - **Fishing**
   - **Trading**

6. Find and copy a caption from the text.

   The Nile river has so many people living alongside it that the lights of the houses and streets can be seen from space.

7. a) What is the meaning of the word 'contaminate'?
   Accept answers which suggest that children have found the word in the glossary, e.g. 'To contaminate is to make something impure or dirty by adding a new poisonous or damaging substance.'

   b) Why has the author put some words in **bold**?
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8. 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?
Accept any subtitle which is short, catchy and gives the reader a sufficient summary of the section about polluted rivers.

9. Why do you think the author suggests avoiding putting oil and grease down the sink?
Accept answers which refer to the fact that sinks may drain into local rivers and that oil is on the list of chemicals which pollute water.

10. What do you think the author's purpose for writing this text was? Use evidence to support your answer.
Accept answers referring to the author's desire to inform readers about the significance of rivers so that they are more inclined to follow the advice about preventing pollution.