

Name: _____

Date: _____

The Amazon River

The Amazon is the world's second-longest river (6400 km), but the largest river in the world by volume.

The Amazon River flows through an area called the Amazon Rainforest in South America.

Spanish explorer Francisco de Orellana gave the river its name. In 1541-2, he and his men encountered a tribe of fierce women who reminded him of the story from ancient Greece about Amazons, who were warrior women.

There are no bridges that cross the Amazon.

The Amazon River carries 20% of all fresh water into the oceans.

Do you know any more interesting facts about the Amazon River?

Word meanings

Look up the meaning of each of these words.

Write each word in a sentence that demonstrates its meaning in relation to rivers.

mouth	stream
source	delta
channel	flood plain
bed	billabong
bank	sediment

Example: While travelling in Peru, high in the Andes Mountains, we were excited to see the **source** of the mighty Amazon.

Amazon River animals

The Amazon River has a rich and unique diversity of animal life. For example, there are more than 2,000 different species of fish.

Research one of these Amazon River animals and write a short report.

- the piranha
- the Boto, also known as the Amazon River Dolphin.
- the anaconda snake, also known as the water boa.
- the manatee, also known as the water ox.



Number crunchers

Below are the lengths of five well known rivers.

Nile 6650 km

Amazon 6400 km

Yangtze 6300 km

Mississippi - Missouri 6275 km

Murray - Darling 3672 km

What is the total length of these five rivers?

Calculate how much longer the Nile is than each of the other rivers.

If you averaged travelling 50 km per day, how long would it take to travel each river?

Extension research

On a map of South America, draw the Amazon River.

Where does the river begin?

What countries does it pass through?

What is the largest city on the river?

