

# 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! When most people think of the Nile, they think of Egypt but surprisingly, only 20% of the river is in Egypt - it also flows through other countries including Uganda and Ethiopia before ending at the Mediterranean Sea. Some people disagree about where the river starts, but it is now believed to be in 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 river became important for water and transport.

## The Rhine

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



The Rhine has been used to transport food and other goods since Roman times and there are many castles found on its banks, such as Maus (mouse) Castle.

Many years ago, the Rhine was labelled 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 in to clean it up including making the drinking water safe.

### 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 (3692 km) long. In places, the Volga is so wide that you can't see the other side! Its name in Russian means 'moisture' or 'wetness'.

Huge sturgeon fish can be found living in the water. However, the river is quite polluted due to factories dumping waste there which has a bad effect on the people who make caviar. (Caviar is a very expensive food made from fish eggs.) The river is also used for taking goods all over Russia but is frozen for around three months of the year.

One of the biggest battles of the Second World War, the Battle of Stalingrad, happened on the banks of the river at Volgograd, the city named after the river which used to be called 'Stalingrad'.

### The Danube

This is the second largest river in Europe. It is 1785 miles (2680 km) long and its source is in the Black Forest Mountains in Germany, flowing to the Black Sea. This river flows through, or along the border of many different countries including Austria, Hungary, Croatia, Bulgaria and Romania to name a few. It also flows through the capital cities of Belgrade, Budapest, Vienna and Bratislava.

The Danube has many tourists who enjoy the river cruises and the river has also inspired artists and composers through history. One of the most famous pieces of classical music written is The Blue Danube, by the Austrian composer Johann Strauss II.

### The Amazon

The Amazon is the second longest river in the world, stretching 3944 miles (6347 km); however, recent studies indicate that it is longer than the Nile. Its source is in the Andes Mountains in Peru and it flows through many countries before it finishes at the Atlantic Ocean. (Why not look at it on a map?)

Somewhat surprisingly, there are no bridges that cross the river although during the wet (rainy) season, the Amazon rapidly fills with more water and can reach over 120 miles (190 km) in width.

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

**Reading  
Mission**  
30 mins

Children to read or be supported to read 'Rivers of the World'.

**After, they can answer these questions. These can be verbal answers or they could be written down or typed. Suggested answers are below.**

1. What is the length in miles of the shortest river here?

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2. Name one place that the Danube flows through.

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3. If Johann Strauss II is Austrian, which country is he from?

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4. Why can't you cross the Amazon easily?

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5. What percentage of the Nile is in Egypt?

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6. Which famous historical event took place on the banks of the Volga and when was it?

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7. In which mountain range does the Rhine begin?

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## Answers

1. What is the length in miles of the shortest river here?  
**766 miles (Rhine)**
2. Name one place that the Danube flows through.  
**Any from: Austria, Hungary, Croatia, Bulgaria and Romania, Belgrade, Budapest, Vienna and Bratislava**
3. If Johann Strauss II is Austrian, which country is he from?  
**Austria.**
4. Why can't you cross the Amazon easily?  
**There are no bridges across the river.**
5. What percentage of the Nile is in Egypt?  
**20%**
6. Which famous historical event took place on the banks of the Volga and when was it?  
**The Battle of Stalingrad. Second World War.**
7. In which mountain range does the Rhine begin?  
**The (Swiss) Alps.**

Writing  
Mission  
30 mins

## Story starter!

After all the months of preparation and building excitement the big day had finally arrived. In unison, the balloons all took off into the air, leaving the cheering crowd far below, gasping at the magnificent spectacle.

A difficult journey lay ahead, and surely not all of the balloons would make it, but they had to try – the prize of £1'000'000 for the first crew to make it around the world was a great incentive...



For today's writing mission imagine that you are a crew member on one of the balloons. Write a diary entry about what happened on one day of the journey. You can choose where you are in the world. What can you see from the balloon? Does something go wrong?



**Maths Mission**  
**30 mins**

Your maths mission today involves some mental maths problems. See how quickly you can solve these calculations. Try and solve them in your head but you can work them out on paper if you need.

1. Add together 40p, 70p and 30p.
2. What is the total of 15, 19 and 23?
3. Lauren was given some money for her birthday. Her brother gave her £2.50, her sister gave her £1.00 and her grandma gave her £4.50. How much did she get in total?
4. Omar collects 68 bus tickets and 34 train tickets. How many tickets does he have in total?
5. Caroline has 2 bags of apples. One bag has 13 red apples in and the other bag has 24 green apples. How many apples does she have in total?
6. What is the sum of 38, 20 and 87?
7. Samir buys three chocolate bars. A Mars that cost 62p, a Snickers that cost 59p and a Milky Way that cost 70p. How much did he spend in total?
8. A teacher gives out 16 pencils on Monday, 22 on Tuesday and 29 on Thursday. How many pencils did she give out in total?
9. How much is 84p plus 39p plus 47p?
10. Three sacks of potatoes were delivered to a shop. They weighed 18kg, 35kg, 27kg. How much did they weigh in total?

	<p><b>Answers</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. 140p or £1.40</li><li>2. 57</li><li>3. £8</li><li>4. 102 tickets</li><li>5. 37 apples</li><li>6. 145</li><li>7. 191p or £1.91</li><li>8. 67 pencils</li><li>9. 170p or £1.70</li><li>10. 80kg</li></ol>
<p>Topic Mission Ideas for the week. Choose activities based on what interests you.</p>	<p>See Monday's planning.</p> <hr/>