

Did you know?

- The longest river in the world is the River Nile in Africa. It is 6650 km long and travels through 10 countries. Wow!
- The Amazon carries more water than any other river. It also has the largest surface area and the biggest number of tributaries.
- Most rivers have a mouth which flows into a larger body of water, such as a sea, ocean or lake.
- Water covers three quarters of the Earth's surface (although 93% of this is salt water, so it's undrinkable).
- River dolphins can be grey, white, pink, yellow, brown or black in colour, and have snouts up to 58 cm long.
- The amount of water on Earth has remained the same for two billion years! The glass of water you drank with your lunch could once have been drunk by a dinosaur!
- Most of the world's largest cities have been built on the banks of a river: London, on the Thames; Rome, on the Tiber; and Paris, on the Seine.
- One of the largest aquatic plants in the world is the Amazonian water lily, or the *Victoria amazonica*. It has leaves up to 3 m wide!
- The Zambezi River in Africa is home to hippos, baboons, elephants, crocodiles, hyenas and lions. It's a risky place to be when they're hungry!
- Hydropower uses the force of water to create kinetic energy, which provides one fifth of the world's electricity.
- Many people think that rivers always flow south, but four of the 10 longest rivers in the world flow north.
- There are between 5000 and 7000 different species of bacteria in a single gram of soil.
- In ancient China, a soil classification map was used to evaluate land value and determine taxes.
- Because it contains most of the nutrients which plants need to grow, soil is the basis of life on Earth. In turn, the plants feed animals and us. So remember, the nutrients in the soil will someday end up in you!
- Glass produced from recycled glass reduces related air pollution by 20% and related water pollution by 50%.
- Songwriters and storytellers often use the image of a river as a symbol of life and the passage of time.