



Amazon River

The Amazon River in South America is the world's largest river. It is 6400km long, making it the second longest river in the world behind the Nile. At its widest part the Amazon is 48km wide.

The source of the Amazon River starts in the Andes mountains and ends at the mouth of the river in the N.E. of Brazil. It flows through Peru, Venezuela, Colombia, Bolivia, Ecuador and Brazil. The mouth of the Amazon flows into the Atlantic Ocean.



The Amazon River has over 1100 tributaries joining it during its journey and some of them are over 1000 miles long. For most of its length, the river flows through the world's largest rainforest, the Amazon. It covers 6.5 million sq km and is home to more than one-third of all species in the world!

Wildlife

The river is the main habitat of the Amazon River Dolphin. Dolphins use echolocation to hunt for prey in the deep depths of the river. The Giant Otter also lives in the Amazon. It is a member of the weasel family and is the largest of its kind.

The anaconda snake is one of the largest species of snake in the world and can be found lurking in the Amazon Basin. It spends most of its life in the water with only its nostrils showing above the surface. It attacks large animals such as goats that get too close to the water's edge. The caiman also inhabits the Amazon and is related to alligators.

There are over 5000 different species of fish in the Amazon River, including 40 - 60 different species of piranha. Piranhas are carnivores and hunt in shoals, stripping flesh from their prey. They can kill cattle and even humans. The Red-bellied Piranha is most likely to attack humans.

Did You Know ?

- Manaus, in Brazil, is the largest city along the Amazon River and over 1.5 million people live there.
- In one second the Amazon pours almost 60 million gallons into the Atlantic Ocean. That's a lot of water!
- The Amazon River provides about one-fifth of the fresh water that flows into the world's oceans.

Name: _____

Subject: Year 6 Geography

Date: _____

Sheet: Rivers

Read the information sheet ***Amazon River*** on the previous page and then answer the questions.

a) What is the length of the Amazon River?

1. 5600km
2. 4600km
3. 6400km

b) The Amazon is the _____ longest river in the world.

1. third
2. second
3. fourth

c) The mouth of the Amazon flows into the _____ Ocean.

1. Pacific
2. Atlantic
3. Indian

d) Write down two reptiles that inhabit the Amazon River.

e) What do dolphins use to locate and identify their prey?

f) Which species of piranha is most likely to attack humans?

g) What is a tributary?

1. A stream or river that flows into a river or lake.
2. A stream or river that flows away from the main stream.
3. A U-shaped body of water.

h) What is the largest city on the Amazon River? _____

i) What is the longest river in the world? _____