



The Mini Page

Next Week:
What's
El Niño?

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Founded by Betty Debnam

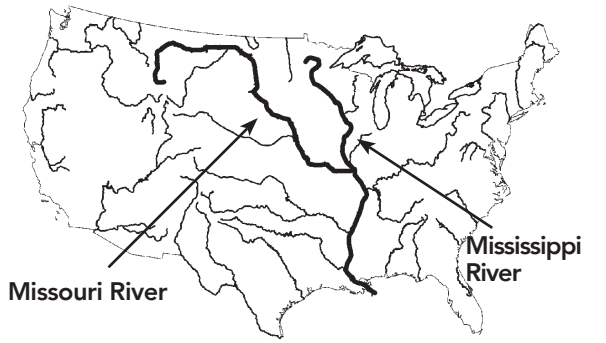
World Rivers Day



photo by Joey Rozier

Mini Fact:

Barges move about 175 million tons of material on the Mississippi River each year.



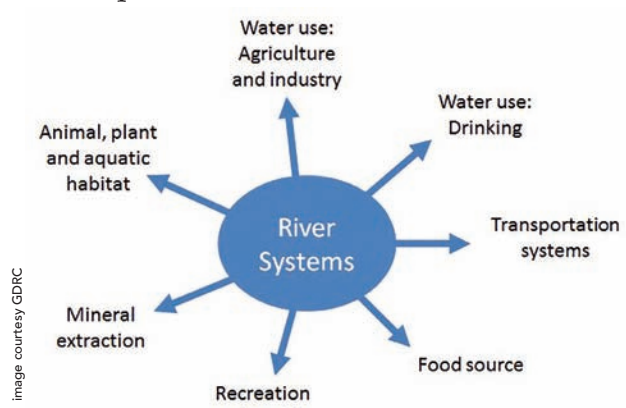
The Missouri River (the longest river in the U.S., about 2,500 miles long) and the Mississippi (the biggest, with its watershed covering more than a million square miles) are two of the most important rivers in the United States.

Since 2005, millions of people have organized on the fourth Sunday of September to celebrate World Rivers Day. With the support of the United Nations, people celebrate waterways and promote taking good care of our rivers.

This year, World Rivers Day will focus on the natural, cultural and recreational values of rivers and streams.

Why rivers?

Rivers provide us with beauty, recreation, transportation, electricity, wildlife habitat, water for manufacturing and agriculture, and most important, water to drink.



A **river** is a naturally flowing body of water. Streams, brooks, creeks and smaller rivers are all part of bigger river systems.

Almost all rivers in the United States flow into the ocean. An exception is the water flowing into Utah's Great Salt Lake. Rivers all flow from a high point to the lowest point.

The importance of water

Most of the Earth's water is in the oceans. But people and most animals can't live by drinking ocean water. It is too salty.



Water that is good to drink is called **fresh water**. About half of the drinking water in the U.S. comes from rivers. But fresh water from rivers and other sources is in short supply.

The state of our rivers

Experts say only about half of our rivers and streams meet the standards set up by our government to keep our water clean and safe. People worry about having enough clean water. Humans have relied on rivers to:

- **Irrigate** crops. In the dry West, about 80% of the river water humans use is used to grow food.
- Help make virtually all products, from paper to computer chips.
- Make steam to run coal and nuclear power plants and provide water to cool those plants.
- Create electricity. About 10% of the electrical power in America is created by dams on rivers.



Crops are watered by irrigation systems.

Caring for rivers

Here are some ways you can help keep our rivers flowing cleanly:

- Volunteer to help clean up trash along a river.
- Save water. Don't leave the faucet running when you do tasks such as brushing your teeth.
- Ask your parents to use nonpolluting, safe products for lawn care. Chemicals flow from your lawn into rivers.
- Join your local watershed group.
- Pick up after your dog. Remember, almost everything that goes on the ground ends up in our rivers.



Resources



On the Web:

- youtu.be/FpXCkM4NdFs

At the library:

- "Great Rivers of the World" by Volker Mehnert
- "A River Ran Wild: An Environmental History" by Lynne Cherry

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Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of rivers are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

BROOK, CREEK, CROPS, CULTURAL, DUMPING, ELECTRICITY, FRESH, IRRIGATE, MISSISSIPPI, MISSOURI, NATURAL, RIVER, SEPTEMBER, STEAM, STREAM, SYSTEM, WATERSHED, WORLD.

D W Q Y T I C I R T C E L E E
Q E R I P P I S S I S S I M V
I C H E C K O O R B B M M M N
M K U S B W O R L D H I G A A
A E U L R M R F N W S S N E T
E E T K T E E S I X E S I R U
T R D S V U T T J R R O P T R
S C L I Y H R A P J F U M S A
C C R O P S J A W E R R U E L
I R R I G A T E L X S I D P P



Mini Jokes



Renee: What do you call the little rivers that flow into the Nile?
Reggie: Juveniles!

Eco Note



Farmers in parts of Australia's New South Wales and Queensland states say wild pigs are running amok across the landscape, attacking their livestock, trampling their crops and posing a health risk to both man and beast. It's believed years of heavy rain have caused the feral swine population to surge. "There are waves of pigs absolutely everywhere," farmer Tom Dunlop told the Sydney Morning Herald.



adapted with permission from Earthweek.com

Cook's Corner

Microwave Salmon Rice Casserole

You'll need:

- 1 can cream of celery soup
- 1 (15 1/2-ounce) can salmon, drained (save liquid)
- 1 1/2 cups cheddar cheese, shredded

- 1 (10-ounce) package chopped broccoli, thawed
- 2 cups cooked rice



* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

What to do:

1. Combine soup, salmon liquid and cheese in a microwave-safe 9-by-9-inch casserole dish. Stir well. Cover and microwave on HIGH for 2 minutes. Stir at 1 minute.
2. Add salmon, broccoli and rice to dish. Mix well.
3. Cover and microwave on HIGH for 8 minutes. Stir at 2 and 6 minutes. Serves 6.

7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

1. "The Lego Movie" character (9) _____
2. bug with hard wings (6) _____
3. it covers the house (4) _____
4. seaside (5) _____
5. what an Olympic winner gets (5) _____
6. make your body work (8) _____
7. unable to do things yourself (8) _____

CISE	RO	PL	ST
TLE	WYL	ESS	DAL
COA	ME	HEL	DST
YLE	EXER	OF	BEE

Answers: Wylstyle, beetle, beetle, beetle, medal, exercise, helpless.



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For later:

Look in your newspaper for events related to World Rivers Day.

Teachers: Follow and interact with The Mini Page on Facebook!



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