

World Rivers Day

KEY CONCEPTS AND VOCABULARY

World Rivers Day

World Rivers Day always takes place the fourth Sunday in September. It is a celebration of the world's waterways. It highlights the value of rivers, strives to increase public awareness, and encourages the improved stewardship of all rivers around the world. Rivers face a large number of threats and we need to ensure their health. It began in British Columbia, Canada, as BC Rivers Day, in 1980. Mark Angelo is an internationally celebrated river conservationist and he started BC Rivers Day and proposed a World Rivers Day Event. The United Nations saw the event as a good fit for the aims of the Water for Life Decade and approved the proposal. The first World Rivers Day took place in 2005; it was a great success and was celebrated across dozens of countries.

Surface Water

There are two broad categories of sources of drinking water: surface water and ground water. In both the United States and Canada, approximately two-thirds of the country's population receives its drinking water from surface water, while the other one-third of the country's population receives its drinking water from ground water. Therefore, surface water is a very important source of drinking water. There are, unfortunately, many threats to the quality of surface water; including fertilizers and pesticides, chemical waste products, and garbage.

Rivers

Large, natural streams of water flowing in a channel to the sea, a lake, or another stream.

Tributaries

Rivers or streams that flow into a large river or lake.

River Delta

A landform where the mouth of a river flows into an ocean, sea, desert, estuary, lake, or another river. It is formed by sediment carried by the river being deposited in the wider mouth.

River System/Watershed

The land drained by a river and its tributaries.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND LINKS

[Environmental Protection Agency's Drinking Water Mapping Application to Protect Source Waters](#)

[Safe Drinking Water Foundation's Educational Programs](#)

Pre/Post Viewing Activities

Your Water and Your Rivers

Overview

In this activity, students will learn information about a river that is close to where they live. They will also learn whether their drinking water comes from that river.

Materials

Internet

Photocopies of maps of your area

Smartboard or Projector connected to a computer

Pencil crayons

Directions

1. Ask students what rivers are near where they live.
2. Distribute photocopies of maps of your area.
3. Ask students to trace the river closest to where they live (if there are a few rivers in your area then students can trace the river of their choice or the teacher can decide which river will be traced by which students) with a blue pencil crayon on their copy of the map. (The teacher might need to put some online pictures showing where the rivers are on the map on the Smartboard/screen.)
4. Working individually or in groups, have students research the river they traced – what is its length? What breeds of fish live in that river? What else can they find out?
5. Engage entire class in discussion about the rivers they researched.
6. Ask students where their community's drinking water comes from, does it come from a river or is the source ground water?

7. Research as a class to discover from where your community's drinking water comes (if you cannot find the answer online, then contact your city's or town's office).

Time: 60 minutes



Class Discussion Questions

Depth of Knowledge 1

- When does World Rivers Day take place?
- Who founded World Rivers Day?
- Where did World Rivers Day get its start?
- What are the names of some of the rivers that are in our country?
- What are some things that could pollute a river?

Depth of Knowledge 2

- Why did the United Nations approve the proposal for World Rivers Day?
- How do the percentages of Canadians who get their drinking water from surface water sources compare to the percentages of Americans who get their drinking water from surface water sources?
- Why is it important for us to know what can pollute a river?

Depth of Knowledge 3

- Why might someone start an event like World Rivers Day? How could you start an event?
- What could we do if we were concerned about the quality of our drinking water?
- How can we prevent water pollution? What strategy do you think would be the most effective?



Webinar Note Taking Guide

Student Name: _____

BEFORE participating in the webinar:

Write anything you know about World Rivers Day. _____

Guess the name of the longest river in Canada: _____

Guess the name of the longest river in the United States: _____

Guess the name of the longest river in the world: _____

AFTER participating in the webinar:

Reflect on the webinar and write one or two questions that you still have about the topic. _____



Make a connection between the information in the webinar and one of the following: your life/your family, your plans for the future, what you already know or believe, a video or a book. _____

Describe an action that you will now take after having participated in the webinar. _____
