



# Reading in Geography

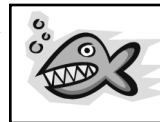


## PIRANHA



Piranhas are fish. They are also known by the name, Caribe. “Caribe” is a Spanish \_\_\_\_\_ that means cannibal.

The fish is oval in shape and is coloured deep green/blue. They measure between 20 and 60 cm (1-2 feet) in length. Most species of piranha are carnivorous (meat eating). Piranhas have razor sharp \_\_\_\_\_ that are wedge shaped and fit neatly together. They also have very large mouths. This allows the fish to chew off the flesh of its prey very quickly and effectively. Piranhas usually feed on other fish but they will eat frogs, birds and other animals. Some \_\_\_\_\_ are vegetarian.



Piranhas are found in the rivers and lakes of South America. Piranhas are found in the Amazon \_\_\_\_\_ basin, in the Orinoco River system, in rivers of the Guianas, in the Paraguay-Paraná, and the São Francisco River systems.

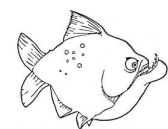
Stories tell of these fish devouring (eating) large animals such as horses in a matter of seconds, leaving nothing behind but a \_\_\_\_\_. The same stories tell of humans being devoured equally quickly. Many of these stories are no doubt true. The fish do gather in large schools and are attracted by splashing and the scent of \_\_\_\_\_. They are extremely dangerous in an aroused state. However, the occurrence of these feeding frenzies on large animals, including humans, is very rare. In fact, only a few species of the piranha such as the red-bellied piranha are considered \_\_\_\_\_ to humans.

Fatal attacks are rare. Most attacks take the form of individual nips and \_\_\_\_\_ to extremities such as the feet and hands. Splashing tends to make piranhas more likely to \_\_\_\_\_, and children are often attacked for this reason. Fatalities from piranha attacks are comparable to those of the shark or crocodile, rare but notorious.

The piranha has more to fear from humans than the \_\_\_\_\_ from the piranha. The fish is regarded as excellent eating and prized by fishermen. (Reference: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/piranha>)

### Missing Words

humans  
attack  
species  
word  
teeth  
bites  
River  
skeleton  
blood  
dangerous



### Comprehension

1. What is another name for Piranha? C \_\_\_\_\_
2. What does the word “Caribe” mean in English? C \_\_\_\_\_
3. What shape is the piranha? O \_\_\_\_\_
4. What colour is the piranha? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What word means “meat-eating”? C \_\_\_\_\_
6. How sharp are the teeth of the piranha? R \_\_\_\_\_ sharp
7. What do piranhas usually eat? \_\_\_\_\_
8. In which continent are piranha to be found? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What may attract the attention of piranhas? S \_\_\_\_\_
10. When are piranhas extremely dangerous? \_\_\_\_\_

