



Reading in Geography

AMAZON RIVER



South America



Amazon Basin



Brazil



The Amazon _____ is in the continent of South America. The river begins in Peru in the Andes Mountains and flows east through Brazil to the Atlantic _____. Locals refer to the river as an 'inland _____'.

The Amazon is the largest river in the world by water volume. The Amazon River is as large as the next 6 or 7 largest rivers in the world combined. To illustrate the point, one of the largest rivers in the _____, the Rio Negro, flows into the Amazon. When in flood, the Amazon River contains 25% of the world's fresh flowing water.

In length, the Amazon is the second longest river in the world. The Nile River is generally regarded as the longest river in the world. However, the definition of rivers in geography is troublesome and the Amazon may also be the longest river.

The Amazon River has the largest catchment (drainage basin) of any river. The catchment represents 40% of South _____ or 7 million square _____. The Amazon River drains an area the size of Australia or mainland U.S.A. and much of that area is rain-forest. The Amazon has over 1100 tributaries in the catchment and 17 of those tributaries are rivers over 1500km in _____. The two longest are the Madeira River and the Purus River; the Rio Negro is the largest tributary.

Navigation of the river is possible for over 4000km. The river is 20-25m deep upriver and 20-50m deep downriver; in places it is 100m deep. Ocean going _____ can navigate for 1500km to the city of Manaus. Other large shipping can navigate a further 2000km up-stream and small _____ a further 800km. It is a great waterway.

The tropical rainforest and the river provide life to an incredible diversity of wildlife. Piranhas are found in the river as are _____. There are over 2000 _____ of fish along with manatee, giant otters, sharks, jaguars and pink dolphins. The rainforest itself is host to 30% of all species on earth.

Another fascinating aspect of the river is the tidal bore known by locals as "Pororoca". This is a 2-4m high tidal _____ that travels upstream at 15-20 km an _____. It occurs a few times a year on the high tide. It begins with a roar heard kilometres away and travels several kilometres. It is dangerous to shipping and contains large amounts of _____. River surfing is therefore risky but it remains popular.



COMPREHENSION



REWRITE

- River Surfer

1. In which continent is the Amazon River? _____
2. In which country does the Amazon River begin? _____
3. Into which ocean does the Amazon flow? _____ Ocean
4. How do the locals refer to the Amazon River? _____
5. Which river is generally regarded as the longest river in the world? _____
6. How large is the Amazon's catchment? _____
7. How many tributaries does the Amazon have? _____
8. For what distance is the Amazon River navigable by ocean going ships? _____
9. Name 2 dangerous animals living in the river and rainforest? _____
10. What is the "Pororoca"? _____

Reference: wikipedia.org/wiki/Amazon_River

geographyburger

CLOZE

SHIPS
AMERICA
LENGTH
RIVER
WORLD
DEBRIS
OCEAN
WAVE
HOUR
SEA
BOATS
KILOMETRES
ANACONDA
SPECIES

MISSING WORDS



Piranha

