**Major River Systems in the World**

**Important river system of continent Asia**

**Ganga river system**

**Continent: Asia**

**Country:** India

**Origin:** Gangotri Glacier (himalayan mountain)

**Tributaries:**

**Drain:** Bay of Bengal through Sunderban Delta

**Important Note:**

1. **Originate at confluence of Alaknanda and Bhagirathi river**
2. **It is the longest river of India**

[**Brahmaputra River System**](https://www.jagranjosh.com/general-knowledge/the-brahmaputra-river-system-1448442680-1)

**Continent: Asia**

**Country:**India, China, Bangladesh

**Origin:**Mansarovar lake, near the mount Kailash of Himalayas

**Tributaries:**Dibang River, Lohit River, Dhansiri River, Kolong River, Kameng River, Manas River, Beki River, Raidak River, Jaldhaka River, Teesta River, Subansiri River

**Drain:**Andaman Sea

**Note:**

It is known as Tsangpo in China and Meghna is Bangladesh

**Chang Jiang (Yangtze) River System**

**Continent: Asia**

**Country:** China

**Origin:** Qinghai tibet Plateau

**Tributaries:** Yalong, Min, Tuo, Jialing, Han, Wu, Yuan, Zi, Xiang, Gan, Huangpu River, Teesta River, Subansiri River

**Drain:** East China Sea

Important Note:

Asia longest river and world’s third largest river

**World largest hydro power station (three Gorge Dam) also located at this river**

**Huang Ho River (Yellow River) System**

**Continent: Asia**

**Country:** China

**Origin:** Bayan Har Mountain (Qinghai)

**Tributaries:** Fen River, Tao River, Wei River

**Drain:** Bohai sea

**Note:**

1. **Asia and second longest river and world’s 6th longest river**
2. **Known as sorrow of China and “Cradle of Chinese civilisation”**

**Indus River System**

**Continent: Asia**

**Country:** China, India, Pakistan

**Origin: Mansarovar lake, near the Mount Kailash of Himalaya (Tibetan plateau)**

**Tributaries:** Zanskar River, Suru River, Soan River, Jhelum River, Chenab River, Ravi River, Beas River, Sutlej River, Panjnad River, Ghaggar-Hakra River, Luni River, Shyok River, Hunza River, Gilgit River, Swat River, Kunar River, Kabul River, Kurram River, Gomal River, Zhob River

**Drain:** Arabian Sea in Pakistan

Note:

1. Longest river of Pakistan
2. This river is the birth place of Ancient Indian civilisation

**Euphrates River System**

**Continent: Asia**

**Country:** Iraq, Turkey, Syria

**Origin:** Lake Hazar, Taurus mountain, Eastern Turkey

Tributaries: Karasu, Murat, Tigris (Iraq)

**Drain:**  Shatt al-Arab in persian gulf

**Note:**

1. **Western river of two great mesopotamian river**
2. **Longest river of Iraq and Syria**
3. **It emerges from the confluence of Karasu and Murat river**

**Tigris River System**

**Continent: Asia**

**Country:** Iraq, Turkey, Syria

**Origin:** Lake Hazar, Taurus mountain, Eastern Turkey

**Tributaries: Euphrates (turkey), Shatt-al-arab**

**Drain:**  Shatt al-Arab in persian gulf

**Note:**

1. **Most significant river in western asia and Middle east**
2. **Eastern river of Two great mesopotamian rivers**

**Mekong River System**

**Continent: Asia**

**Country:** China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam

**Origin:** Lasagonagma Spring

**Tributaries:** Nam Khan, Tha, Nam Ou, Mun, Tonle Sap, Kok, Ruak

**Drain:** South China Sea

**Note:**

**Asia third longest river**

**Irrawaddy River System**

**Continent: Asia**

**Country:** Myanmar

**Origin:** Mali River

**Tributaries:** Chindwin, Mu, Myitnge

**Drain:** Andaman Sea

**Note:**

1. **It is the longest river of Myanmaar**
2. **Originate at confluence of the Nmai and Mali rivers**

**Salween River System**

**Continent: Asia**

**Country:** China, Myanmaar,Thailand

**Origin:** Tanggula mountains of Tibetan plateau

**Drain:** Andaman Sea

**Dnieper River System**

**Continent: Asia**

**Country:** Russia, Belarus, Ukraine

**Origin:** Valdai hills (Russia)

**Tributaries:** Sozh, Desna, Trubizh, Supiy, Sula, Psel, Vorskla, Samara, Konka, Bilozerka, Drut, Berezina, Prypiat, Teteriv, Irpin, Stuhna, Ros, Tiasmyn, Bazavluk, Inhulets

**Drain:** Black Sea

**Ob River system**

**Continent: Asia**

**Country:** Central Russia

**Origin:** Altay mountain

**Tributaries:** Biya, Katun

**Drain:** Kara Sea (Arctic ocean) through gulf of Ob

**Note:**

1. **It forms at the confluence of Biya and Katun river**
2. **Western of 3 great siberian rivers**

**Lena River System**

**Continent: Asia**

**Country:** Russia

**Origin:** Lake Baikal

**Tributaries:** Kirenga, Vilyuy, Vitim, Olyokma, Aldan

**Drain:** Laptev Sea of Arctic ocean

**Note:**

**Easternmost of 3 great siberian rivers**

**Amur River System**

**Continent: Asia**

**Country:** Russia, China

**Origin:** Lake Khanka

**Tributaries:** Shilka, Zeya, Bureya, Amgun, Ergune, Huma, Songhua, Ussuri

**Drain:** Tartar strait

**Note:**

**Known as Amur in Russia and Heilong Jiang in China**

**It has two major primary sources:**

1. **Onon and Shilka river (mongolia and Russia)**
2. **Kherlen and Argon river (Mongolia and China)**

**Forms at the confluence of Shilka and Argon rivers**

**Irtysh River System**

**Continent: Russia**

**Country:** Mongolia, China, Kazakhstan, Russia

**Origin:** Altai Mountain, Xinjiang, China

**Tributaries:** Tobol River, Demyanka River and the Ishim River

**Drain:** Ob River

**Ural River System**

**Continent: Asia**

**Country:** Russia, Kazakhstan

**Origin:** Ural Mountain of Russia

**Drain:**  Caspian Sea

**Note:**

1. **Important river of Eurasia**
2. **It forms border on some parts of Asia and Europe**

**Yenisei River System**

**Country:** Mongolia, Central Russia

**Origin:** Mungaragiyn gol ridge mountains, Mongolia

**Tributaries:** Angara, Lower Tunguska, Stony Tunguska River

**Drain:** Kara sea through Yenisei Gulf

**Note:**

**Forms at the confluence of Big yenisei/bii khem and the little yenisei/ka-khem river**

**Continent: Europe**

**Volga River System**

**Continent: Europe**

**Country:** Russia

**Origin:** Valdai Hills, north east of Moscow (Russia)

**Tributaries:** Kama, Oka

**Drain:** Caspian Sea

Note:

Longest river of Europe and Russia

**Danube River System**

**Continent: Asia**

**Country:** Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova, Ukraine

**Origin:** Black Forest Mountain of western Germany

**Drain:** Black Sea

**Note:**

Second longest river of Europe

Forms by the confluence of Berg and Brigach rivers

**Rhine River System**

**Country:** Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Austria, Germany, France and Netherlands

**Origin:** Rift valley of Alps mountain

**Drain:** North Sea

**Note:**

1. Forms in switzerland at the confluence of Rein anteriur/vorderrhein and Rein posteriur/hinterrhein rivers
2. Busiest waterway river in Europe
3. World busiest port of Rotterdam (Netherlands) is located on this river**.**

**Nile River System**

**Continent: Africa**

**Country:** Egypt, Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Congo, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Eritrea

**Origin:** Blue Nile and White Nile

**Tributaries: White Nile and Blue Nile**

**Drain:** Mediterranean Sea

**Note:**

1. **longest river of Africa**
2. **Nile is world’s lonngest river by length**

**Amazon River System**

**Continent: South America**

**Country:** Peru, Ecuador, Columbia, Bolivia, Brazil

**Origin:** Andes mountain ranges in Peru

**Tributaries:** Purus, Maranon, Jurua/Caqueta, Rio Negro/Guainía, Putumayo, Ucayali, Purús, Madeira, Tapajos, Xingu

**Drain:** Atlantic Ocean

**Note:**

1. **Longest river of south America and second longest river of the world.**
2. **Amazon river basin is the largest drainage basin in the world.**

**11. Missouri River System**

**Continent: North America**

**Country:** North America, United States of America (USA)

**Origin:** Rocky Mountain

**Tributaries:** Jefferson, Madison, Gallatin

**Drain:**

**Note:**

1. **It is the longest tributary of Mississippi river.**
2. **Mississippi-Missouri river system forms 4th longest river system in the world covering 6274 km.**

**11. Mississippi River System**

**Continent: North America**

**Country:** Canada, United States of America (USA)

**Origin:** Lake Itaska of Minnesota, US

**Tributaries:** Arkansas, Illinois, Missouri (Join from west at St.louis, Ohio (Join from east at Cairo) and Red rivers

**Drain:** Flows towards south and drain in Gulf of Mexico

**Note:**

1. **IT is the second longest river of US and Northern America.**
2. **It is one of the great commercial waterways of the world and Northern America.**

**Mackenzie River System**

**Continent: North America**

**Country:** Canada

**Origin:** Great Slave Lake

**Tributaries:** Liard River, Keele River, Arctic Red River, Peel River, Great Bear River

**Drain:** Beaufort Sea in Arctic ocean

**Note:**

1. **Longest river in Canada**
2. **It flows toward North-west direction**

**Murray River System**

**Continent: Australia**

**Country:** Australia

**Origin:** Australian Alps of great dividing range

**Tributaries:** Mitta Mitta River, Kiewa River, Ovens River, Goulburn River, Campaspe River, Loddon River, Swampy Plains River, Murrumbidgee River, Darling River

**Drain:** Indian Ocean

**Note:**

1. **Longest river of Australia**
2. **Flows towards west direction**

**Madeira River System**

**Continent: South America**

**Country:** Bolivia, Brazil

**Origin:** Mamore River

**Tributaries:** Madre de Dios River, Mamoré River, Ji-Paraná River, Dos Marmelos River, Manicoré River, Mataurá River, Mariepauá River, Aripuanã River

**Drain:** Amazon River

**Niger River System**

**Continent: Africa**

**Country:** Guinea, Mali, Niger, Benin, Nigeria

**Origin:** Guinea High Lands

**Tributaries:** Sokoto River, Kaduna River, Benue River, Anambra River, Bani River

**Drain:** Atlantic ocean through Gulf of Guinea

**Note:**

**It is the 3rd longest river of Africa**

**19. Orinoco River System**

**Country:** Colombia, Venezuela

**Origin:** Parima Mountains, Venezuela near Brazil Venezuela border

**Drain:** caribbean sea, Atlantic Ocean

**Note:**

**By discharge, it is the 2nd largest river of South America after Amazon and 4th largest river in the world.**

**20. Parana River System**

**Continent: South America**

**Country:** Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay

**Origin:** Parima Mountain

**Tributaries: Paraguay, Uruguay**

**Drain:** Atlantic Ocean

**Note:**

1. **Second longest river of South America.**
2. **It formed at the confluence of Paranaiba and Rio Grande river in southern Brazil.**
3. **Itaipu dam, largest dam of south america and 2nd largest hydro electric power plant in world is located here.**

**Paraguay River System**

**Country:** Paraguay, Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia

**Origin:** Mato Grasso

**Tributaries:** Rio Negro, Miranda River, Cuiabá River, Apa River, Tebicuary River, Jauru River, Pilcomayo River, Bermejo River

**Drain:** Parana River

**23. Sao Francisco River System**

**Continent: South America**

**Country:** Brazil

**Origin:** Canastra Mountains range, Brazil

**Drain:** Atlantic Ocean

**Note:**

1. **It is the longest river of Brazil and 4th lonngest river in South America**
2. **Flows in Southwest direction**

**30. Yukon River System**

**Continent: North America**

**Country:** Canada, United States of America (USA)

**Origin:** Llewellyn Glacier at southern end of Atlin Lake, British Columbia, Canada

**Tributaries:** White River, Tanana River, Tagish River, Takhini River, Teslin River, Big Salmon River, Pelly River, Stewart River, Klondike River, Birch Creek, Koyukuk River

**Drain:**  Bering Sea

Note:

Longest river in state Alaska of US.

**31. Zaire River (Congo River) System**

**Continent: Africa**

**Country:** Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon

**Origin:** Lake Mweru

**Tributaries:** Inkisi, Kwa-Kassai, Fimi, Kwango, Sankuru, Sangha (right), Kadei, Ubangi/ (right), Mbomou, Uele, Tshuapa River (left), Lomami River (left)

**Drain:** Atlantic Ocean

**Zambezi River System**

**Continent: Africa**

**Country:** Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Zambia, Eastern Angola, Mozambique, North eastern border of Namibia, Northern border of Botswana, Zambia-Zimbabwe

**Origin:** Marshy bog near Kalena hills, Zambia

**Tributaries: Kabompo, Kafue**

**Drain:** Mozambique channel of Indian ocean

**Note:**

1. In Africa, Zambezi Basin is 4th largest river basin
2. Largest waterfall Victoria located on Zambezi river.
3. Two major hydroelectric power station, the Kariba dam and Cahora Bassa located on this river.

Since prehistoric era, rivers played important role in life formation and human evolution. They provide a source of drinking water, for obtaining food, to fertilize lands and way to transport goods from place to place. Rivers also provide an important habitat for wildlife. They play an essential role in the ecology of rainforest and wetlands.