



## The Meeting of the Waters Brazil

The Encontro das Águas, or the “Meeting of the Waters,” is one of those places that simply wow people.

As Robert Meade of the U.S. Geological Survey once described: “Six Mississippi Rivers’ worth of cafe-au-lait-colored water are converging here with two Mississippis’ worth of black-tea-colored water to produce the greatest hydrologic spectacle on the planet.”

The coffee-colored Rio Solimões, rich with sediment, runs down from the Andes Mountains. The black-tea-tinted Rio Negro that flows from the Colombian hills and jungles is nearly sediment-free and colored by decayed leaf and plant matter. Where the rivers meet, east of Manaus, Brazil, they flow side by side within the same channel for several kilometers. The cooler, denser, and faster waters of the Solimões and the warmer, slower waters of the Negro form a boundary that is visible from space. Turbulent eddies eventually mix the two and become the Lower Amazon River.