

Rivers Study Sheet

1. watershed A line that divides two adjacent river systems.
2. valley A long depression in the surface of the land that usually contains a river.
3. tributary A branch that flows into the main stream.
4. source Where a river begins.
5. rain One source of water renewal in rivers.
6. power Many rivers are used to generate hydro-electric _____.
7. oxbow lake A crescent-shaped lake that is formed when a meander of a river is cut off from the main channel.
8. ocean A possible river destination.
9. mouth The place where a river or stream empties into another body of water.
10. meander A curve in a stream.
11. irrigation Many rivers are used as a means of _____, bringing water to the surrounding land.
12. intermittent Rivers or streams that dry up for part of the year are called _____ streams.
13. hydrologic The process by which water moves continuously through land, water, and air is called the water cycle or the _____ cycle.
14. gravity Force that causes water to flow in a certain direction.
15. flood The rising of a river and its overflowing onto normally dry land.
16. falls A steep descent of the water of a river.
17. erosion Process by which moving water wears away material from the bottom or banks of a river.
18. drainage basin The geographical area draining into a river.
19. discharge The volume of water that a river carries.
20. delta A low triangular area where a river divides before entering a larger body of water.
21. dam A barrier constructed to contain the flow of water or to keep out the sea.
22. Nile Largest river in Africa.
23. Amazon Largest river in South America.
24. Mississippi A major North American river and flows southward into the Gulf of Mexico.
25. Euphrates This river was important in the development of several great civilizations in ancient Mesopotamia.