

WORLD'S MIGHTIEST RIVERS ON "AT RISK" LIST

- 1) WORLD RIVERS:** With your partner(s), talk about these rivers. What is your image of them? What do you know of them? Change partners and share your findings.

- Amazon
- Nile
- Thames
- Mississippi
- Rio Grande
- Ganges
- Mekong
- Seine
- Danube
- Yangtze

- 2) Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with water.**
Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

3) VOCABULARY MATCH

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|------------|---|
| Dry up | animals or plants that may soon not exist because there are very few now alive |
| Release | a strong wall built across a river to stop the water and make a lake |
| Provide | If a river or lake does it, the water in it disappears |
| Endangered | to become longer or wider |
| Diverting | to send someone or something somewhere different from where they were expecting to go |
| Dam | to stop holding someone or something |
| Stretch | to supply something to someone |

- 4) TRUE / FALSE:** Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- a. A WWF report warns many of the world's great rivers may dry up. T / F
- b. The report was released to coincide with World Fish Day. T / F
- c. The rivers at risk provide fresh water to billions of people. T / F
- d. Many of the endangered rivers are on the front line of war zones. T / F
- e. The diverting of water in rivers by humans is a big problem. T / F
- f. The building of dams has helped protect many rivers. T / F
- g. The WWF is worried about the stock prices of the fishing industry. T / F
- h. A WWF initiative is to stretch rivers to create space for wildlife. T / F

5) LISTENING – complete the gaps

World's mightiest rivers on "at risk" list

A report released by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) warns that the current rate of climate is putting many of world's great rivers at risk of drying up. The report, "WWF's Top 10 Rivers at Risk", was released to coincide with World Water Day (March 22nd). It is a read. Among the endangered rivers are the Rio Grande, which runs along the U.S.-Mexico; the Yangtze, Mekong and Ganges rivers in Asia; the Danube in; and Africa's mighty River Nile. The WWF says these waterways, which provide fresh water to millions of people, are "facing widespread degradation". Carter Roberts..... of the WWF, issued a dire warning: "The world's freshwater ecosystems are under siege, and the rivers in this report are the front lines," he says.

The Rio Grande makes the list, says the report, "because the river is severely threatened by water diversions," coming from a "widespread alteration of the floodplain". Dams and are also to blame for putting the river in danger. A combination of drought and people taking too much water of the river is draining it dry. This is endangering a unique desert ecosystem, which might damage the economic growth of communities along the U.S.-Mexico border. The WWF is working to improve matters to conserve stocks. It also hopes farmers can maintain a sustainable supply of water and live in harmony with the rivers. Another WWF initiative is the establishment of more areas along stretches of the rivers most important for wildlife.