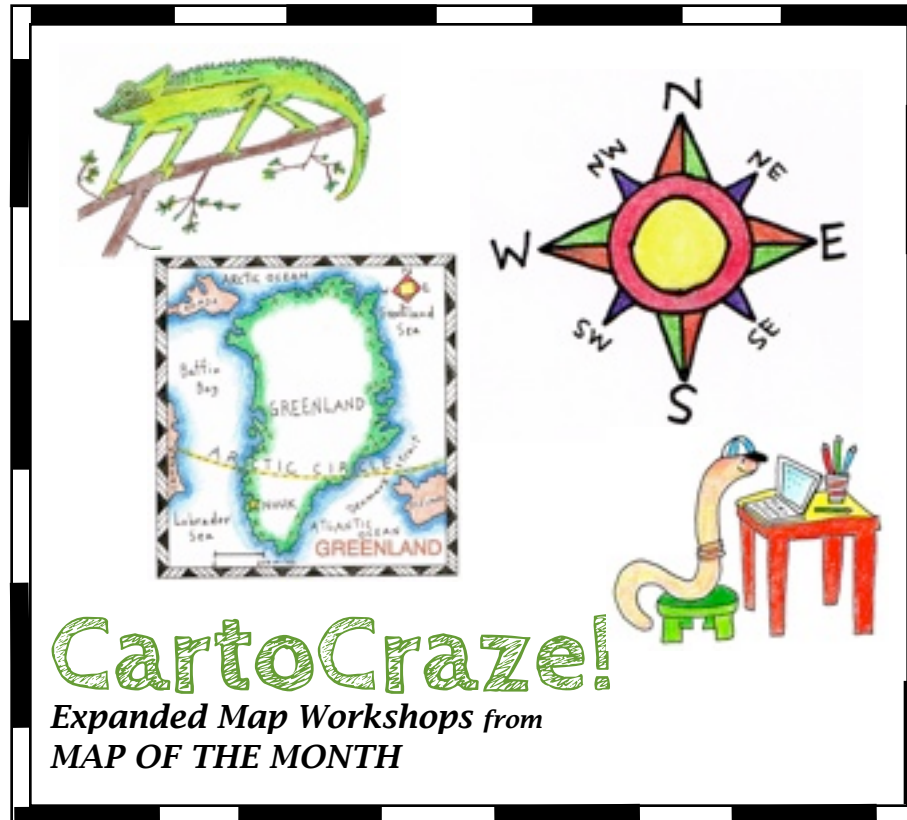


# AMAZON RIVER



**CartoCraze!**

**Expanded Map Workshops**

This PDF file of the AMAZON RIVER is

© Copyright 2015, Map of the Month

P. O. Box 2484

Providence, RI 02906

888 876 6277

[www.mapsfortheclassroom.com](http://www.mapsfortheclassroom.com)

# RIVERS

Throughout human time, rivers have offered the essential water that man requires for life itself, as well as a source of food. Rivers have made transportation of humans and goods possible as well as provided a source of power. With their great natural beauty, rivers have inspired writers and artists throughout time. Average people have always found peace and recreation along the banks and in the water of rivers.

Since the earliest times, humans have lived by rivers and the great civilizations have grown up around river banks. The ancient people of Egypt owed their life to the Nile, as did the generations of people who lived in Mesopotamia in the Middle East.

Today the great cities of the world are also known by their neighboring rivers. For example, Manhattan, the great North American city, is flanked by two rivers: the Hudson and the East River. Paris, a city in Europe which has seen much history, sits on either side of the Seine River. In South America, the vast area of the Amazon enhances settlements of all sizes in its huge watershed.



Photo: Ansel Adams. *The Tetons and the Snake River* (1942) Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming. National Archives and Records Administration, Records of the National Park Service. (79-AAG-1)

In the wilderness, rivers are no less important: they support and create ecosystems for all kinds of animals, insects and plant life.

Some rivers and the environments around them have suffered in the modern age, with industrial deposits of waste and other kinds of pollution. Sometimes the attempts to dam and redirect water has made surrounding wildlife suffer. Today environmentalists are working to restore affected areas to a cleaner and more habitable state for both humans and wildlife.

# RIVER TERMS AND THEIR DEFINITIONS

It is impossible to talk about rivers, or learn about them, without knowing some terms that relate to rivers.

Here are just a few terms! Can you come up with other terms?

**RIVER** A natural flowing stream, most often fresh water, that moves towards a sea, a lake, and ocean or another river.

**SOURCE** The furthest point of a river away from its mouth, at its origin or beginning.

**MOUTH** The part of a river that flows into another body of water.

**WATERSHED or DRAINAGE BASIN** An area of land where all the surface water drains into a larger body of water. Smaller streams join larger ones that eventually lead to a lake or ocean.

**ESTUARY** An area of water where a river joins the ocean. Here there is brackish water: a mix of freshwater and saline, or salty, seawater.

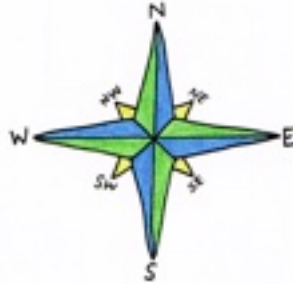
**FLOODING** This occurs when excess water causes a river to overflow its banks. Snow melt or extreme precipitation can cause flooding.

**DELTA** A landform that is caused by the gradual build up of sediment carried by a river where the river flows into another large body of water. The larger body of water that the river meets can be an estuary, ocean, sea or reservoir.

The following presentation is an introduction to the AMAZON RIVER, one of Earth's great rivers, with some information about mapping, geography, people and animals of its surrounding area.



# AMAZON RIVER



## THE AMAZON RIVER

The Amazon River is a very large river with many tributaries, located in the northern part of the continent of South America. The source of the Amazon is in the high Andes Mountains of Peru and it flows steadily and strongly eastward towards the Atlantic Ocean for over 4,000 miles.

Of all the rivers on Earth the Amazon has the largest discharge of water. More water flows out from the Amazon into the ocean than any other river in the world. The estuary where the Amazon meets the Atlantic Ocean is over 150 miles wide.

The Amazon River, and the tributaries that flow into it, form the largest river basin in the world, covering a huge portion of the continent.

Much of the Amazon flows in areas of dense plants and trees called the Amazon Rainforest. In the rainy season when the river widens and overflows, many areas are flooded. The areas where the width of the river and its tributaries widen due to rainfall are called floodplains.

The dense Amazon Rainforest is home to many plants and animals and is the most diverse rainforest in the world. There are thousands of kinds of fish, many mammals, reptiles and insects.

Professor Earthworm



Make a compass rose for your map by following the directions [HERE!](#)

# COMPARE AND CONTRAST!



At left, the map shows the Amazon River and its tributaries: they span almost the entire width of the northern part of South America. The yellow area shows the drainage basin of the Amazon and its tributaries.

The old illustrated map below shows the northern coast of South America, with the mouths of Amazon and Orinoco rivers. This map is from the Library of Congress



Map source: Knusser, Creative Commons

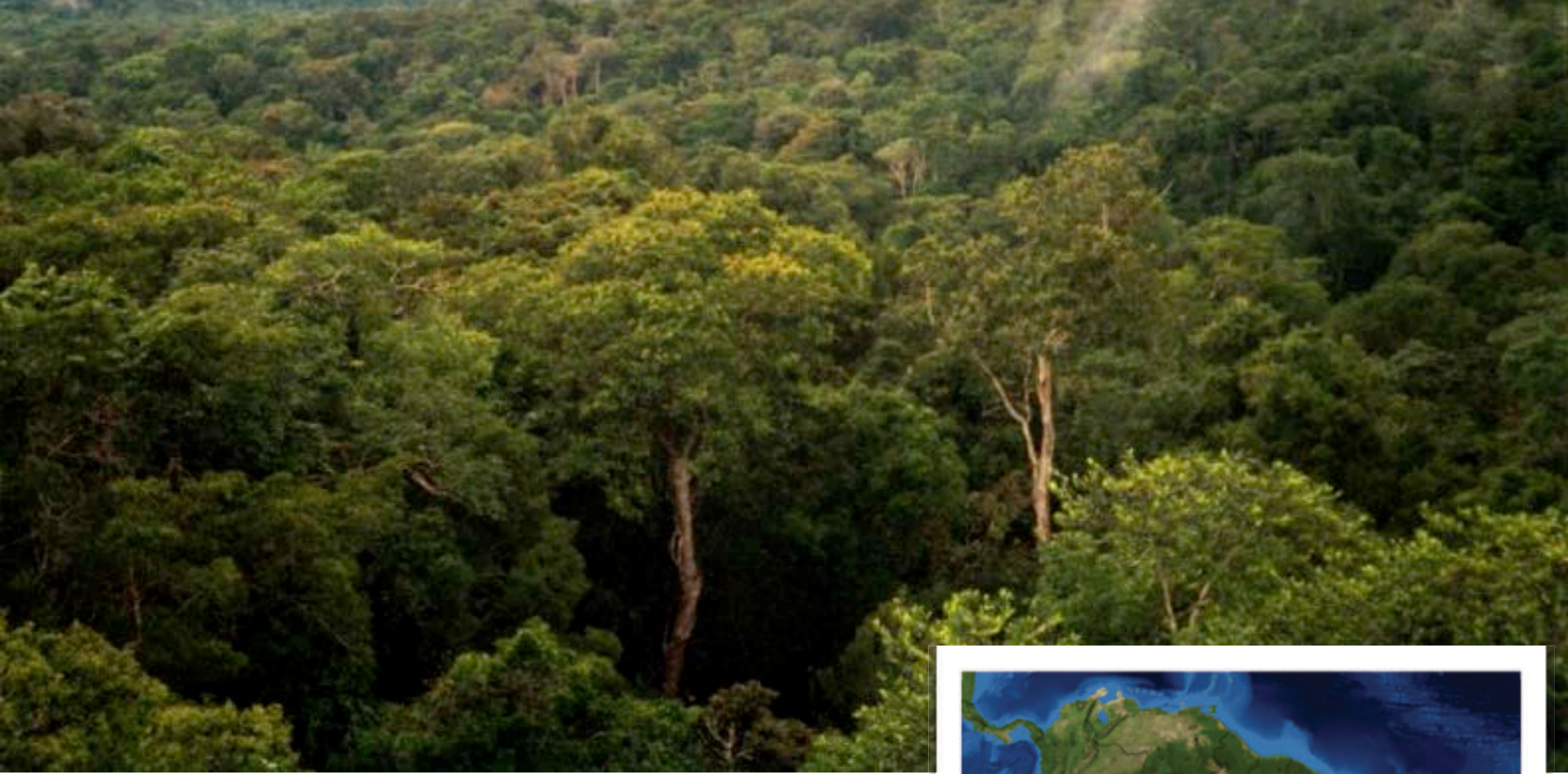


Photo: Phil P. Harris, [Creative Commons](#)

The Amazon Rainforest covers most of the Amazon Basin. It is a richly forested area often called a rainforest because so much rain falls there every year. When this happens, the Amazon overflows and there are large areas of flooding.

This forest is home to a vast array of animals, birds, insects and reptiles: it is home to the largest variety of animals on Earth.





FESTIVE AMAZON PARROT



Photo: Christopher G, [Creative Commons](#)

Blue-fronted amazon



Hyacinth macaw

Photo: Nori Almeida, [Creative Commons](#)



Photo: Deni Williams, [Creative Commons](#)

# FANCY FEATHERS!

The Amazon rainforest is home to a wide variety of colorful birds! Here are just a few examples.

Pick a category of Amazon rainforest creature below! List and describe 10 different examples!

BIRDS

INSECTS

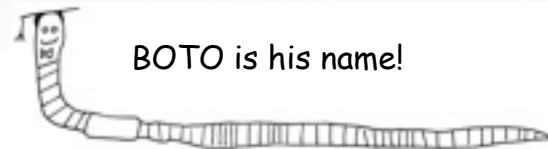
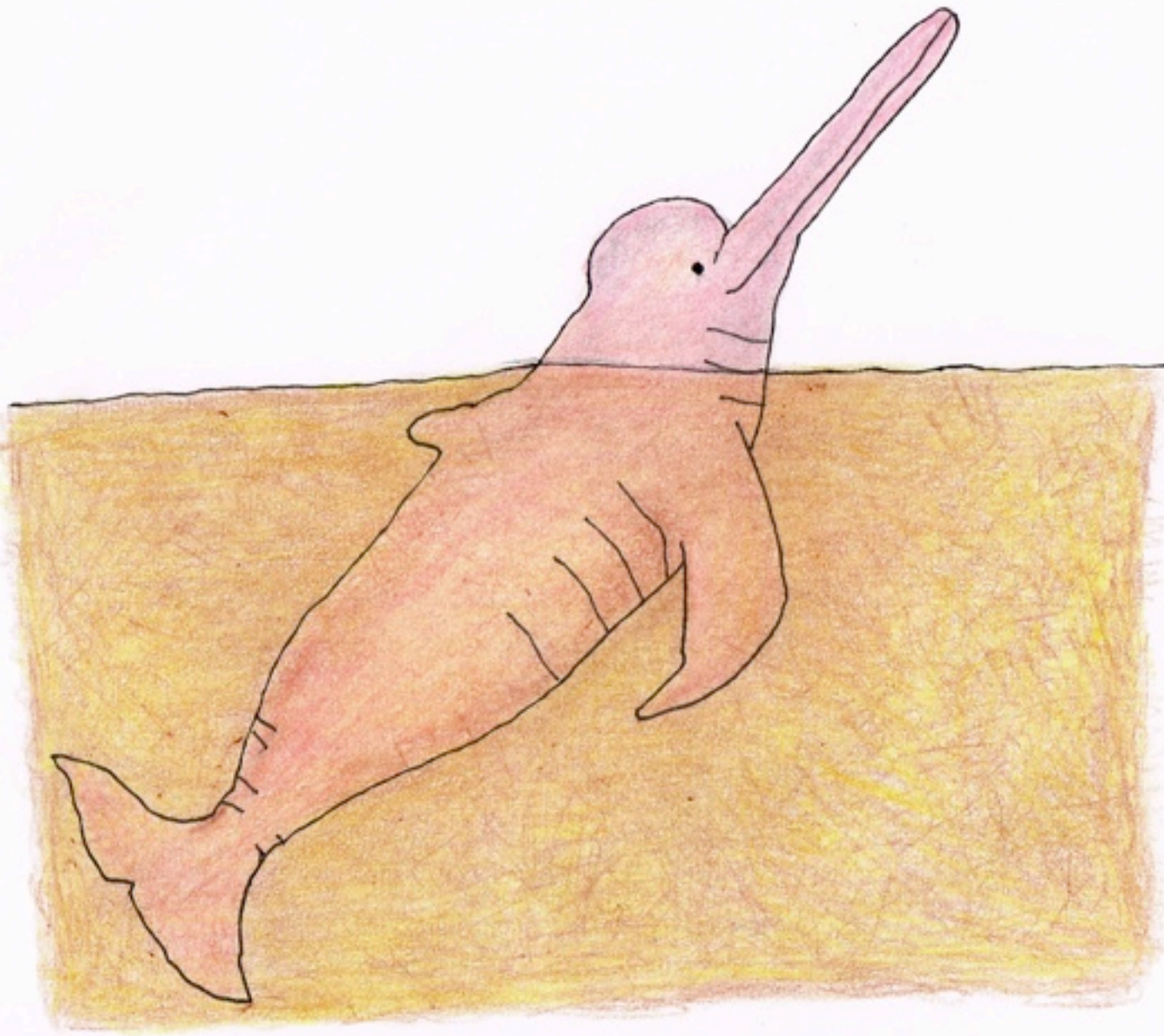
MAMMALS

FISHES

REPTILES



# AMAZON RIVER DOLPHIN



BOTO is his name!

The Amazon River dolphin, or BOTO, is one of the five freshwater species of dolphin in the world. These dolphins can be either a light pink color, or a dull grey, a color we most often associate with dolphins. They can grow to be six feet in length and since they are very flexible they are very agile in the water. This compensates for their lack of speed of 1.5 miles per hour.

When hunting for food, they run their beak-like snouts through the sandy river bottoms to find crustaceans. They have coarse bristles at the end of their snouts that help them feel for prey. They also feed on a variety of fish found in the Amazon waters. To chew their prey, they use their 140 molar-like teeth. Unafraid of humans, these dolphins often swim up to boats out of curiosity.

Amazon river dolphins are highly respected by the local inhabitants and are the subject of many myths and legends. It is believed that if a person looks a BOTO in the eye, he or she will have nightmares for life!



AMAZON RIVER DOLPHIN

### SPELLING WORDS

agile  
maneuver  
pigmentation  
bristles  
playful  
forehead  
national  
folklore

### VOCABULARY WORDS

Turn your map over and define these words!

freshwater  
endemic  
flexible  
treasure  
plump  
mythology



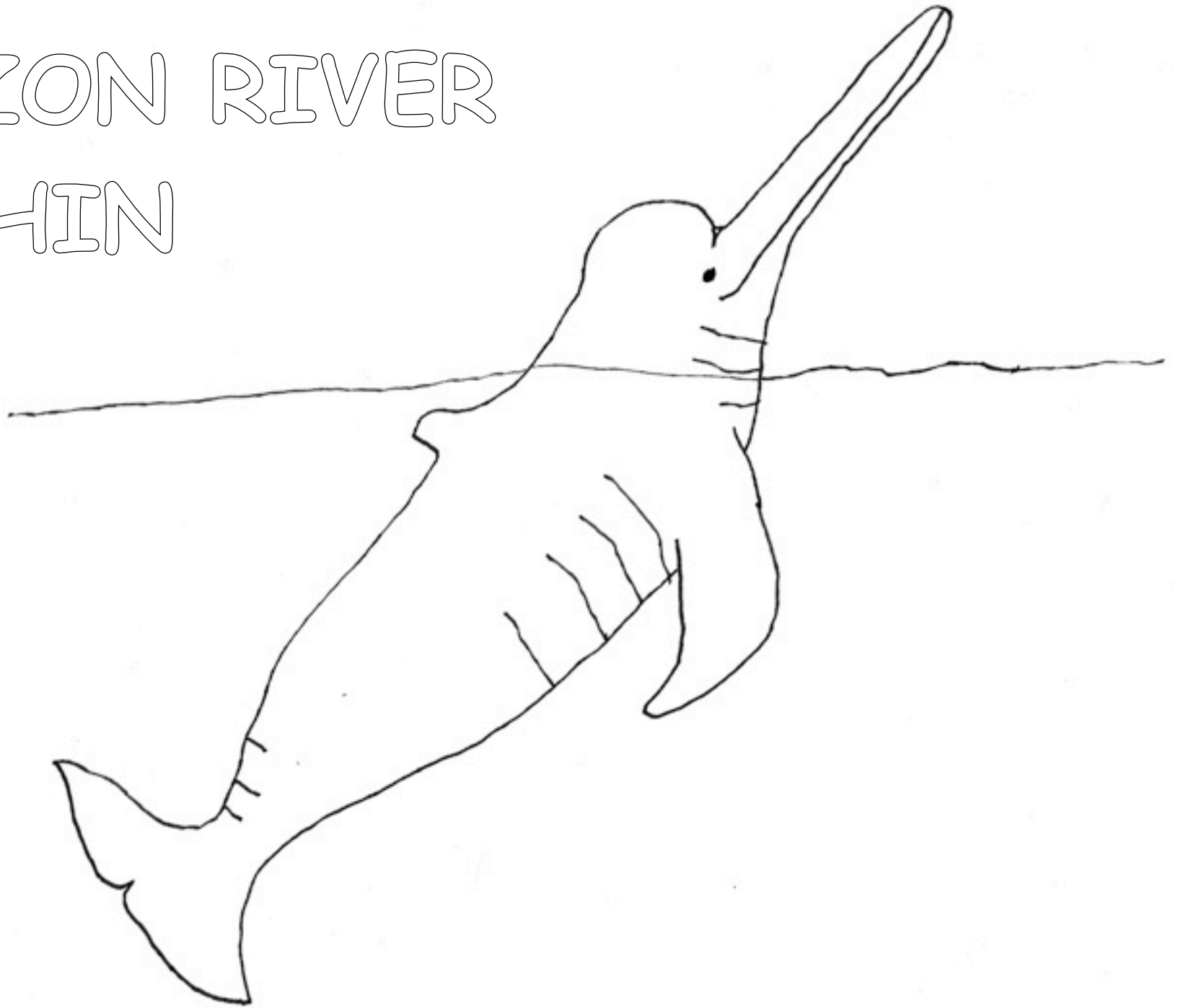
### AMAZON RIVER

PRINT THIS PAGE:  
COLOR AND LABEL THE MAP,  
BOTH LANDFORMS AND WATER.

ADD A [COMPASS ROSE](#)  
TO YOUR MAP! DO THE  
ACTIVITIES AND COLOR  
THE AMAZON RIVER DOLPHIN

AMAZON RIVER

DOLPHIN





**HARD  
TO  
GET  
THERE!**

Iquitos is a city that is called the Capital of the Peruvian Amazon. It is located along one of the a tributaries of the Amazon River. It is the largest city in the world that cannot be reached by road: it is isolated in the Amazonian rainforest! To get there, you need to travel by boat down the river or fly by plane.

Research to learn more about this city. Write a small essay about it, including, among other things, these suggestions:

1. The name of the adjacent river and the country of Iquitos.
2. Other special features of the city of Iquitos.
3. Who lives in Iquitos, and what is the population of the city?



A chocolatier is a person who makes candy or confections from chocolate!  
What a tasty job!



## WE LOVE CHOCOLATE!

The ancient Aztec and Mayan cultures used cacao.

This sculpture from the Brooklyn Museum is named:  
*Man Carrying a Cacao Pod.*

This sculpture was made sometime around the year 1500. How many years ago was that?



Chocolate and cocoa are made from the CACAO pod that is grown in the tropical area of the Amazon Rainforest!

The Cacao pods, or fruit, on the tree are in various stages of ripeness! Each pod weighs about a pound. When you cut them open the seeds are revealed. The seeds are the main ingredient of chocolate!

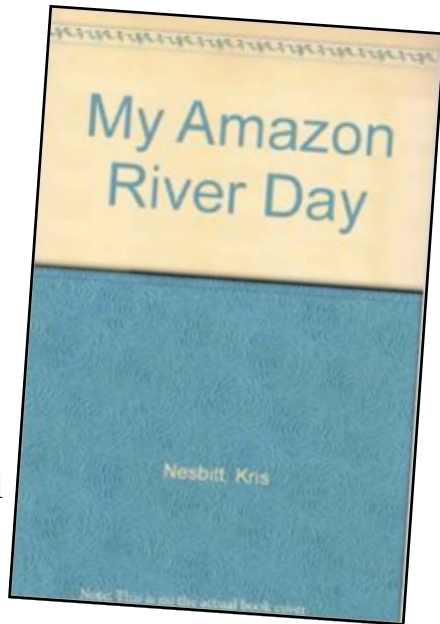


# RIVER READING!

BOOKS ABOUT RIVER EXPEDITIONS ARE INSPIRING!

## MY AMAZON RIVER DAY by Kris Nesbit

Ten-year-old Patricia lives in a house built on stilts in a village near Iquitos, Peru, on the bank of the Amazon River. In this photo-essay with pictures by Edward G. Lines, children accompany Patricia and her happy family through a typical day during the river's low-water season



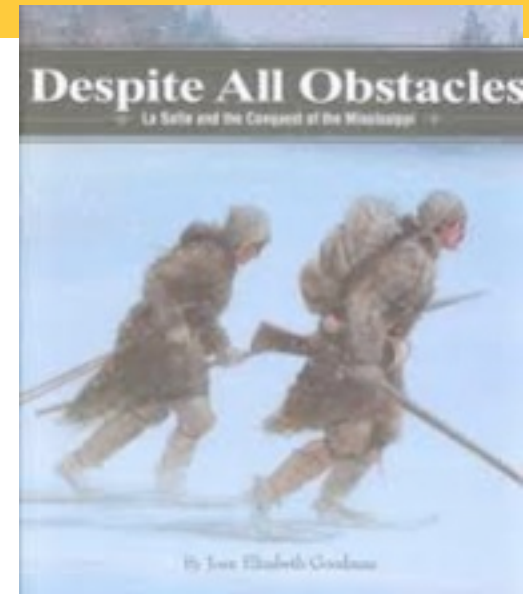
## We're Roaming in the Rainforest: An Amazon Adventure

by Laurie Krebs

Rhyming verse describes the activities of many of the creatures that inhabit the Amazon rainforest. Includes facts about the animals in the book and about the Amazon River and rainforest.

## DESPITE ALL OBSTACLES: LASALLE AND THE CONQUEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI by Joan Elizabeth Goodman

La Salle made his way from Eastern Canada to the Great Lakes traveling by canoe down the Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico. This vast unexplored wilderness was controlled by the fierce Iroquois. Through one setback after another, La Salle kept on going. Part adventure, part biography, this book is the fascinating story of this stubborn and courageous man!



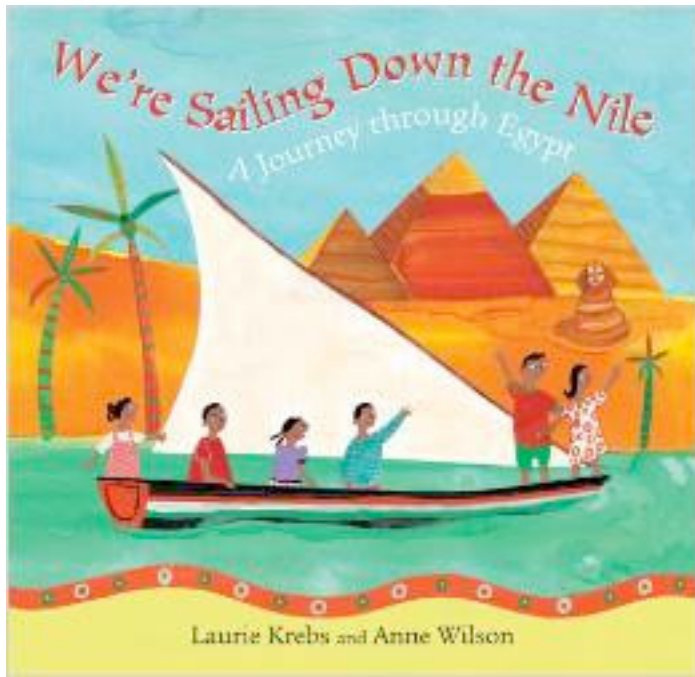
## THE LAST RIVER: JOHN WESLEY POWELL & THE COLORADO RIVER EXPLORING EXPEDITION by Stuart Waldman

This book is an inspiring adventure that brings history to life. Major John Wesley Powell was a small, bookish, one-armed geology professor.

Powell's twin passions -- adventure and scientific exploration -- drew him to the Colorado River.

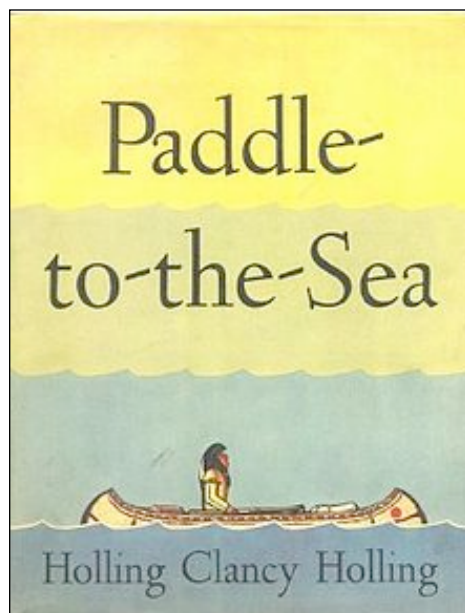
Excerpts from journals of crew members personalize the gripping text. Original paintings and a fold-out map allows the reader to simultaneously follow the expedition's route and its adventures.





## We're Sailing Down the Nile

by Laurie Krebs



## PADDLE TO THE SEA

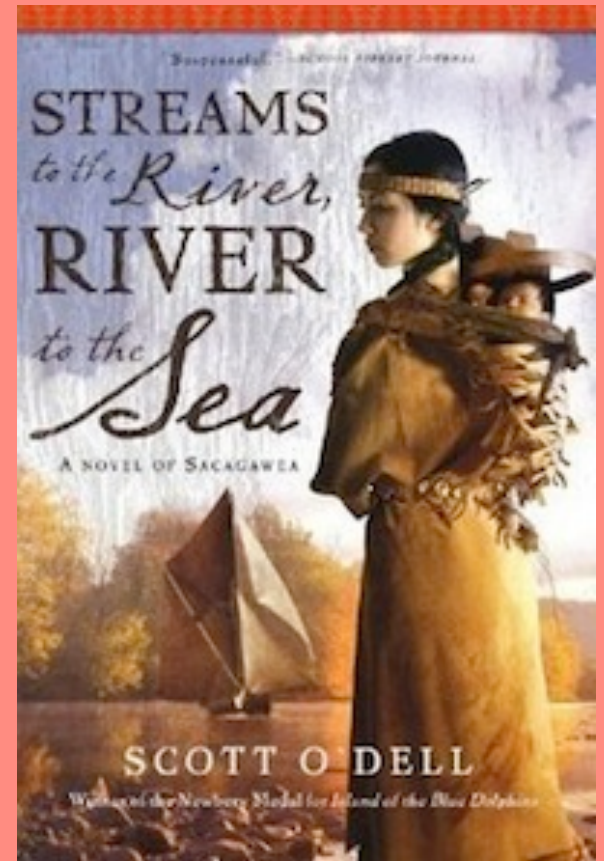
by HOLLING CLANCY HOLLING

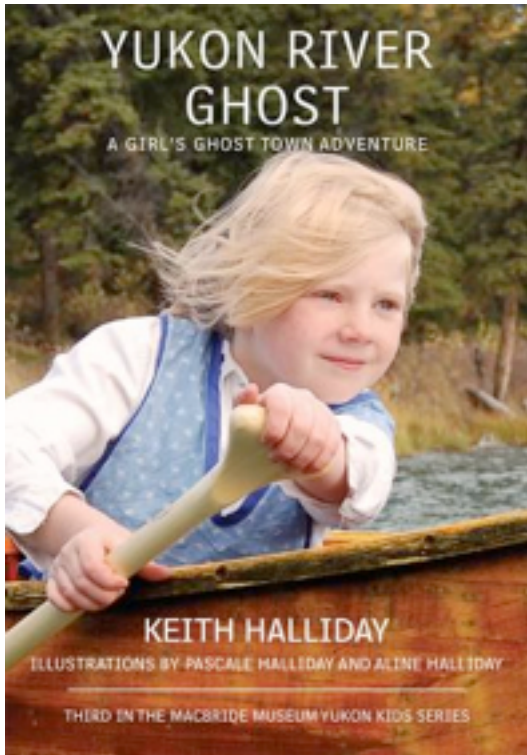
This prize winning book follows the progress of a little wooden Indian in a canoe on its journey through all five Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River, finally

## Streams to the River, River to the sea: a novel of Sacagawea

by Scott O'Dell

A young Indian woman, accompanied by her infant and cruel husband, experiences joy and heartbreak when she joins the Lewis and Clark Expedition seeking a way to the Pacific.





## Yukon River Ghost: A Girl's Ghost Town Adventure

by Keith Halliday

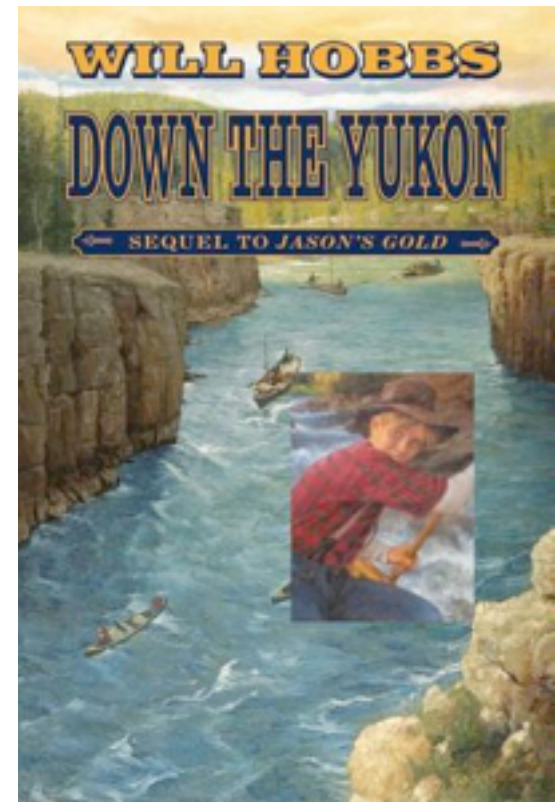
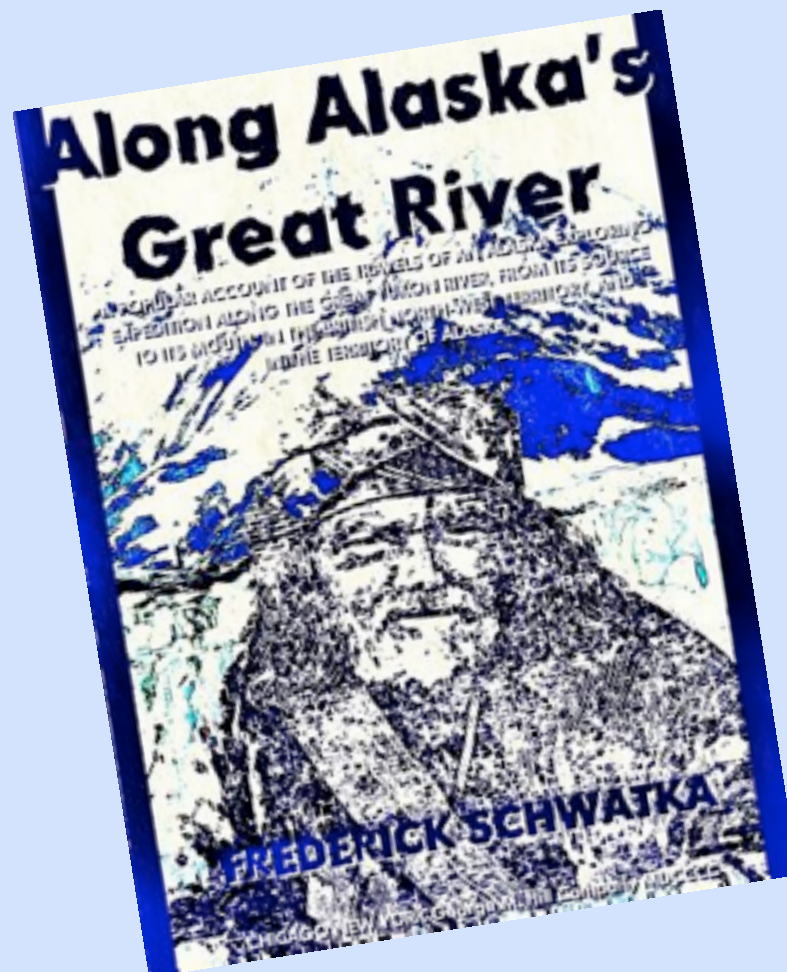
An idyllic Yukon River trip turns into a mysterious adventure as the kids discover a gold rush ghost town that seems to have a ghost!

## Along Alaska's Great River

by

Frederick Scwhatka

A great river expedition.....



## DOWN THE YUKON

by Will Hobbs

The great race across Alaska! As Dawson City goes up in flames, Jason Hawthorn itches to join the new rush for gold in Nome, 1,700 miles away.

# MAP of the MONTH

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE RAINFOREST?

The tropical rainforests of South America are moist and warm, with little changes in the seasons. The high trees form a canopy where many animals, insects, trees and other plants have perfect living conditions. Together, in this system, all living things depend on each other for survival.

Recently, tropical rainforests have been shrinking in size, due to human developments and overcutting of forest wood. Once the forest is cut, it is hard to grow anything because the soil is very poor. Without the trees, the land becomes dry and hot. The animals and plants lose their ability to help each other live.

Today environmentalists are working very hard to preserve these precious areas and their inhabitants. Hopefully, land can be set aside for parks and wildlife refuges. People are trying to find resources within the rainforest and prevent it from being destroyed.

There are many other rainforest areas throughout the world. Try to learn more about how the animals and plants live together in these unique environments. Here are a few drawings of animals of the South American rainforest.



## SOUTH AMERICA

Welcome to South America! South America is the fourth largest continent and is located in the western hemisphere. The Atlantic Ocean is to the east of the continent, the Pacific is to the west.

South America has many prominent geographic features. The Amazon, the second largest river in the world, is located in the north. It has over 700 tributaries, or smaller rivers, that branch out from it. This large area of waterways is called the Amazon Basin.

There are also many mountains in South America. The Andes Mountain range stretches along the western coast of South America for about 5,000 miles. The peaks are very high in places and there are many volcanoes. In the northern area are the more rounded hills of the Guiana Highlands. To the east are the Brazilian Highlands which cover over 2,000 miles along the coast and extend into the interior of the continent.

Another highland area is known as Patagonia. It is located in the south, to the east of the Andes, on the long, narrow tip of the continent. It is a cool, dry plateau, with many lakes that were formed by glaciers thousands of years ago.

South America's long shape spans a large area. It is joined to the North American continent by the country of Panama. In the south, it is close to the continent of Antarctica. The southernmost tip of South America is called Cape Horn. In the age of exploration, navigators were forced to travel around Cape Horn to reach the Pacific Ocean. In the twentieth century, a canal was built through a narrow bridge of land in Panama so ships could avoid the long passage around the continent.



TREE FROG

### Map Activities

1. Label the oceans, seas and rivers. Color them blue.
2. Fill in the names of the countries and their capitals.
3. Mark some other major cities.
4. Lightly draw in the Andes.
5. Draw in the lines for the Equator and the Tropic of Capricorn.
6. With a green pencil, lightly shade in the areas which represent the rainforest. You may need to refer to a recent book or magazine.
7. With a light brown pencil, shade in the dry area called Patagonia.
8. Label Cape Horn.



EARTH WORM ASKS:  
WHEN IT'S SUMMER IN NEW YORK CITY, WHY IS IT WINTER IN BUENOS AIRES?



PARROT

### CLIMATES

South America's size, location and topography cause it to have four climates. Climate refers to weather conditions in a region over a period of time. The northern area near the equator has very warm temperatures. At the other extreme, the southern tip is near the frigid South Pole. The highland areas of the Andes Mountains are much drier and colder than the lowlands that form the Amazon River Basin.

1. TROPICAL climate:
  - Similar temperatures all year long
  - Rainforest regions, much rainfall
  - Savannah regions, around rainforest edges, are grassy areas with dry seasons
2. TEMPERATE climate:
  - Seasonal changes, cooler winters
  - South of Tropic of Capricorn, includes the Andes in this latitude
3. ARID climate:
  - dry, desert-like
  - east of the Andes in Patagonia, coastal Peru, northeast Brazil
4. COLD climate:
  - in very high Andes, lower tip of the continent

Visit us at [www.mapothemonth.com](http://www.mapothemonth.com)



# INCA



**ACTIVITIES**  
Complete the map as described below. See MAP KEY for symbols.

**BODIES OF WATER**  
Shade coastlines and rivers on the map with blue. Label:  
Atlantic Ocean Pacific Ocean  
Amazon River Lake Titicaca  
Caribbean Sea  
Draw, label, shade others if you like.

**ANCIENT AREAS AND SITES**  
Label Inca cities already marked:  
Machu Picchu Cuzco  
Tumbes Cuzco  
Chanchan  
Add others if you like.

The Inca called their empire **Tahuantinsuyu** or **Land of the Four Quarters**. Label the general regions:  
Chinhasuyu (northwest area)  
Collasuyu (southeast area)  
Antisuyu (northeast area)  
Cuntisuyu (southwest area)

**OUTLINE OF INCA EMPIRE**  
Color and label the outline of the Inca Empire which is drawn in on the map.

**CONQUISTADOR'S ROUTE**  
One of Pizarro's routes is drawn in, label and date route with the year(s) it took place. Add other of Pizarro's routes if you like. Label Panama City and Santa

**CURRENT DAY DETAILS**  
Locate and label Lima, capital of Peru, marked on the map. Label these other cities too:  
Santiago Quito  
Add Peru's boundary and other cities (optional).  
Label South American  
Draw in and label the Equator.

Parts of the following areas have been drawn in. Using the symbols, complete and label:  
The Andes Mountains  
Coastal desert areas  
Rainforest areas

**DECORATION**  
Color title and illustrations. Add directions to the Compass Rose.



## HOW DID GEOGRAPHY INFLUENCE INCA CULTURE?

The Inca lived in an area stretching 2,500 miles along western South America. Here the topography was very varied. There were very high elevations the Andes as well as low-lying land along coastal areas. In the mountains, the Inca lived in highland plateaus that were cold and windy in winter and dry in summer. Homes and buildings were made of stone. Along the coast, much of the land was desert-like. Buildings were built of sun-dried clay. Inca cities were linked by a well-built system of roads stretching for thousands of miles. Mountains roads were often paved with stone, and along the coast they were smooth unpaved dirt. In rocky areas, the Inca built rope suspension bridges for travel over deep gorges.

The Inca used the land in different ways. They mined for copper, silver and gold. These precious metals were traded and used to make treasures for the nobility. The Inca built flat terraces along the sides of steep slopes for farm land; these can be seen in some photos of Machu Picchu in the Andes. Depending on the area, the Inca grew fruits, grains, maize and potatoes. They built canals to move water and irrigate farmland. The Inca learned to use the bark and leaves of certain trees and herbs for medicine. They grew cotton to make yarn for weaving fabrics, rugs and clothing. They also spun yarns from the fibers of the coats of the native alpaca and vicuna animals, relatives of the llama.

FRANCISCO PIZARRO was a cruel Spanish conquistador who caused the fall of the Inca empire. Like Cortes, who plundered the Aztec, Pizarro had little respect for the Inca natives.

Pizarro traveled from Panama, a Spanish settlement founded in 1519 on the Pacific coast. The unsuspecting Inca welcomed the Europeans, not knowing their evil motives. In 1533, the Spaniards captured Atahualpa, the 13th and last Inca emperor, and killed thousands of Inca people. Pizarro murdered Atahualpa, taking large amounts of treasure, gold and silver. In 1535, Pizarro founded the city of Lima, Peru, and there he was killed by other plundering Spaniards.

**ANCIENT CULTURES OF THE AMERICAS**  
Anthropologists say that 12,000 to even 40,000 years ago people traveled from Asia into North America over a land bridge, now known as the Bering Strait. Over thousands of years, people settled in North America and moved south to Central and South America. Although it seems hard to imagine, some anthropologists think it was possible that Eurasian people somehow arrived in South America and migrated north into Central America.

Early wanderers survived by hunting, fishing and gathering plants. Over millennia, they settled and became farmers of native plants such as corn, beans, potatoes, tomatoes and squash. Hunters and gatherers lived as early as 18,000 BC in what we now know as Peru. Around 5,000 BC people became farmers in this area. The Chavin people (800 to 600 BC) created art and pyramid-shaped religious buildings. About 1200 AD, the Inca civilization began and thrived until the Spanish arrived in the 1500's.

**MAP KEY**

- Inca city
- Inca Empire outline
- Pizarro's route
- Capital city
- Current day city
- Current day country boundary
- Equator
- Rain forest
- Mountains
- River
- Coastal desert

**MAYA, AZTEC and INCA CIVILIZATIONS MAP**  
© copyright 2006, Map of the Month, East Side Station, P. O. Box 2484 Providence, RI 02906-0484  
[www.mapsforthe classroom.org](http://www.mapsforthe classroom.org)

# CONTINENTS OF THE WORLD

## And Other Geographic Features!

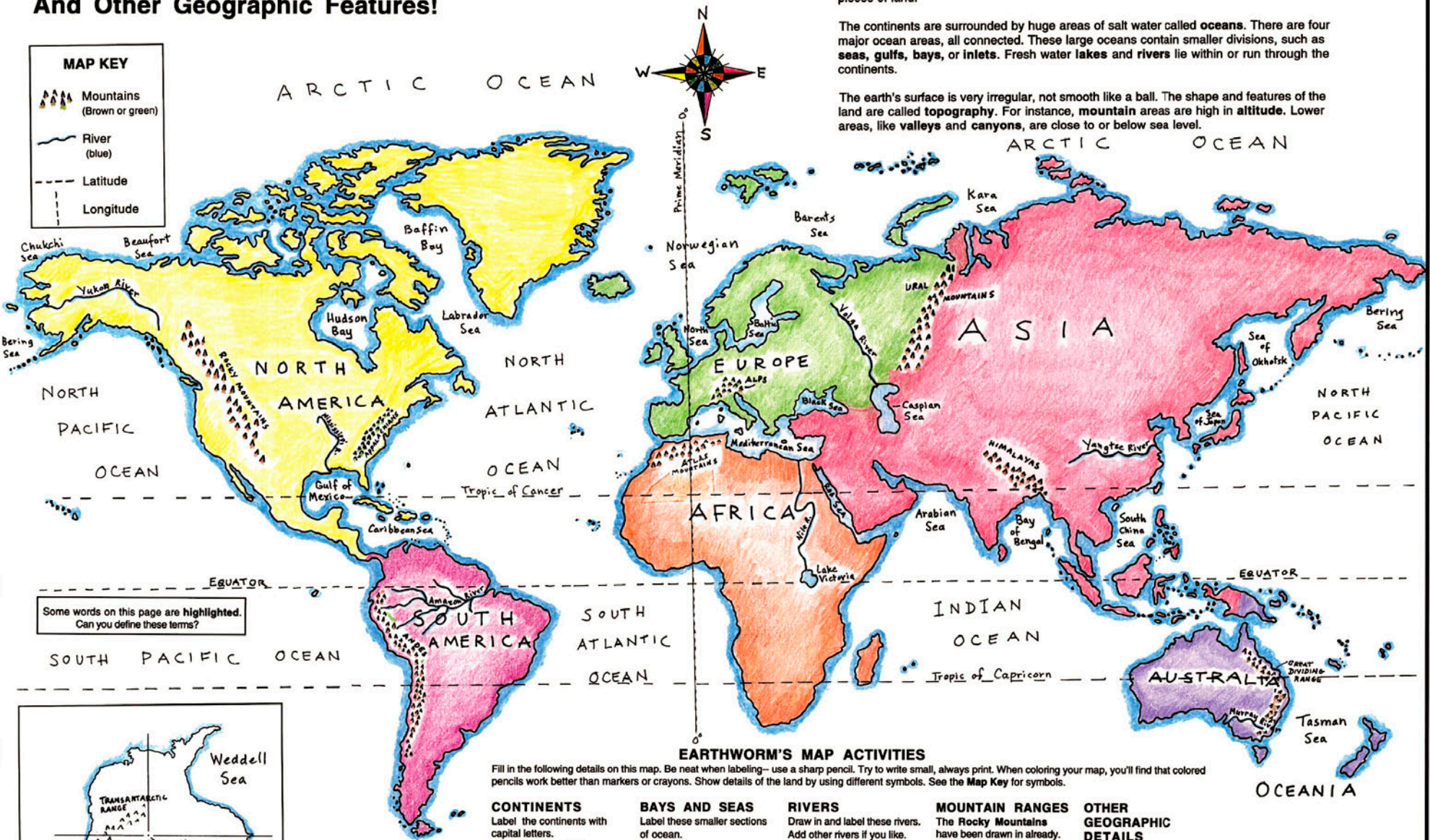
Welcome to the World! This simple map shows the outlines of the seven continents. The continents are all large masses of land, some connected, some isolated. For instance, Asia and Europe share one large mass of land. Australia and Antarctica are isolated pieces of land.

The continents are surrounded by huge areas of salt water called oceans. There are four major ocean areas, all connected. These large oceans contain smaller divisions, such as seas, gulfs, bays, or inlets. Fresh water lakes and rivers lie within or run through the continents.

The earth's surface is very irregular, not smooth like a ball. The shape and features of the land are called topography. For instance, mountain areas are high in altitude. Lower areas, like valleys and canyons, are close to or below sea level.

**MAP KEY**

- Mountains (Brown or green)
- River (blue)
- Latitude
- Longitude



Some words on this page are highlighted. Can you define these terms?

### EARTHWORM'S MAP ACTIVITIES

Fill in the following details on this map. Be neat when labeling—use a sharp pencil. Try to write small, always print. When coloring your map, you'll find that colored pencils work better than markers or crayons. Show details of the land by using different symbols. See the Map Key for symbols.

#### CONTINENTS

Label the continents with capital letters.  
**NORTH AMERICA**  
**SOUTH AMERICA**  
**AFRICA**  
**EUROPE**  
**ASIA**  
**AUSTRALIA/Oceania**  
**ANTARCTICA**

**OCEANS**  
 Label the oceans with capital letters. Shade along coastlines with blue pencil.  
**ATLANTIC**  
**PACIFIC**  
**ARCTIC**  
**INDIAN**

#### BAYS AND SEAS

Label these smaller sections of ocean.  
**Hudson Bay**  
**Gulf of Mexico**  
**North Sea**  
**Arabian Sea**  
**Bay of Bengal**  
**South China Sea**  
**Tasman Sea**  
**Weddell Sea**  
**Red Sea**  
**Caribbean Sea**

#### RIVERS

Draw in and label these rivers. Add other rivers if you like.  
**Mississippi**  
**Amazon**  
**Nile**  
**Volga**  
**Yangtze**  
**Murray**  
**Yukon**

#### MOUNTAIN RANGES

The Rocky Mountains have been drawn in already. Draw in and label these other mountain ranges.  
**Appalachians**  
**Andes**  
**Atlas**  
**Alps**  
**Himalayas**  
**Ural**  
**Great Dividing Range**  
**Transantarctic**

#### OTHER GEOGRAPHIC DETAILS

Draw in and label the following.  
**Equator**  
**Tropic of Cancer**  
**Tropic of Capricorn**  
**Prime Meridian**  
**South Pole**

#### DECORATION

To add a decorative touch to your map, color the following.  
**Continent title**  
**Earthworm** (our mascot!)  
**Compass Rose**  
 Add North, South, East and West to the points of the Compass Rose.

Visit us at [www.mapofthemonth.com](http://www.mapofthemonth.com)

**Map of the Month**  
 © copyright 1995, Map of the Month East Side Station, P. O. Box 2484 Providence, RI 02906-0484

EARTHWORM SAYS

FILL IN DETAILS ON THE MAP!

Antarctica is located at the South Pole. It is very difficult to show it on a flat map along with the rest of the continents. Antarctica is often shown in an inset, like this, as if you were looking at it from directly above.

