Penguins Key Facts & Information

RIVERS

* A river is a moving stream of water and flows in channels.
* The bottom part is called the bed and its sides are called banks.
* They usually move towards an ocean, lake, pond, or another river.
* A river’s water source can be melting snow, rain, or glaciers.
* Rivers normally contain freshwater and flow downhill from their source.
* Upstream, also called upriver, is the direction of the river’s water source.
* Downstream, also called downriver, is the direction in which the water flows.
* There are over 76 rivers in the world.
* Since rivers flow downhill, most people think that all rivers flow south, but 4 out of the 10 longest rivers on our planet flow north.
* The longest river in the world is the [Nile River](https://kidskonnect.com/geography/river-nile/) which is roughly 6650 kilometers long.
* After the Nile River is the [Amazon River](https://kidskonnect.com/geography/amazon-river/), which is 6400 kilometers in length.
* Rivers are a good source of trade and transport to humans.

STREAMS

* Streams are a small version of rivers.
* They are also called brooks or creeks.
* They are generally a free-flowing channel of water that follow the pull of gravity downhill.
* They run into other streams, lakes, or the ocean.
* The hills between the stream and other bodies of water create watersheds.

LAKES

* Lakes are huge bodies of water that are surrounded by land, and unlike rivers, they are not part of an ocean.
* Unlike rivers, lakes do not flow – they are relatively still bodies of water.
* They can contain either salt or freshwater and are much larger than ponds.
* The world’s largest lowest lake, The Dead Sea, is located in [Israel](https://kidskonnect.com/places/israel/) and is 1,371 feet below sea level.
* The world’s highest lake, Ojos del Salado, is located in a crater in the Andes Mountains on the border between [Chile](https://kidskonnect.com/places/chile/) and [Argentina](https://kidskonnect.com/places/argentina/). It is 20,965 feet high.
* Another type of lake is called a subglacial lake which is permanently covered by ice.
* The largest subglacial lake is Lake Vostok in [Antarctica](https://kidskonnect.com/places/antarctica/). Lakes can form from different systems such as craters of volcanoes, sinkholes, or even man made through dams.
* The Caspian Sea is the largest lake in the world and there are five different countries that lie on its coastline – Russia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, and Turkmenistan.
* There are over 130 rivers that flow towards the Caspian Sea; the largest one is the Volga River.

GULF

* A gulf is a part of the ocean that goes into land.
* Gulfs are different in size, shape, and depth as they are formed by movements in the Earth’s crust.
* The Earth’s tectonic plates rift or break apart, creating a gulf.
* They often make excellent harbors.
* Many important trading centers are located in gulfs.
* Some gulfs are connected to the ocean through narrow passages of water called straits.
* Some gulfs can also have wide openings and are sometimes indistinguishable from larger bodies of water.
* Famous gulfs include the Mexican Gulf, the Gulf of Carpentaria, and the Persian Gulf.
* The Mexican Gulf is the world’s largest gulf.
* The Gulf of Carpentaria is located on Australia’s northeast coast.
* The Persian Gulf is important to Middle Eastern countries for trade, access to the [Indian Ocean](https://kidskonnect.com/geography/indian-ocean-facts-worksheets/), and the vast deposits of petroleum in this area.

OCEAN

* Earth is covered in saltwater and it is around 71% of our planet.
* This huge body of water is called the ocean.
* It is divided into five major oceans and they are all connected.
* It is spread around the seven continents.
* Humans have only explored 5% of the wildlife present in oceans.
* The average depth of the world’s oceans is around 12,200 feet.
* The world’s longest mountain range, called the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, is actually under the ocean.
* Ocean tides are caused by Earth’s rotation while the moon and sun’s gravitational pull acts on the ocean waters.
* Roughly 70% of the oxygen we breathe is produced by the oceans.
* The [Pacific Ocean](https://kidskonnect.com/geography/pacific-ocean/), located between Asia/Australia and North/South America, is the largest of the five major oceans and covers about 30% of the Earth’s surface.
* The second largest ocean is the [Atlantic Ocean](https://kidskonnect.com/geography/atlantic-ocean/), which separates Europe/Africa from North/South America.
* The Indian Ocean is the warmest ocean in the world and covers 14% of the Earth’s surface. It separates East Africa from Australia.
* The [Arctic Ocean](https://kidskonnect.com/geography/arctic-ocean/), also referred to as the Arctic Mediterranean Sea, is the smallest and shallowest of the world’s five major oceans.
* The Arctic Ocean is the coldest ocean in the world. It touches three continents: Europe, Asia, and North America.
* The [Southern Ocean](https://kidskonnect.com/geography/southern-ocean/) is the ocean around Antarctica.
* The waters of Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans surround the continent of Antarctica.

WATERFALL

* A waterfall is the descent of a body of water, like a stream or a river, over a ledge of bedrock.
* It is also an area where meltwater from snow or ice descends over the edge of an ice shelf or iceberg.

IMPORTANCE OF BODIES OF WATER

* We all need water to survive.
* Access to water is essential to life.
* Population growth requires substantial amounts of water.
* Large bodies of water contain resources vital to human societies.
* Fish and shellfish are important resources for many human civilizations because they are very high in protein and vitamins that benefit human development.
* You can transport larger things on water and over greater distances.
* The world’s first trade economies were developed around water.
* In the early years of trading, people depend on bodies of water in order to trade their goods.