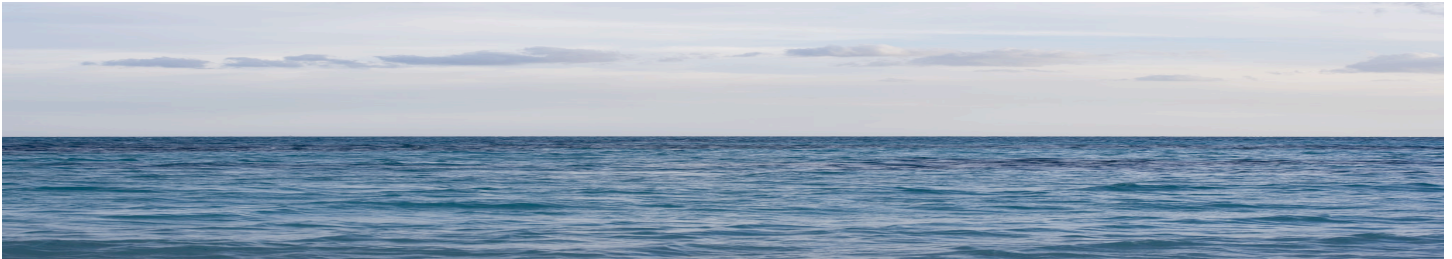


GRADE 3, MODULE 4: UNIT 1, LESSON 4

Where in the World Is Water?

When you look at a globe or a map of the world, there is a lot of blue. The blue on a map or globe represents a water form on the surface of the earth; it could be a lake, a river, an ocean, or a sea. There are many different sources of water in the world, but only a small part of that water is drinkable.

..... **OCEANS**



Ninety-seven percent of our water is found in the oceans. Across the world, there are five oceans. Even though 97 percent of the water is found in the oceans, we can't drink ocean water because it is saltwater. The oceans are still mysterious to scientists because there is so much to explore. Scientists are only now beginning to explore what lives deep in the ocean.

Pacific Ocean: The name "Pacific" comes from the Latin word "pacificus," which means peaceful. The Pacific Ocean covers twice as much space as any other ocean. If you pushed all the land on earth together, the Pacific Ocean would still be bigger. Not only is the Pacific Ocean the biggest, but it is also the deepest ocean in the world. The Mariana Trench, a narrow canyon, is more than 36,000 feet down from the surface of the ocean.

..... **LAKES**



Lakes form when water from snowmelt, rivers, or streams finds its way into a basin (bowl shape) that has formed on the surface of the earth. Lakes need to have water continually flowing into them, or they will dry up.

Lake Superior: Lake Superior is one of the five Great Lakes of North America. It contains 10 percent of all of the earth's surface freshwater. Lake Superior is like a mini freshwater ocean. It is the coldest and deepest of the Great Lakes. It is also one of the cleanest freshwater lakes. Lake Superior is so big that it even influences the weather around it.

GRADE 3, MODULE 4: UNIT 1, LESSON 4

Where in the World Is Water?

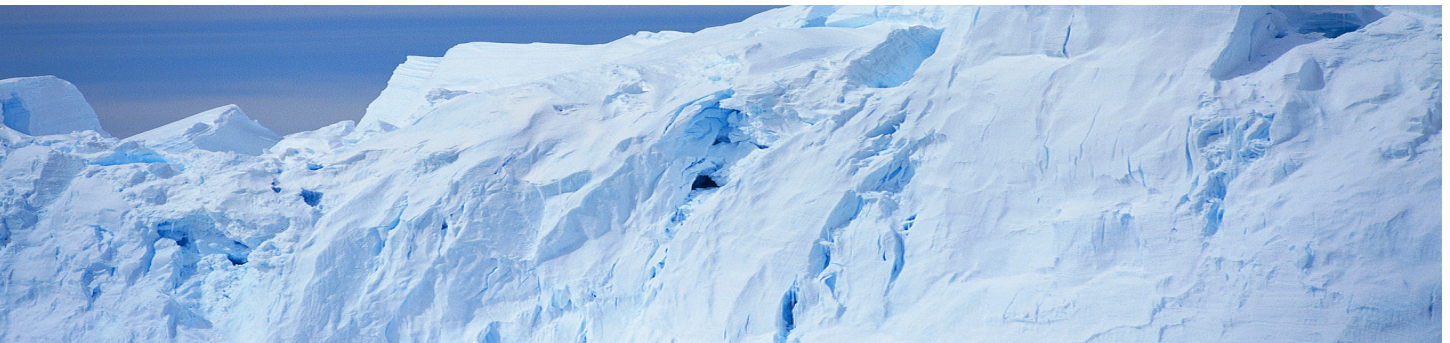
RIVERS



Over millions of years, moving water carved paths in the earth, forming rivers. Rivers are one of the world’s freshwater sources. The water in rivers comes from melting snow high in the mountains. Sometimes it comes from water that is underground and bubbles up to the surface. Rivers have many sizes and shapes. Some have water that flows slowly and gradually. In others, water speeds down, crashing over the rocky earth. Eventually, the water from all rivers finds its way to an ocean.

Nile River: The world’s longest river is the Nile on the continent of Africa. It is more than 4,000 miles long. The Nile River goes through the countries of Kenya, Eritrea, Congo, Burundi, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Egypt, Sudan, and Ethiopia. Eventually, it finds its way to the Mediterranean Sea. The Nile River is very important to the people who live by it. The river provides water to drink and rich soil for food to grow. Without the Nile, the Egyptian civilization wouldn’t have grown.

GLACIERS



Glaciers form when snow doesn’t melt and piles up. Snow falls on top of old snow, creating thick layers. The snow is heavy. Over time, it compresses to form layers of glacial ice. Glaciers make up 2 percent of earth’s freshwater. Glaciers also have dirt and rocks mixed in with the ice and snow. They are constantly moving from the pressure of the ice as it melts and freezes again. Icebergs are created when chunks of a glacier crack off and fall into the water. One of the biggest glaciers in North America is Hubbard Glacier in the state of Alaska. It rises 300 feet above the water and is almost 6 miles long. Only one-eighth of the glacier is visible. The rest is hidden under the water. Only the tip, or top, of an iceberg can be seen above the water line; the rest of it lies beneath the surface. Sometimes people use the phrase “tip of the iceberg” to mean that there is much more to the story than it seems at first. This expression comes from the fact that only a small portion of icebergs are seen.

GRADE 3, MODULE 4: UNIT 1, LESSON 4

Where in the World Is Water?

GROUNDWATER

Not all of our water is on the surface of the earth. Some of it is underground. Water will find its way into the tiniest of cracks in rocks. The soil soaks up water like a sponge. Our soil holds a lot of the water on earth. Sometimes that water is deep in the ground in aquifers. An aquifer is sort of like an underground lake; the water is stored in between layers of rock, deep in the ground. People drill holes through the rock to access the water underground. This is an important source of drinking water for the world's people.

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Beth Geiger, *Sally Ride Science: Clean Water* (New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2008), ISBN: 978-1-59643-577-3.

Trudi Strain Trueit, *The Water Cycle* (New York: F. Watts, 2002), ISBN: 978-0-53111-972-3.

And the following websites:

<http://www.onegeology.org>

<http://www.kidsgeo.com/>