

# Geography

**HOMEWORK**

## 7C World Rivers

plus reviewing **Settlement**.

Name

Tutor Group

Teacher

This homework booklet contains essential reading on

- © Ten globally important **rivers** and
- © a review of **settlement patterns and hierarchy**.

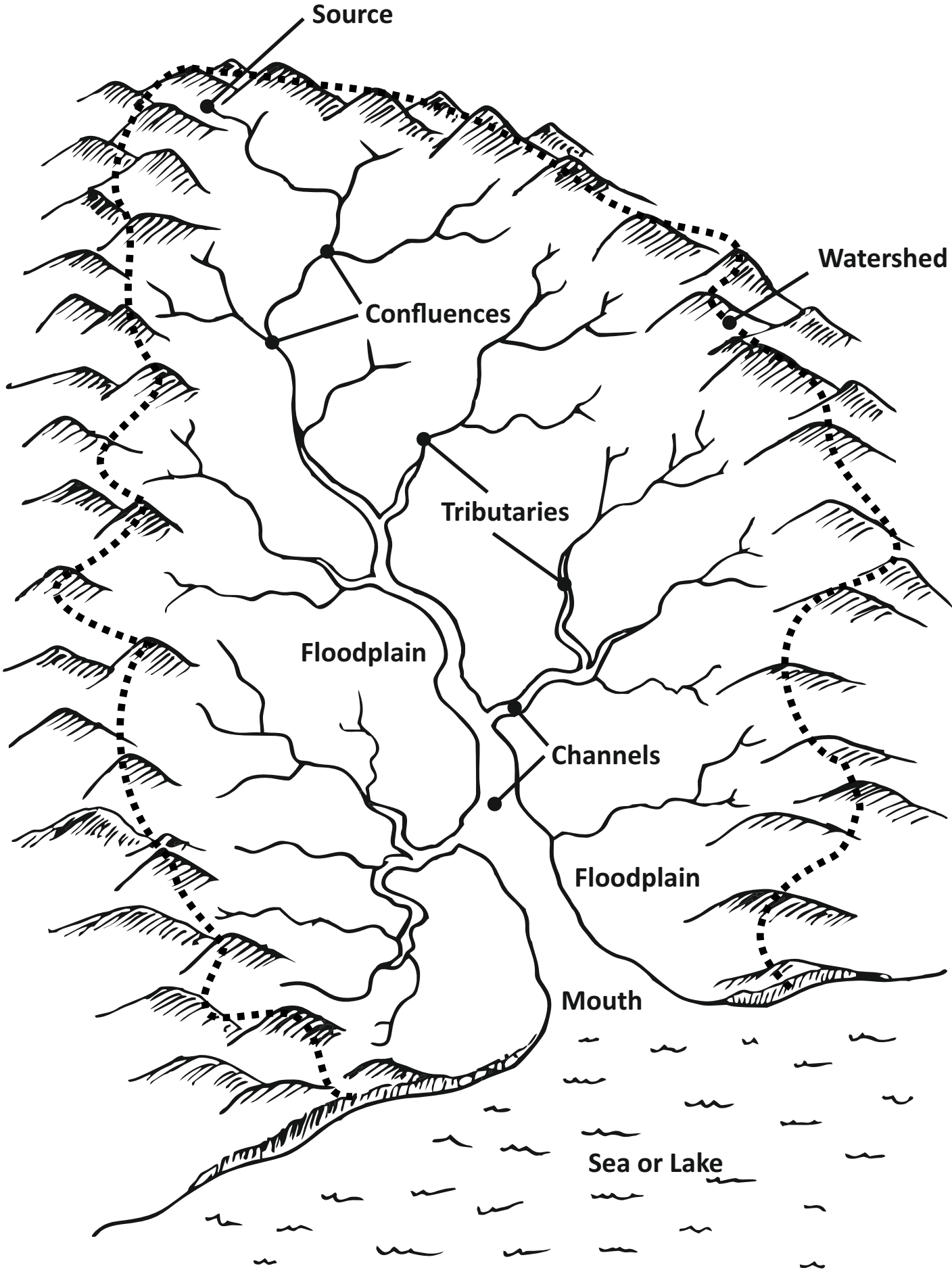
Your homework will be set and reviewed on

Monday     Tuesday     Wednesday

Thursday     Friday

**People** ● **Places** ● **Pattern** ● **Process**

# Recap: Features of a River Basin



## **Are these the ten most important rivers in the world? Part 1.**

Rivers have always been essential for human life. A source for drinking water, food, silts to fertilise soils and a way to transfer goods and people. Rivers also play an essential part in many global ecosystems. This booklet describes ten important rivers in the world. For Homework 1 you must read about the Mississippi, Volga and Zambezi rivers and be ready to answer questions about them next week.

### **Ten world rivers, #10. The Mississippi**

The Mississippi River is the largest river system in North America, 3,730 km in length. The river has its source at Lake Itasca, Minnesota, and empties south of New Orleans into the Gulf of Mexico. The Mississippi and its tributaries drain a river basin covering 3,220,000 square kilometres; one third of the USA and the fourth largest river basin on the planet.

The famous Mississippi steamboats first traded on the river in the 1820s. Timber, food and cotton were carried down the Mississippi. After the arrival of the railways in the 1880s, steamboat numbers gradually declined, although some remained until the 1920s. Today, some have been restored as tourist attractions.

### **Ten world rivers, #9. The Volga**

**The Volga is Europe's longest river** and for Russia it is considered the most important river in the country. Out of the 20 biggest cities in Russia, 11 of them, including the capital, Moscow, are located in the drainage basin of the Volga. **The river has its source at an altitude of only 225 metres** in the Valday Hills, northwest of Moscow and has its mouth 3,645 km downstream in **a large delta in the Caspian Sea**. The River Volga is important to Russia as a waterway for domestic freight transport, despite the fact that the river freezes for three months, in the winter .

### **Ten world rivers, #8. The Zambezi**

**The Zambezi is the fourth longest river in Africa**, stretching for 3,540 km. The river has **its source in a wetland in north-western Zambia** and runs for a short distance through Angola, before returning to Zambia. The river briefly forms the border with Botswana and Namibia, then separates Zimbabwe from Zambia. Having passed over the impressive **Victoria Falls**, the Zambezi flows through a huge lake behind the **Kariba Dam** and then into another such reservoir, Lake Cahora Bassa. Passing through the Cahora Bassa Dam the river flows across lowland Mozambique into the Indian Ocean.

The Zambezi is home to much wildlife. The Zambezi provides a habitat for hundreds of species of fish. **Bull sharks have been seen far inland** and are have been responsible for many attacks on humans. The building of the Cahora Bassa Dam now restricts these sharks to the Zambezi's lower course in Mozambique.

## Learning about the meaning and spelling of key river process words.

For **Homework 2** you must read the following key words and definitions and practise the spelling. You must be ready to spell these words and remember what they mean for next week's homework check.

Practise the spellings on the next page. Fold this page in half along the dotted line to hide the words while you spell them.

**Drainage Basin**  
(drain-age ba-sin)

The area of land drained by a river and its tributaries.

**Watershed**  
(wa-ter-shed)

The ridge of high ground marking the boundary of a drainage basin.

**Confluence**  
(con-flu-ence)

The place where two rivers join together.

**Abrasion**  
(a-bra-sion)

Erosion of rock by the rubbing or grinding of one rock against another.

**Attrition**  
(at-tri-tion)

The erosion of rock by collisions between one moving rock and another.

**Hydraulic action**  
(hy-drau-lic ac-tion)

The erosion of rock by the force of moving water.

**Solution**  
(sol-u-tion)

The erosion of rock through chemical reactions and dissolving of minerals.

**Traction**  
(trac-tion)

The transportation of river sediment by being rolled or dragged along the river channel's bed.

**Saltation**  
(salt-a-tion)

The transportation of sediment by the bouncing or 'leap-frogging' of sand grains along the channel bed.

**Suspension**  
(sus-pen-sion)

The transportation of fine silts and clay particles held in the water column.

# Practise your spellings

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Practise your spellings on this page. Spelling the word on the line above the definition and then check. If you get it wrong you can try again.

.....  
The area of land drained by a river and its tributaries.

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The ridge of high ground marking the boundary of a drainage basin.

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The place where two rivers join together.

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Erosion of rock by the rubbing or grinding of one rock against another.

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The transportation of river sediment by being rolled or dragged along  
the river channel's bed.

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The transportation of sediment by the bouncing or 'leap-frogging' of  
sand grains along the channel bed.

.....  
The transportation of fine silts and clay particles held in the water column.

For **Homework 3** you must read about the **Mekong, Ganges, Danube** and **Congo** Rivers and be ready to answer questions on them next week.

## **Ten world rivers, #7. The Mekong**

**The 12th longest river in the world is the Mekong**, measuring 4,350 km. The river flows from the Tibetan Plateau, through China's Yunnan Province before forming the **national border between Laos and Myanmar** and then Laos and Thailand. The Mekong flows east through Cambodia, **entering the South China Sea through a 40,000 km<sup>2</sup> delta in southern Vietnam**.

**As a result of wide seasonal changes in discharge, and the existence of rapids and waterfalls, the river is hard to navigate.** The Mekong basin is a bio-diversity hotspot, exceeded in the variety of life only by the Amazon. However, many river creatures, including the Mekong Dolphin, have become endangered since the beginning of construction on a hydroelectric dam across the Mekong in Laos.

## **Ten world rivers, #6. The Ganges**

The River Ganges has its source in the western Indian Himalayas and flows 2,525km across India and into Bangladesh. Here the river joins with its greatest tributary, **the Brahmaputra River, itself over 2,900km long and the ninth longest river on Earth**. After combining their waters the Ganges-Brahmaputra flows south to the Sundarbans, a vast river delta through which the river enters the Bay of Bengal. **The entire river basin of the Ganges-Brahmaputra extends over one million square kilometres**. At peak flow in June and July the two rivers can discharge up to 90,000 cubic metres (900 million litres) of water every second.

Many of India's great cities are found along the banks of the Ganges and its tributaries. **The Ganges is sacred to Hindus as the goddess Ganga. Varanasi is the most sacred of the cities on the Ganges** and many Hindus visit the city on pilgrimages. Hindus believe that life is not complete without taking at least one bath in Mother Ganga. **Ashes of loved ones are scattered on the river.**

## **Ten world rivers, #5. The Danube**

One of Europe's most important rivers is the **Danube**. It is also the continent's second longest river after the Volga. The river once formed one of the boundaries of the Roman Empire and today **forms part of the border for ten European states**.

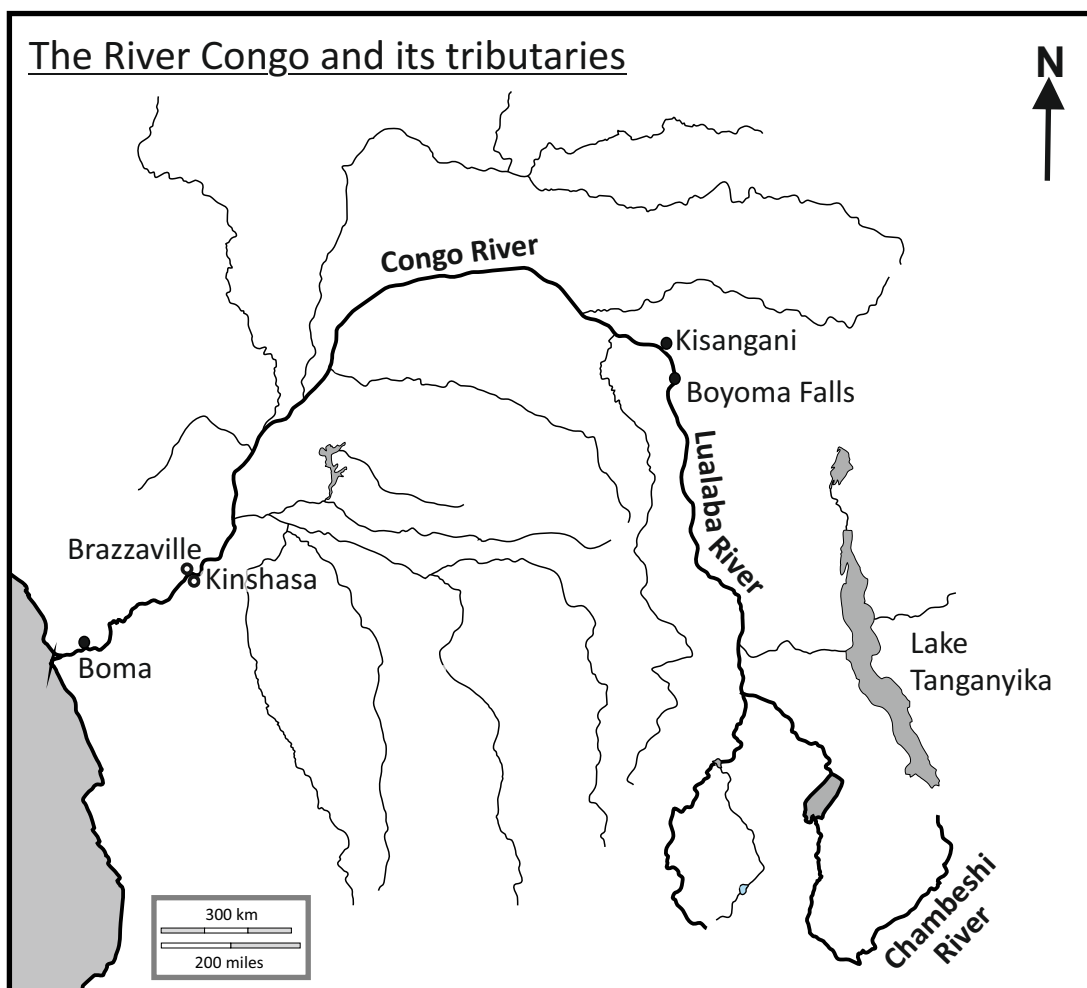
**The Danube begins in Germany's Black Forest** and runs eastwards for some 2,850 km through four capital cities; Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest and Belgrade, before draining into the Black Sea. After construction of the Rhine-Main-Danube Canal in 1992, the river became part of a **trans-European waterway** stretching from the Black Sea through Europe to Rotterdam on the North Sea coast.

# Homework N°3: continued

## Ten world rivers, #4. The Congo

At 4,700km, the River Congo is the second longest river in Africa and is the second largest on the planet in terms of discharge. At peak flow the Congo discharges 75,000 cubic metres every second into the Atlantic Ocean. The Congo is also the world's deepest river with recorded depths over 220 metres. **The river and its tributaries drain an area of land in excess of four million square kilometres** and, because it spans the Equator, one part of the basin is always experiencing a rainy season. As a result, the discharge is high all year round averaging 41,000 cubic metres per second.

**Large waterfalls divide the Congo into different navigable sections** along its course. Upstream of Boyoma Falls, the Congo becomes the **Lualaba River** which then changes to another name, the **Chambeshi River**. So the source of the Congo is at 1,760m close to Lake Tanganyika in Zambia. Downstream of Boyoma, the Congo continues its journey through rich tropical rainforests before reaching the **twin capital cities of Kinshasa and Brazzaville**, located on either bank of the river. From here the river plunges through a series of rapids and waterfalls, known as the Livingstone Falls, before completing its journey to the Atlantic Ocean.



For **Homework 5** you must read about the **Yangtze, Nile** and **Amazon** Rivers and be ready to answer questions on them next week.

## **Ten world rivers, #3. The Yangtze**

**The Yangtze is the 3rd longest river on the planet** and the longest river to flow only in one country: China. It measures 6,300 km from source to mouth. **The Yangtze has its source in glacial meltwater on the eastern slopes of the Tibetan Plateau.** It then flows across China passing through the magnificent Yangtze Gorges, which were once celebrated for their remarkable beauty.

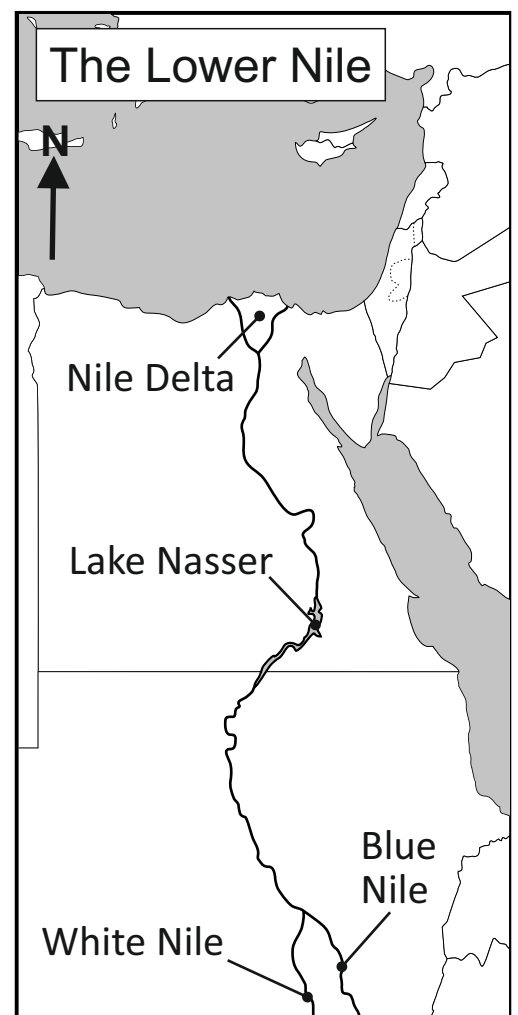
Today they are better known for the **Three Gorges Dam**, built at a cost of £20 billion. The mammoth dam stretches 2,350 metres across the river and took 17 years to build. 1.3 million people were moved from their homes in order to flood the reservoir upstream of the biggest hydro-electric power station on Earth. The Yangtze is one of China's most active waterways with commercial barges carrying a vast array of raw materials and manufactured goods.

## **Ten world rivers, #2. The Nile**

**The longest river on the planet is the Nile**, stretching for 6,650 km from East Africa to the Mediterranean. The Nile has two main tributaries: the Blue Nile and the White Nile. **The shorter Blue Nile has its source in the Ethiopian Highlands in Lake Tana (1,788 metres)**, while the longer White Nile flows out from the Great Lakes region in central Africa. Even today, **the exact source of the White Nile is unclear.**

The Nile drove the development of ancient Egypt. For the ancient Egyptians the river was a part in their spiritual life, with the annual floods represented by **the god of inundation, Hapy.** Sediments deposited on the valley floor created rich fertile soils. As the flood waters retreated into the Nile **Egyptians grew crops of rice and wheat.**

Today the annual floods of the lower Nile are a thing of the past. The vast Aswan High Dam, built in the 1960s, controls the river's flooding and has created **Lake Nasser, which stretches 475 km upstream into Sudan.** Meanwhile, the Nile Delta remains the 'breadbasket of Egypt' producing crops which feed close to 100 million people.





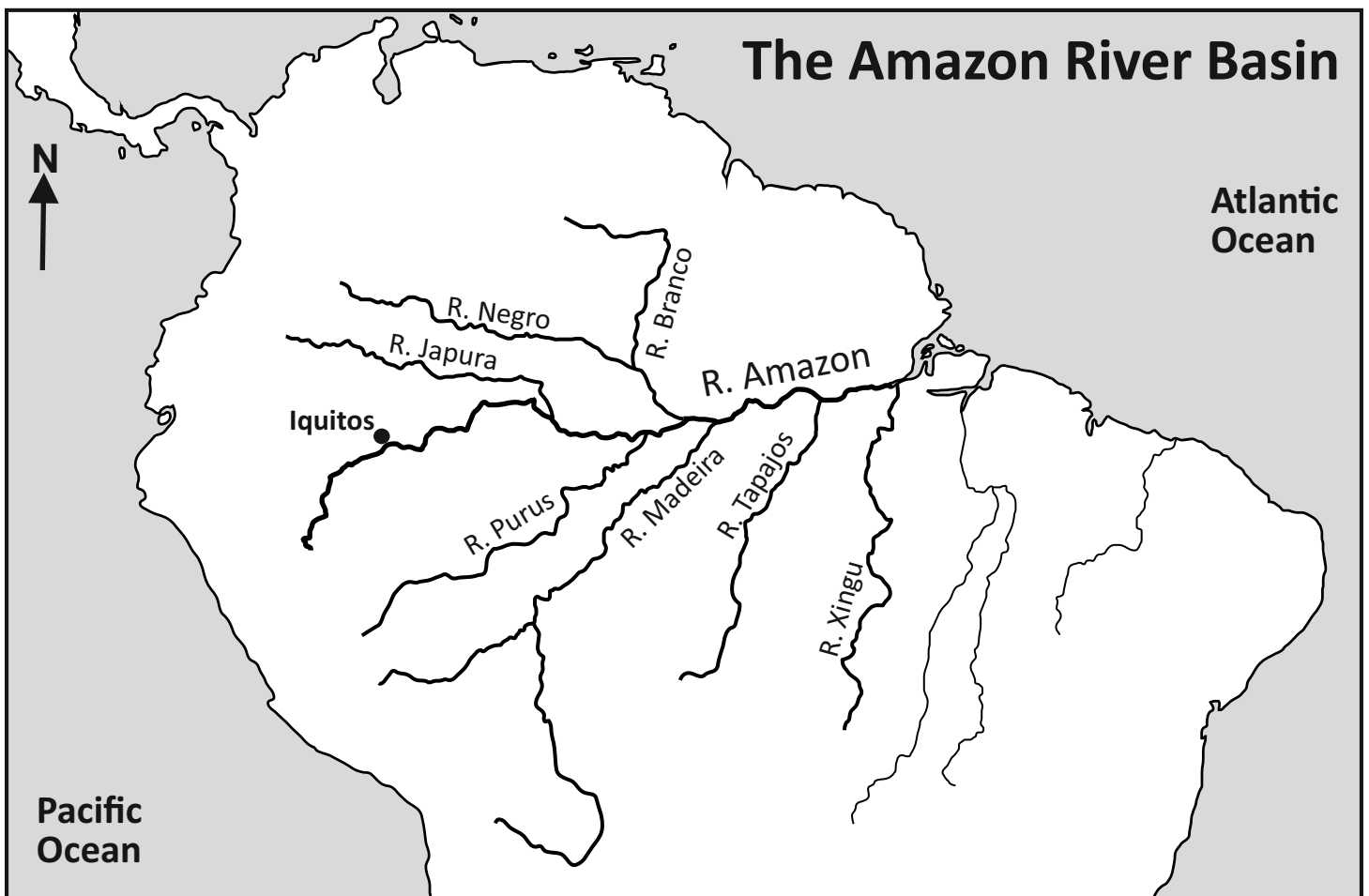
# Homework N°5: continued

## Ten world rivers, #1. The Amazon

At over 6,400 km, the Amazon is the second longest river on Earth but by far the largest. **One fifth of all the river water on the planet flows through the Amazon** and her tributaries. Those tributaries run through Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador before joining together in Brazil and flowing east to the Atlantic. **The source of the Amazon** is on a mountain high in the **Peruvian Andes**.

Geologists believe that the Amazon and the Congo may once have been part of the same river system. The basin was divided when the ancient continent of Gondwanaland was split in two by continental drift. More recent geological evidence suggests that **the early Amazon flowed from east to west, into the Pacific Ocean**. The growth of the Andes mountain range sent the river in the opposite direction into the Atlantic. Today twenty species of stingray, closely related to Pacific species, are found in the Amazon's waters.

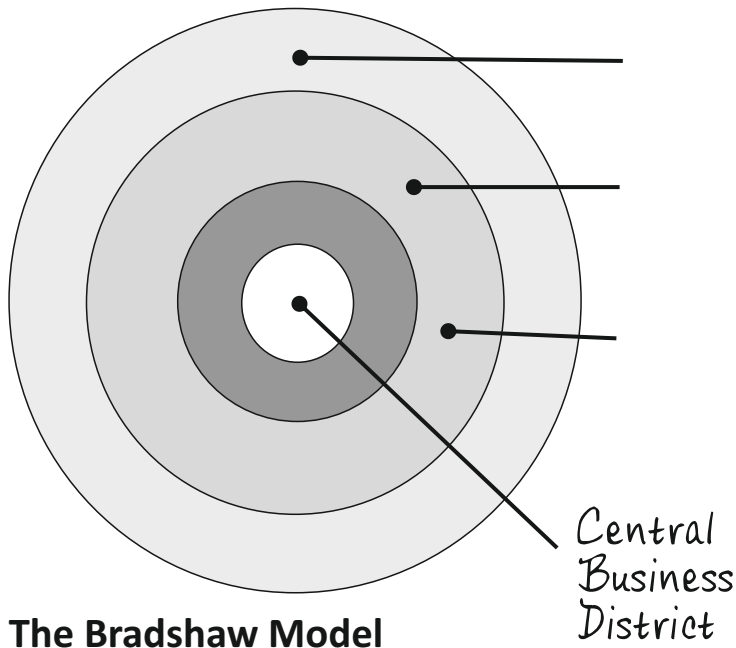
**The Amazon is home to more than 3,000 varieties of fish** and a river dolphin which can grow to 2.5 metres. Bull sharks has been recorded 4,000 km up the Amazon at Iquitos in Peru. While the most notorious Amazonian fish is the Piranha, very few varieties actually attack humans and then only when stressed during the dry season. Perhaps more dangerous fish is the electric eel. It can deliver over 800 volts in an electric shock intended to disable its prey.



# Homework N°6: continued

## Settlement Review, #3. Urban Zones

The Bradshaw model is a simplified description of the four urban zones found in most cities. Add the following labels - **Inner City, Inner Suburbs, Outer Suburbs** - to the diagram below to complete the Bradshaw Model. Once you have labelled the model draw arrows from the labels to their correct description in the box. One has been done for you.

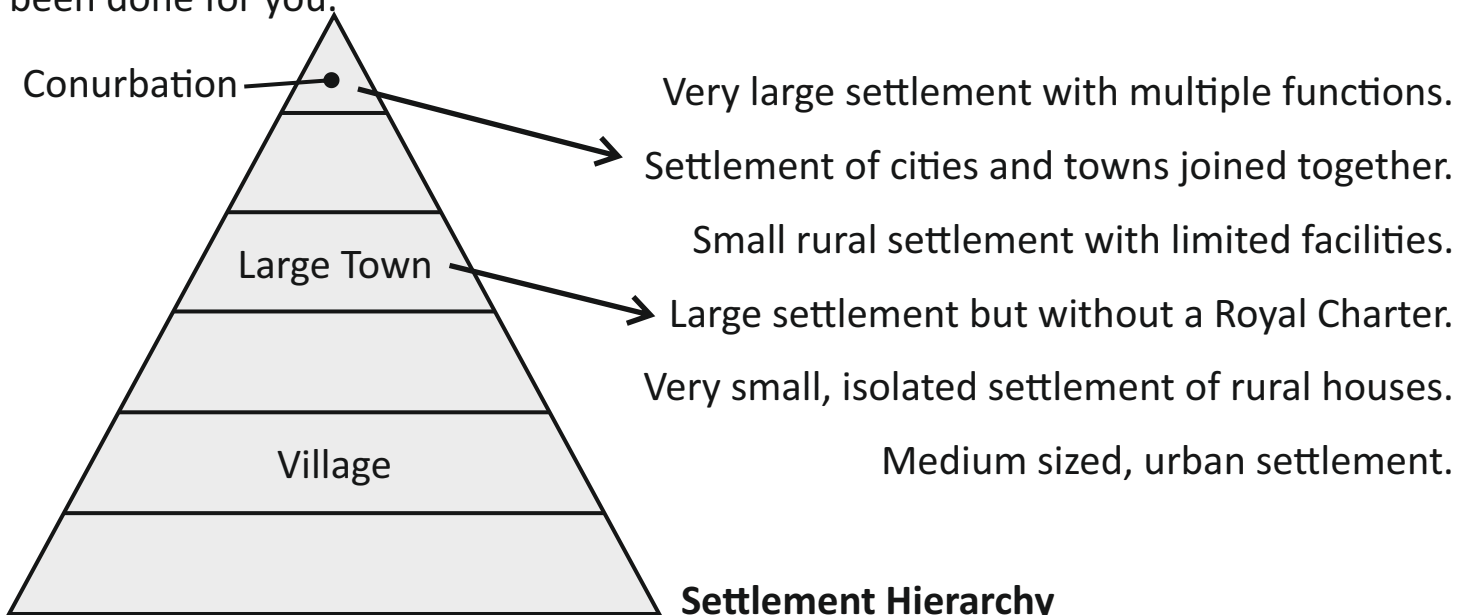


Zone of council estates and private semi-detached housing with gardens.
Zone of post 1970s housing, often detached alongside out-of-town shopping centres.
Zone of offices, shops and transport infrastructure plus modern apartment buildings.
Zone of pre-WW1 terraced housing and 1960s high-rise tower blocks.

The Bradshaw Model

## Settlement Review, #4. Settlement Hierarchy

Settlements range in their number, size and the range of functions they develop over time. This is referred to as a settlement hierarchy. This is shown in the diagram below. Add the labels **Hamlet, City, Small Town** and **Large Town** to complete the diagram and then draw arrows to the correct description. Some have been done for you.



Settlement Hierarchy

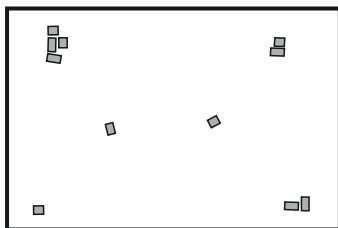
## Settlement Review, #1. Settlement Functions

A settlements function describes its main purpose for developing over time. Manchester grew and an industrial town, while Blackpool grew as a tourist resort. Some settlements, especially large cities, develop multiple functions over time. Draw an arrow to connect the settlement functions below to their correct descriptions. One has been done for you.

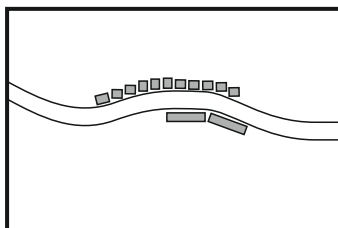
<b>Market town</b>	A place where good and people come into and leave the country.
<b>Port</b>	The seat of central government, home to king, president and/or parliament.
<b>Industrial town</b>	A settlement where many people work in factories and manufacturing jobs.
<b>Capital city</b>	A settlement which people visit for holidays, leisure and recreation.
<b>Tourist resort</b>	A settlement close to farming villages where people come to buy and sell.

## Settlement Review, #2. Rural Settlement Patterns

Small settlements tend to have a clearly identifiable pattern when viewed on a map. Add the titles **Dispersed**, **Linear** and **Nucleated** to the correct diagrams below. Add a note to suggest how these patterns develop over time. Some have been done for you.



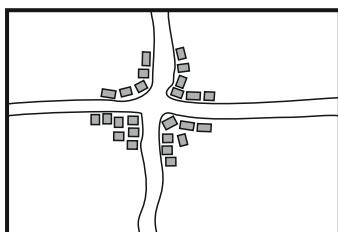
Isolated houses and hamlets surrounded by fields built for each individual farm and the farm workers.



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NUCLEATED

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# Homework Reviews: 1 to 3

Review Number One: World Rivers Part 1			✓ x
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
Review Number Two: River spellings			score
1&2			
3&4			
5&6			
7&8			
9&10			
Review Number Three: World Rivers Part 2			score
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
			score

# Homework Reviews: 4 to 6

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Review Number Four: World Rivers, Global locations		✓ x
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
Review Number Five: World Rivers Part 3		score
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
Review Number Six: Settlement Review		score
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
		score

score

# **GEOGRAPHY Homework**

# **7C**

# **WORLD RIVERS**

**People ● Places ● Pattern ● Process**