

Float #9: Thames River

The Thames River is located in Southern England and flows through London. Other major cities the river flows through include Oxford and Reading. The Thames is the longest river in England.

The Thames River has been important to Britain since Neolithic times. Many artifacts have been found along the river. The first written accounts of the Thames River were written by Julius Caesar when he made his second expedition to Britain.

Today, the English play sports in the Thames River. One of the most popular sports is rowing. Rowing is a big tradition in London. Rowing involves over 200 clubs and 8,000 people. Other sports that take place along the river include sailing, kayaking and canoeing. The Thames River is important to Britain.



Float #8: Mekong River

The Mekong River is the 11th longest river in the world with a length of 4,880 km. It is also the 12th largest in volume. The source of the Mekong is the Lasangma Spring in China. This great river begins in the Tibetan Plateau and runs through the countries of Myanmar, Thailand, Burma, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, and China. Some of the earliest settlements near the river were around 2100 BCE, more than 4,000 years ago.

Each country has its own name for the Mekong. Its original name was the Mae Nam Khong meaning "Mother of all Rivers." The length of the river that runs through China is referred to as the Lancang River. Other names for the river are Mekongk and Tonle Thom (Cambodia), Mae Khaung (Laos), and Meigong He (China).

The Mekong River is a significant part of history. It is significant because it is a major part of many countries. These countries use the river for transportation which is key for trade as well as other resources such as food. The Mekong is also important because the people that live by it have built their lives around the river.



Float #18: Nile River

The Nile River gets its name from the Greek word Nelios. It is located in northern Africa and runs through Egypt. The Egyptians used it as a resource for trading and accessing water. The Egyptians were one of the earliest river valley civilizations. The Nile is known for being the longest river in the world. It is approximately 4,000 miles long. The two parts of the Nile are the White Nile and the Blue Nile.

Float #26: Seine

The Seine River runs through Paris, which is located in France. Communities developed along the river and by 1533, there were approximately 260,000 people living along its banks. It all began around 300 A.D, when the Arcueil waterway began, but sadly it was destroyed after the fall of Rome. There are a couple of interesting facts about the Seine. For instance, there were 3 factories of spring water that produced water for 7 reservoirs. Notre Dame is also located on the banks of the Seine River.



Float #7: Volga River

The Volga River is the largest river in Europe. The Volga River is about 2,300 miles long. The river is located in the Valdai Hills northwest of Moscow, Russia. This river flows through 6 major cities, such as Yaroslavl, Ryazan, Novgorod, Kazan, Saraton, and Astrakhan. After which, it is free to stretch out into the Caspian Sea.

The Volga River has been mentioned in a famous Russian song called *The Volga Boatmen*. After this song was made, a famous painter created a painting called *The Volga Boatmen*, which depicts slaves pulling a boat down the river. The Volga River is known for its great trade and transportation. It's a good place for the Russians to catch fish. The Volga River has more than 127 different types of plants along its banks.

