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Royal Rivers

Float #11: Tigris and Euphrates

Two of the oldest rivers in history are the Tigris and Euphrates. These rivers are located on the outside of Mesopotamia which is a part of present day Iraq. These rivers are called the Twin Rivers because they flow side by side. Culture developed around these rivers around 3000-5000 B.C. They were also the main source of water for the people of the Fertile Crescent. These rivers were also very harmful and helpful for the cultures living on the riverbanks. The land near the rivers was very fertile. By spring harvest season, the rivers would swell with rain and overflow their banks. Sometimes, it would flood so badly it swept away fields and villages. No one could really tell if the rivers would flood or not because the water levels would change. After Mesopotamian people created canals to protect their land from floods farming was much more successful. There are many interesting facts about the Twin Rivers.



Float #20: Rio Grande

The Rio Grande is located in southern Colorado and flows all the way down to the Texas, Mexico border and empties into the Gulf of Mexico. The river is considered a desert stream because it is very low to the ground. The Rio Grande River is surrounded by wilderness. Very few people live on the Rio Grande. Native Americans once lived along the Rio Grande in pueblos. The Rio Grande means "big river" in Spanish. The river is 1,885 miles long. It is the 5th longest river in the U.S, and the 20th longest in the world. The Rio Grande River is important because it is a significant boundary between Mexico and Texas. It is also important because it irrigates 2,000,000 acres of forest.

