years, a more diverse group of immigrants from all over the world came to the United States. The native customs and the cultural influence of the immigrants combined to form a “melting pot,” or a blend of many different ideas, beliefs, and characteristics that is uniquely American.

**Major Cities: Montreal, Quebec, and Toronto**

When the province of Quebec made French its official language in 1974, a number of English-speaking companies and workers left the province, and its cities, like Quebec, suffered economically. Tourism is a major business today, however, and Quebec City remains a center for the manufacture of textiles and clothing. The city, situated on the St. Lawrence River, is also a busy port and the capital of Quebec province.

Montreal is the largest city in Quebec and the second largest in all of Canada. It was founded as a mission for Native Americans where the St. Lawrence and the Ottawa Rivers meet. It is the second-largest French-speaking city in the world. Today, it is the home of McGill University and of industries such as oil refining, meatpacking, plastics, and publishing. Montreal is also an important inland port.

Toronto, the largest Canadian city, is the capital of Ontario and the leading commercial and cultural center of the predominantly English-speaking provinces. Built on the northern shore of Lake Ontario, Toronto is a busy port. Its industries include publishing, meatpacking, food processing, and clothing manufacturing.

**D. Important Rivers of the World**

The source of a river is the point where it begins—often in highland areas. The source of the Mississippi River is Lake Itasca, Minnesota, 1,463 feet above sea level. One of the sources of the Nile River is the Luvironza River above Lake Victoria (Victoria Nyanza) in Burundi. The Nile itself begins as water exits Lake Victoria near Ripon Falls.

The mouth of a river is the point where it empties into a larger body of water. The mouth of the Amazon River empties into the Atlantic Ocean. Note also the term estuary, which is where the fresh water of a river meets the salt water of the sea.

A tributary is a river that flows into another river. The Mississippi River has more than 250 tributaries. Its main tributaries are the Missouri and Ohio Rivers.

A drainage basin is the area through which a major river and its tributaries (a river system) flow. The Amazon River has hundreds of tributaries, and together the river system drains 40% of South America, most of it through rainforest. The Mississippi River basin is some 1.2 million square miles of fertile farmland that stretches from the Appalachians to the Rockies.

**Asian Rivers**

**Ob River**

*Origin: Russia (Siberia)*

*Empties Into: Estuary on the Arctic Ocean*

*Important Facts:*
  - World’s fourth-longest river
* Teaching Idea

As you are studying each group of rivers, create an overhead of Instructional Master 20, Rivers of the World, and fill in the class chart to help organize student learning as well as structure the lessons on each river.

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- Chief tributary: Irtysh River
- Frozen for half the year
- Major transportation route
- Major port: Novosibirsk

**Yellow River (Huang He)**

Origin: China (Kunlun Mountains in Tibet region) and flows east through China
Empties Into: Bo Hai, an arm of the Yellow Sea

**Important Facts:**
- Area of early Chinese civilization
- Historically, an important agricultural area
- Known as “China's Sorrow” because of the destruction caused by its flooding
- Named because of the fertile yellow silt it carries as it flows east
- Created a delta known as the Great China Plain
- 50-year dam project begun in 1955 to harness water for electric power

**Yangtze (Ch’ang)**

Origin: China (southwest)
Empties Into: East China Sea

**Important Facts:**
- Longest river in Asia
- Third-longest river in the world
- Once the Three Gorges Dam is complete, it will be the world’s largest dam and will provide more hydroelectricity than any other facility.
- Major route for commerce between east and west China
- Source of 40% of China’s electrical power
- Drains about 25% of China’s arable land

**Ganges River**

Origin: Himalayas
Empties Into: Joins Brahmaputra in Bangladesh and empties into Bay of Bengal

**Important Facts:**
- Flows through Gangetic Plain in India and Ganges Delta in Bangladesh
- Holy river to Hindus
- Considered reincarnation of Hindu deity, Ganga
- Important irrigation source for India and Bangladesh

**Indus River**

Origin: Tibet region of China
Empties Into: Joins five smaller rivers and empties into the Arabian Sea
I. World Geography

Important Facts:
- Site of early Indus Valley civilization
- Flows through infertile delta of clay and mud
- Navigable only for small ships
- Used for irrigation and hydroelectric power

African Rivers

Nile River
Origin: Luvironza River in Burundi
Empties Into: Mediterranean Sea
Important Facts:
- Site of ancient Egyptian civilization
- World’s longest river
- Flows north
- White Nile and Blue Nile become the Nile proper at Khartoum, Sudan
- Creates huge delta at river mouth
- Used to flood annually; now dammed; Aswan Dam created huge lake in southern Egypt

Niger River
Origin: Central Guinea
Empties Into: Gulf of Guinea
Important Facts:
- Long, winding river
- Forms part of Niger’s southwest border with Benin
- Benue River, chief tributary
- Forms delta at mouth
- Interrupted by series of rapids, in places

Congo River
Origin: Chambezi River, Zambia
Empties Into: Atlantic Ocean
Important Facts:
- Named after early African kingdom of Kongo
- World’s second-largest river in volume of water
- Long, winding river
- Important transportation route
- Setting of Joseph Conrad’s famous short story “Heart of Darkness”

South American Rivers

Amazon River
Origin: Junction of Ucayali and Marañón Rivers in northern Peru
Empties Into: Atlantic Ocean
Important Facts:
• Second-longest river in the world
• Hundreds of tributaries
• Largest volume of river water in the world
• Drainage basin for more than 40% of South America
• No waterfalls: navigable almost entire length
• Flows through world's largest rainforest
• Empties through delta in northern Brazil

Paraná River
Origin: Junction of Paranaíba and Rio Grande Rivers in southeast Brazil
Empties Into: Atlantic Ocean
Important Facts:
• Meets the Uruguay River to form, with other rivers, the Rio de la Plata estuary
• Paraguay River, largest tributary
• Major transportation route
• Source of hydroelectric power
• Second-largest drainage basin in South America

Orinoco River
Origin: Mt. Délgado Chalbaud in Guiana Highlands
Empties Into: Atlantic Ocean
Important Facts:
• Connected to Amazon River through a natural canal
• Navigability depends on seasonal rains
• Flows through large marshy delta

North American Rivers

Mississippi River
Origin: Lake Itasca in Minnesota
Empties Into: Gulf of Mexico
Important Facts:
• With the Missouri, world's third-longest river
• Tributaries: Minnesota, Missouri, Arkansas, Illinois, Ohio
• Drains plains between Rocky and Appalachian Mountains
• Highly destructive floods
• Forms a bird's-foot-shaped delta of mixed salt marshes and forested swamp
• Memorably described in Mark Twain's works, e.g., Adventures of Huckleberry Finn and Life on the Mississippi
I. World Geography

Mackenzie River
Origin: Great Slave Lake, Northwest Territories, Canada
Empties Into: Beaufort Sea (in the Arctic Ocean)
Important Facts:
• Navigable only June through October because of ice
• Flows through a largely uninhabited region
• Drains northern part of Great Plains
• Delta

Yukon River
Origin: Atlin Lake in British Columbia
Empties Into: Bering Sea
Important Facts:
• Flows through Canada and Alaska
• Navigable only July through September because of ice
• Potential for hydroelectric power
• Delta
• Gold was discovered on a tributary of the Yukon in 1896, leading to the Klondike Gold Rush. Many prospectors traveled hundreds of miles down the Yukon River in primitive boats.

Australian Rivers

Murray River
Origin: Australian Alps near Mt. Kosciusko
Empties Into: Indian Ocean
Important Facts:
• Tributaries: Darling, Murrumbidgee, Mitta Mitta
• With tributaries, drains 14% of continent
• Source of electric power and irrigation

Darling River
Origin: Eastern highlands; formed by Dumaresq and Macintyre Rivers
Empties Into: Indian Ocean after merging with the Murray River
Important Facts:
• Longest river in Australia
• Tributaries: Gwydir, Namoi, Castlereagh
• Source of irrigation

European Rivers

Volga River
Origin: Valday Hills near Moscow, Russia
Empties Into: Caspian Sea
Maps and globes are convenient ways to show the location and some of the human and physical characteristics of our planet.

Important Facts:
- Longest river in Europe
- Known as “Mother Volga”
- Immortalized in Igor Stravinsky’s “Song of the Volga Boatmen” and Ilya Repin’s painting of the Volga boatmen
- Shores dotted with old monasteries and churches
- Principal water transportation route in Russia
- Linked by canals to other rivers
- Source of hydroelectric power and irrigation
- Delta

Danube River
Origin: Formed by Brege and Brigach Rivers in Black Forest in southwest Germany
Empties Into: Black Sea
Important Facts:
- Important transportation route
- Flows through Budapest, Hungary
- Part of Rhine-Main-Danube Canal
- Linked by canals to other rivers
- Swampy delta
- Subject of a famous waltz by Johann Strauss, “Blue Danube”

Rhine River
Origin: Rheinwaldhorn glacier in the Swiss Alps
Empties Into: North Sea
Important Facts:
- Important commercial route
- German industrial cities along river include Bonn, Düsseldorf, and Cologne
- Flows past many old castles
- Linked by canals to other rivers
- Forms delta in the Netherlands

Review

Below are some additional ideas for ongoing assessment and review activities. These are not meant to constitute a comprehensive list. Teachers may also refer to the Pearson Learning/Core Knowledge History & Geography series for additional information and teaching ideas.

- Have students make cards for a geographical memory game. Using index cards, have students write all of the geographical terms studied on one set of cards and all of the definitions for those terms on another set of cards. Students may