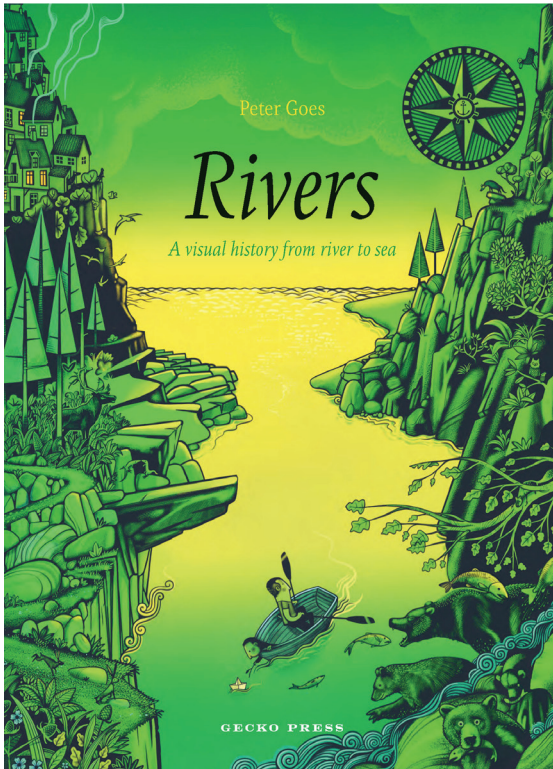


# Teaching Notes



## Rivers

By Peter Goes

This breathtaking journey on the world's most important rivers, seas and oceans tells the story of our planet through cultures, myths, icons and history. It takes us from the Nile to the Amazon, the Mekong Delta to the Mississippi, the Murray to the Waikato.

Each map is full of fascinating facts about nature, culture and history, with major events and historical figures alongside favourite stories and icons.

As the life source of people, animals and the land itself, the world's waterways tell a compelling story about our history and our lives today. This absorbing, playful book shows who we are, how we live and the myths we weave around our people and places.

## The Author

Peter Goes lives in Belgium, where he works as a freelance illustrator. He has also worked as a stage manager and studied animation at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts (KASK) in Ghent, Belgium.

## Themes

Rivers is a beautiful mix of culture, geography, and ecology. The author combines facts, iconography, and mythology in the stunning large-format illustrations to tell us the stories of rivers from all around the world.

# Activities

## Level One – Text (Before and While Reading)

1. Before you read, look at the cover (front and back) of the book. What can you tell about the book from the title, font, illustrations, and blurb? Think about the colours and style of illustrations and what they might tell you about what sort of book this is.
2. Either on your own or in pairs find the definition of the following words that appear in the book and then use them in a new sentence: idyllic, estuary, adapted, tributary, drought, extinct, and shoal.
3. Pronunciation. In this book you may learn about rivers that you have never heard of and that have names in different languages from your own. As you read, take the time to try and learn how to pronounce the names of the rivers. You might be able to find help from others in your class, or you could use pronunciation tools on the Internet.

## Level Two – Responding to the Text and Reading Between the Lines (While Reading)

1. Look closely at the picture of the bird in the lower left-hand corner of the Contents page. Do you know what the object is that the bird is perched on? What do you know about this object? Discuss with your class.
2. Amphibians are animals that can live on land and in water. As you read the book, look for and list different amphibians. Compare your lists in small groups of three to four.
3. Peter Goes has a distinctive style as an illustrator. He uses only a few colours in each picture but includes many different sections of text and small illustrations to create the entire elaborate piece. In groups of 3-4 discuss which of the pages you find most effective. Think about what makes them eye-catching, surprising, informative, and/or entertaining.
4. Pick one of the rivers in the book and find out the meaning of its name and three more facts about the river that aren't included in the text.

## Level Three – Creating Based on the Text

1. In Rivers, we learn that the Thames Tunnel was dug between 1825 and 1843. In pairs, research another structure created to cross rivers. It could be a bridge or a tunnel or something else entirely! Present your findings either in a short, entertaining talk to your class or as a poster that can be displayed on your classroom wall.
2. Many different types of boats and other river craft are included in Rivers. Some are very large and sophisticated while others are much smaller and simpler. One of the smallest you can make is a paper boat. Using the library or Internet, look up instructions for making a paper boat and build your own. Make sure you test it. You could even have a class boat competition.

3. Myths and legends based around rivers are featured in the book. Pick one that you have never heard of and then create one of the following:

- A) A comic strip to tell the story of the myth.
- B) A figurine of the mythical character.
- C) A poem about the myth.

## Level Four – Beyond the Text

1. There have been lots of great songs written about rivers. In pairs or small groups of 3-4, choose a song about a river or rivers and perform for your class. You could use instruments or sing a cappella. You can decide if you want to perform the whole song or just the chorus.
2. Trace the source of a river near where you live. You could look it up on a map or if you are able, travel to the source of the river. What are the main landmarks that the river passes? Are there any conservation threats to the river? Create a poster illustrating the river's course and your findings about your chosen river. You can decide whether you want to use only a few colours, like Peter Goes has, or you could use collage, or other bright, colourful, and imaginative techniques. You can do this activity on your own or in pairs.
3. Rivers are a feature in many wonderful stories. What other stories do you know about rivers? As a class, draw the table below on your board or other classroom teaching surface, and see how many titles and information about each you can include. One title has been included as an example

Title	Author	Name of River	Characters	A Key Event

