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Level 2 – 21st February, 2021

Most of world's rivers damaged by humans

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2102/210221-rivers-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2102/210221-rivers-2.html>

A study shows that humans have damaged 86 per cent of the world's rivers. The study is from a university in France. Researchers examined data on over 2,500 of the world's rivers. They did not look at rivers in the Arctic and Antarctica or in deserts. The scientists looked at changes to biodiversity over the past 200 years. Biodiversity in over half of rivers has been seriously damaged by humans. There are many reasons for this damage. A big reason is the new species of fish that are in rivers. Other reasons include pollution, dams, overfishing, farming and climate change.

The worst-hit rivers are in western Europe and North America. These regions have big, rich towns and cities. The lead researcher said: "Rivers which have the most economic development around them, like the Mississippi river, are the most strongly impacted." London's River Thames is one of the worst-affected in the study. The least-impacted rivers are in Africa and Australia. The researcher said this is because of less industrialisation in Africa and low populations around rivers in Australia. He said rivers in rich nations are completely different to how they were 200 years ago.

Sources: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/feb/18/very-few-of-worlds-rivers-undamaged-by-humanity-study-finds>
<https://www.newscientist.com/article/2268348-humans-have-severely-affected-fish-biodiversity-in-half-of-all-rivers>
<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-02-18/human-caused-climate-change-threatens-a-quarter-of-freshwater-fish>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2102/210221-rivers-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Researchers examined | a. for this damage |
| 2. rivers in the | b. past 200 years |
| 3. The scientists looked | c. change |
| 4. biodiversity over the | d. data |
| 5. seriously damaged | e. in rivers |
| 6. There are many reasons | f. Arctic |
| 7. new species of fish that are | g. by humans |
| 8. farming and climate | h. at changes |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. The worst-hit rivers are | a. and cities |
| 2. big, rich towns | b. Africa |
| 3. one of the worst-affected in the | c. 200 years ago |
| 4. The least- | d. study |
| 5. less industrialisation in | e. completely different |
| 6. low | f. impacted rivers |
| 7. rivers in rich nations are | g. populations |
| 8. how they were | h. in western Europe |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2102/210221-rivers-2.html>

A (1) _____ humans have damaged 86 per cent of the world's rivers. The (2) _____ a university in France. Researchers examined data on over 2,500 of the world's rivers. They did not (3) _____ in the Arctic and Antarctica or in deserts. The scientists looked at changes to biodiversity (4) _____ 200 years. Biodiversity in over half of rivers has been seriously damaged by humans. There are (5) _____ this damage. A big reason is the new species of fish that are in rivers. Other reasons include pollution, dams, overfishing, farming (6) _____.

The worst-hit rivers are in western Europe and North America. These (7) _____, rich towns and cities. The lead researcher said: "Rivers which have (6) _____ development around them, like the Mississippi river, are the (7) _____." London's River Thames is one of the worst-affected in the study. The least-impacted rivers are in Africa and Australia. The researcher said (10) _____ of less industrialisation in Africa and low populations (11) _____ Australia. He said rivers in rich nations are completely different to how they were (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2102/210221-rivers-2.html>

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RIVERS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2102/210221-rivers-2.html>

Write five GOOD questions about rivers in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

