

Water, People, and the Message in the Bottle

Water is part of most environments, even if it is just the little rain that falls on a desert. Bodies of water – including rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, seas, and oceans – are environments in themselves. Plants and animals live in them.

Water and the things that live in water are important to people. Ever since people have made homes, they have tried to find places near water to make them in.

List three reasons why people would want to live near water.

Most of the big cities on Earth are near rivers, oceans, or lakes.
Here is a history job for you.

Fifth graders: Use a map of the United States to find ten cities that are near rivers or lakes. List them. Leave your list with this page so that other people can see if they can find different ones. Then write an answer to this question: **Why are rivers an important part of the history of the United States?**

Sixth graders: Use a map of Egypt to find the big cities there. **What are most of them near? Why might they all have been built there?**

Fifth and Sixth Graders

Think of a message that might have been put in a bottle long ago in history. Bottles can float for many miles across oceans.

Write a message that someone in early America or ancient Egypt might have put into a bottle, talking about living near a river or near the ocean.

Pretend that you are that person, living long ago. What would you have said to people living today?