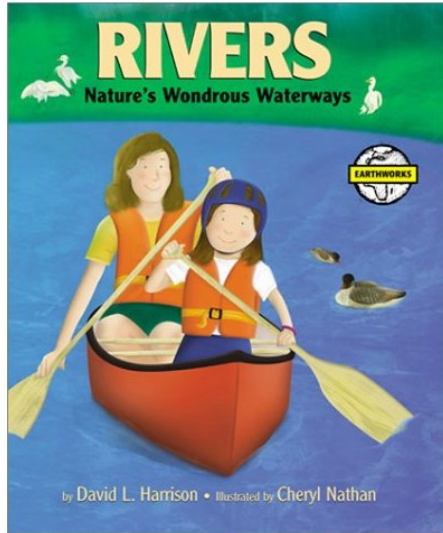


Rivers



- **Hardcover:** 32 pages
- **Publisher:** Boyd's Mills Press (April 2002)
- **Language:** English
- **ISBN-10:** 1563979683
- **Reading Level:** Ages 4 -8

Rivers: Nature's Wondrous Waterways

From School Library Journal

Grade 1-4-This book touches on many topics that are part of the elementary-grade science curriculum: the water cycle, food chains, ecology, farming, geology, and environmental awareness. The emphasis, of course, is on rivers, their natural formation, and their journeys from the tops of mountains to their mouths, where the fresh water meets the sea. In clear, poetic prose, Harrison describes the creation of a river and its importance to the ecological balance of our world. With an emphasis on environmentalism, the book ends with a positive point: "Nature depends on rivers. We depend on rivers. Rivers depend on us." Colorful, lively illustrations match the text on each double-page spread. Pair this book with Lynne Cherry's *A River Ran Wild* (Harcourt, 1992) for Earth Day celebrations or environmental studies.

Lynn Dye, Keheley Elementary School, Marietta, GA

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From [Booklist](#)

Ages 5-8. From a trickle of raindrops and melting snow in the mountains a river is born. What happens after that? Harrison explains how trickles turn into rills, rills into streamlets, streamlets into streams that form deep channels as they grow. The text, awkwardly presented in verse, also describes how much depends on rivers: people need them, of course, as do trees, flowers, and the tiny creatures at the bottom of the complex aquatic food chain. Full-page, color illustrations with a slightly three-dimensional look show how rivers are built--dirt and pebbles grinding the banks and bottoms to make them wider and deeper and the river floor flattening as time passes. There's also basic information on conservation and pollution--along with a clear sense of the wonder of it all. An author's note and bibliography are appended.

Shelley Townsend-Hudson

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Science & Children (Arlington, VA)

Rivers

From mountain streams to the sea, this book takes the reader on an exciting river journey. On the way, elementary students learn about food chains, the water cycle, erosion, rock weathering, and watersheds. The book also mentions pollution and what can be done to clean up the environment. This is not a teaching book; however, it can be used to introduce new ideas or review familiar ones. Several social studies topics are addressed, including how settlers build towns near rivers and how rivers are used to meet various needs of the community. This book also mentions several different landforms that are taught at this level. The book does not describe all rivers; for example, its assertion that rivers begin in the mountains would exclude the Mississippi. But the concepts provide a valuable link between science and geography. As a language or writing tool this book offers a tremendous variety of adjectives and adverbs, and teachers could encourage students to write their own story about a journey. Reading level and concepts are well suited for third- or fourth-grade students.