Wanted: Knowledge about the Danube

The questions for the children are based on the different chapters in the handbook
The water cycle – how the sea gets into the river

What is the motor of the water cycle?

a) the sun  
b) the wind  
c) the sea  
d) lightning

Where on earth do we find the greatest amounts of water?

a) water pipe  
b) Danube  
c) glacier  
d) sea

What has to happen to moist air for rain to develop? It has to…

a) evaporate  
b) cool down  
c) warm up  
d) explode

How much of the water evaporated from the sea returns to earth as rain or snow?

a) one quarter  
b) one half  
c) nothing  
d) all

Correct answers: a), d), a), d)
Stages in the water cycle

In the catchment area of rivers, what protects us from floods?

a) forest  
b) agricultural fields  
c) human settlements  
d) car park

Where does rain water that has seeped into the ground resurface?

a) in a puddle  
b) in a bath tub  
c) in a spring  
d) in a water-treatment plant

What is the final destination of all the pollutants that enter the Danube?

a) the moon  
b) the mountains  
c) the Black Sea  
d) the sky

The cleaner our rivers, the … is the Black Sea.

a) bluer  
b) saltier  
c) bigger  
d) cleaner

Correct answers: a), c), c), d)
The many faces of our rivers – different types of river courses and river mouths

A mountain stream flows…
(one correct answer)

a) around a mountain
b) through a mine
c) only in summer
d) swiftly and steeply down a mountain

In a river with gravel islands, each high water alters…
(several correct answers)

a) the islands in the river
b) the few plants that grow on the islands
c) the position of the river arms
d) the amount of water in the river

A meander is…
(one correct answer)

a) a Greek god
b) a kind of marine fish
c) a bend in a river
d) a type of cheese

A lowland river has many wetland areas, such as oxbow lakes, wetland ponds, bogs etc.

a) true
b) false

Correct answers: d), a)+b)+c)+d), c), correct
GEOLOGY QUIZ
Tick the right answers!

1. How old is the River Danube?
   9,000 years  90,000 years  9 million years  90 million years

2. Which mountain ranges does the Danube flow through? (several correct answers)
   Alps  Andes  Bohemian plateau
   Carpathians  Pyrenees  Ural Mountains

3. Which of the following materials can be most easily transported by the river?
   Clay  Sand  Gravel  Boulders

4. Which type of rock is acid-soluble?
   Granite  Chalk  Quartz rock  Serpentine

For specialists:
5. Which properties affect the durability of gravel? (You can tick several answers)
   Chemical composition  Colour  Form  Size
   Hardness composition  Origin  Cohesion of grains  Mineral

Correct answers: 1c; 2a, 2c, 2d; 3a; 4b; 5a, 5e, 5g, 5h
Life under water – What river organisms can tell us about their river

What indicates you at which river section you are standing? Find the wrong answer!

a) the materials of the river bank and the river bed
b) the flow speed of the water
c) the animals living in the water
d) the weather

Water snails feed on small algae which grow on water plants and rocks. How do the snails obtain their food? (one correct answer)

a) They filter suspended organisms from the water
b) They eat through the sludge at the river bottom
c) They crawl over rocks and water plants and graze on small animals and plants
d) They eat leaves and twigs that have fallen into the water

The following groups of animals filter suspended organisms from the water – with one exception. Which animal is the odd one out? (one correct answer)

a) The mussel sucks water into its shell, thereby extracting edible organisms from the water
b) The rotifer swirls tiny food particles into its mouth using its wheel organ
c) The tree frog preys on passing beetles and flies
d) The freshwater sponge sucks water with suspended organisms through the pores in its body

Large numbers of fish are caught in the Danube delta. The food for many of these fish is carried there by the Danube. It consists mainly of … (one correct answer)

a) kitchen waste
b) remnants of mineral oil
c) insects that have fallen into the water
d) tiny suspended plants and animals (plankton)

Correct answers: d), c), c), d)
Biodiversity

Which one of the following animals can breathe under water? The …

a) water spider  
b) water rat  
c) water buffalo  
d) water bat

Where does the kingfisher build its nest? On …

a) tree tops  
b) gravel islands  
c) tree cavities  
d) river banks

Which animals are most affected by the interruption of the river course by dams?

a) frogs  
b) mussels  
c) fish  
d) birds

Why do mayfly larvae have flat streamlined bodies? In order to...

a) avoid being seen  
b) avoid being carried away by the current  
c) need less space  
d) avoid being blown away by the wind

Correct answers: a), d), c), b)
About the values of riverine landscapes

In wetlands, there is especially rich plant growth because the soil is particularly rich in…

a) fibres
b) nutrients
c) minerals
d) gravel

Intact wetlands provide us with clean…

a) rain water
b) waste water
c) drinking water
d) mineral water

Which activity is environment-friendly and particularly enjoyable in rivers?

a) riding a motor boat
b) swimming
c) disposing of one’s waste
d) playing golf

Which of the following tasty species does not grow in floodplain forests in the Danube basin?

a) blackberry
b) elderberry
c) hazel
d) peanut

Correct answers: b), c), b), d)
Protected areas in the Danube basin

Special areas are designated for the conservation of especially species-rich and unspoilt areas. These are …

a) industrial areas
b) recreation areas
c) protected areas
d) skiing areas

The most important protected areas in the Danube basin are given a special designation as...

a) amusement park
b) national park
c) animal park
d) car park

Which of the following is an important feature for successful cross-border protected areas?

a) advertisements
b) inhibitions
c) cooperation
d) demonstrations

In which two countries is the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve located?

a) Ukraine und Romania
b) Germany and Austria
c) Croatia and Hungary
d) Bulgaria and Romania

Correct answers: c), b), c), a)
The countries of the Danube basin

In which country does the Danube arise? In …

a) Spain
b) Switzerland
c) Germany
d) Poland

In which country does the Danube flow into the Black Sea? In …

a) Bulgaria
b) Croatia
c) Romania and Ukraine
d) Italy

Which animal living at the Danube is the heraldic animal of several Danube countries? The …

a) white-tailed eagle
b) turtle
c) beaver
d) dragonfly

Which language was spoken in the Danube cities of Belgrad, Budapest, Bratislava and Vienna nearly 2000 years ago?

a) Chinese
b) French
c) English
d) Latin

From how many countries is the water in the Danube deriving? From …

a) 3
b) 7
c) 10
d) 19

Correct answers: c), c), a), d), d)
The catchment area of the Danube

Rivers originating in the Alps, the Dinarian mountains, and the Balkan mountains feed into the Danube. From which other big mountain range do rivers flow into the Danube?

a) the Urals  
b) the Carpathians  
c) the Automats  
d) the Apennines  

Which is the most water-rich tributary of the Danube?

a) Inn  
b) Tisza  
c) Sava  
d) Siret  

Where in the Danube basin precipitation is especially high?

a) Black Sea coast  
b) mountains  
c) plains  
d) right above the Danube  

How many rivers feed into the Danube? Nearly…

a) 50  
b) 100  
c) 150  
d) 300  

Correct answers: b), c), b), d)
Conservation efforts

How can the negative impacts of waste water on rivers be reduced? By…

a) waste-water treatment plants
b) power plants
c) withdrawal of water
d) waste separation

The beaver almost went extinct in the Danube basin. How was the comeback of the beaver achieved? By…

a) feeding
b) hunting
c) reintroduction
d) provision of nest boxes

How can rare species in the Danube basin best be protected?

a) by conservation of their natural habitat
b) in national parks
c) in zoos
d) in aquariums

Correct answers: a), c), a)