

Three Gorges Dam

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About Three Gorges Dam:

- It is located on the **Yangtze River** in **China's Hubei Province**.
- It is the **world's largest hydroelectric power station**.
- The dam was completed in 2012 after nearly two decades of construction.
- Its staggering dimensions—2,335 metres (7,660 feet) long and 185 metres (607 feet) high—make it the **largest dam ever built**.
- The dam's reservoir has a capacity of 40 cubic kilometres (about 10 trillion gallons) of water, which can **produce up to 22,500 megawatts of electricity**.
- The dam **uses the flow of water from the three closest gorges**, known as **Qutangxia, Wuxia, and Xilingxia**, for spinning the turbine and generating electricity
- Beyond its hydroelectric capabilities, the dam is intended to **increase the Yangtze River's shipping capacity** and **reduce the potential for floods** downstream by providing flood storage space.

Key Facts about Yangtze River:

- It is the **longest river in both China and Asia** and **third longest river in the world**, with a length of 3,915 miles (6,300 km).
 - It is also considered the **longest river to exclusively flow within** the borders of a **single nation**.
 - Its basin drains an area of 698,265 square miles (1,808,500 sq.km).
 - From its **source on the Plateau of Tibet to its mouth on the East China Sea**, the river traverses or serves as the border between 10 provinces or regions.
 - More than three-fourths of the river's course runs through mountains.
 - The Yangtze has eight principal tributaries. On its left bank, from source to mouth, these are the Yalung, Min, Jialing, and Han rivers; those on the right bank include the Wu, Yuan, Xiang, and Gan rivers.
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Q1: What is a Gorge?

A gorge is a narrow valley with steep, rocky walls located between hills or mountains. The term comes from the French word gorge, which means throat or neck. A gorge is often smaller than a canyon, although both words are used to describe deep, narrow valleys with a stream or river running along their bottom.

Source: [China's gigantic hydroelectric dam has been changing spin of Earth. Here's how](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/three-gorges-dam/>

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