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Encyclopedia

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

For other uses, see [Tigris \(disambiguation\)](#).

The **Tigris** River is the eastern member of the two great rivers that define **Mesopotamia**, along with the **Euphrates**. The river flows from the mountains of southeastern **Turkey** through **Iraq**.

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- 1 Geography
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Geography

The Tigris is 1862 km long, rising in the **Taurus Mountains** of eastern Turkey about 25 km southeast of the city of **Elazig** and circa 30 km from the headwaters of the **Euphrates** River. The river then flows for 400 km through Turkish territory, before becoming the border between Syria and Iraq. This stretch of 44 km is the only part of the river that is located in Syria. The remaining 1418 km are entirely within the Iraqi borders.^[1]

The Tigris unites with the Euphrates near Basra, and from this junction to the **Persian Gulf** the mass of moving water is known as the Shatt-al-Arab. According to **Pliny** and other ancient historians, the Euphrates originally had its outlet into the sea separate from that of the Tigris.^[3]

Baghdad, the capital of **Iraq**, stands on the banks of the Tigris. The port city of **Basra** straddles the Shatt al-Arab. In ancient times, many of the great cities of Mesopotamia stood on or near the Tigris, drawing water from it to irrigate the civilization of the **Sumerians**. Notable Tigris-side cities included **Nineveh**, **Ctesiphon**, and **Seleucia**, while the city of **Lagash** was irrigated by the Tigris via a canal dug around 2400 BC. **Saddam Hussein's** hometown, **Tikrit**, is also located on the river

Related top topics



Euphrates



الله أكبر

Iraq



Sumer



Baghdad



Mosul



Syria



mesopotamia, *Tigris* is also related to the river and derives its name from it.

The Tigris has long been an important transport route in a largely desert country. It is navigable as far as Baghdad by shallow-draft vessels, but rafts are needed for transport upstream to **Mosul**. River trade declined in importance during the 20th century as the Basra-Baghdad-Mosul **railway** and roads took over much of the freight traffic.

Etymology

The original **Sumerian** name was *Idigna* or *Idigina*, probably from **id (i)gina* "running water",^[4] which can be interpreted as "the swift river", contrasted to its neighbor, the Euphrates, whose leisurely pace caused it to deposit more silt and build up a higher bed than the Tigris. This form was borrowed and gave rise to Akkadian *Idiqlat*. From **Old Persian** *Tigrā*, the word was adopted into Greek as *Tigris* ("Τίγρις" which is also Greek for "tiger"). In the **Hebrew Bible**, the river was called *Hiddeqel*^[5] (הִדְדַּקֵּל).

Pahlavi *tigr* means "arrow", in the same family as **Old Persian** *tigra-* "pointed" (compare *tigra-xauda*), **Modern Persian** *tēz* "sharp". However, it does not appear that this was the original name of the river, but that it (like the **Semitic** forms of the name) was coined as an imitation of the indigenous Sumerian name. This is similar to the Persian name of the Euphrates, *Ufratu*, which does have a meaning in Persian, but is still modeled after the Akkadian name *Purattu*.

Another name for the Tigris, used from the time of the **Persian Empire**, is Arvand Rud, literally Arvand River. Today the name Arvand Rud is the **Persian** name for the confluence of the **Euphrates** and Tigris rivers which in **Arabic** is called **Shatt al-Arab**.

The name of the Tigris in languages that have been important to the region:

Language	Name for Tigris
Akkadian	<i>Idiqlat</i>
Arabic	دجلة, <i>Dijla</i>
Aramaic	ܕܝܓܠܬ, <i>Diglath</i>
Armenian	Տիգրիս, <i>Tigris</i>
Greek	ἡ Τίγρις, -ητος, <i>hē Tígrēs, -ētos</i> ; ἡ, ὁ Τίγρις, -ιδος, <i>hē, ho Tígrīs, -idos</i>
Hebrew	הִדְדַּקֵּל, <i>Hiddeqel</i>
Hurrian	<i>Aranzah</i> ^[6]
Kurdish	Dicle
Persian	Old Persian: <i>Tigrā</i> ; Middle Persian: <i>Tigr</i> ; Modern Persian: دجله <i>Dijle</i>
Sumerian	<i>Idigna/Idigina</i> 𒌦, 𒌧𒀭
Syriac	ܕܝܩܠܬ <i>Deqlat</i>
Turkish	Dicle
Urdu	دجلہ, <i>Dajla</i>

Management and water quality

The Tigris is heavily dammed in Iraq and



Tigris
Arabic: نهر دجلة, *Nahr Dijlah*,
Turkish: Dicle Nehri
 River



About 100 km from its source, the Tigris enables rich agriculture outside **Diyarbakır**, Turkey

Countries Turkey, Syria, Iraq

Basin area Turkey, Syria, Iraq, Iran

Tributaries

- left **Batman**, **Khabur**, **Greater Zab**, **Lesser Zab**, **'Adhaim**, **Diyala**

- right **Wadi Tharthar**

Cities **Diyarbakır**, **Mosul**, **Baghdad**

Source

Lake Hazar
 - elevation 1,150 m (3,773 ft)
 - coordinates 38°29'0"N 39°25'0"E

Mouth

Shatt al-Arab
 - location **Al-Qurnah**, **Basra Governorate**, **Iraq**

Length 1,862 km (1,157 mi)
Basin 375,000 km² (144,788 sq mi)

Discharge

for **Baghdad**
 - average 666 m³/s (23,520 cu ft/s)
 - max 1,825 m³/s (64,449 cu ft/s)
 - min 155 m³/s (5,474 cu ft/s)



Turkey to provide water for irrigating the arid and semi-desert regions bordering the river valley. Damming has also been important for averting floods in Iraq, to which the Tigris has historically been notoriously prone following melting of snow in the Turkish mountains around April. Recent Turkish damming of the river has been the subject of some controversy, for both its environmental effects within Turkey and its potential to reduce the flow of water downstream. **Mosul Dam**, located on the Tigris, is the largest dam in Iraq. Some problems with the Tigris water quality include the number of dead bodies being dumped into it.^[*citation needed*] The bodies are mainly from explosions of cargo ships carrying ammunition. This dumping affects the economy because people are not eating some fish that come from the Tigris, for fear that the fish may have fed on human bodies.

Religion and mythology

The Tigris appears twice in the **Bible**. In the **Book of Genesis**, the Tigris is the third of the four rivers branching off the river issuing out of the **Garden of Eden**.^[7] **Daniel** received one of his visions "when I was by that great river the Tigris".^[8]

In **Sumerian mythology**, the Tigris was created by the god **Enki**, who **ejaculated** and filled the river with flowing water.^[9]

In **Hittite** and **Hurrian** mythology, *Aranzah* (or *Aranzahas* in the **Hittite** nominative form) is the Hurrian name of the **Tigris River**, which was divinized. He was the son of **Kumarbi** and the brother of **Teshub** and Tašmišu, one of the three gods spat out of Kumarbi's mouth onto Mount Kanzuras. Later he colluded with **Anu** and the **Teshub** to destroy Kumarbi (The Kumarbi Cycle).

Notes

- [^] ^a ^b Isaev, V.A.; Mikhailova, M.V. (2009). "The hydrology, evolution, and hydrological regime of the mouth area of the Shatt al-Arab River". *Water Resources* **36** (4): 380-395. doi:10.1134/S0097807809040022.
- [^] Kolars, J.F.; Mitchell, W.A. (1991). *The Euphrates River and the Southeast Anatolia Development Project*. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press. pp. 6-8. ISBN 0809315726.
- [^] Pliny: Natural History, VI, XXVI, 128-131
- [^] F. Delitzsch, *Sumerisches Glossar*, Leipzig (1914), IV, 6, 21.
- [^] *KJV Hiddekel*)
- [^] E. Laroche, *Glossaire de la langue Hourrite*, Paris (1980), p. 55.
- [^] Genesis 2:14
- [^] Daniel 10:4
- [^] Jeremy A. Black, *The Literature of Ancient Sumer*, Oxford University Press 2004, ISBN 0199263116 p. 220-221



Map of the Tigris-Euphrates basin area

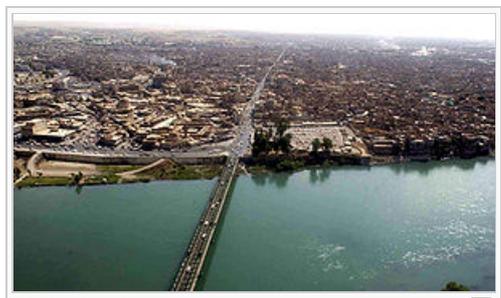
[1][2]



Tigris River Outside of Mosul, Iraq.



Tigris river in Baghdad



Tigris River in Mosul, Iraq.



SEE ALSO

- Assyria
- Cradle of civilization
- Euphrates
- **Ilisu Dam Campaign** campaign against a planned dam on Tigris in Turkey
- **List of places in Iraq**
- [[Mesopota

1911 encyclopedia

(Redirected to [Database error](#) article)

Up to date as of January 14, 2010

From LoveToKnow 1911

(There is currently no text in this page)

Wiktionary

Up to date as of January 15, 2010

Definition from Wiktionary, a free dictionary

Wikipedia

See also **tigris**

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Wikipedia has an article on:
Tigris

English

Etymology

From **Ancient Greek** Τίγρις (Tigris), from Old Persian *Tigrā*, from Akkadian *idiqlat*, from Sumerian *idigna*, literally 'fast as an arrow', because the Tigris is rough and fast flowing.

Proper noun

Tigris

1. A river in Southwest **Asia** flowing 1,150 miles east-southeast from Turkey through Iraq. It forms the eastern edge of classical **Mesopotamia**. It unites with the **Euphrates** River to form the Shatt-al-Arab before flowing into the **Persian Gulf**.

Translations

river in Southwest Asia	[hide]
▪ Arabic: دجلة (<i>díjla</i>) <i>f.</i>	▪ Latin: Tigris <i>la</i> (<i>la</i>)
▪ Armenian: Տիգրիս <i>hy</i> (<i>hy</i>) (Tigris)	▪ Portuguese: Tigre <i>pt</i> (<i>pt</i>) <i>m.</i>
▪ Bosnian: Tigris <i>bs</i> (<i>bs</i>) <i>m.</i>	▪ Russian: Тигр <i>ru</i> (<i>ru</i>) (Tigr) <i>m.</i>
▪ Czech: Tigris <i>cs</i> (<i>cs</i>) <i>m.</i>	▪ Serbian:
▪ Finnish: Tigris <i>fi</i> (<i>fi</i>)	▪ Cyrillic: Тигрис <i>m.</i>

- German: **Tigris** de(de) *m.*
- Greek: **Τίγρις** el(el) (**Tígris**)
- Hungarian: **Tigris** hu(hu)
- Japanese: **チグリス川** (**Chigurisu-gawa**)
- Korean: **티그리스강** (**Tigeuriseu gang**)

- Roman: **Tigris** *m.*
- Slovak: **Tigris** sk(sk) *m.*
- Swedish: **Tigris** sv(sv)
- Turkish: **Dicle** tr(tr)

See also

- [Mesopotamia](#)
- [Euphrates](#)

Bosnian

Proper noun

Tigris *m.*

1. [Tigris](#)

Czech

Proper noun

Tigris *m.*

1. [Tigris](#)

Latin

Etymology

From [Ancient Greek](#) **Τίγρις** (**Tígris**).

Pronunciation

- ([Classical](#)) **IPA:** /ˈti.ɡris/

Proper noun

Tigris (*genitive* **Tigridis**); *m*, *third declension*

1. [Tigris](#) (river)

Inflection

<i>nominative</i>	Tigris
<i>genitive</i>	Tigridis
<i>dative</i>	Tigridī
<i>accusative</i>	Tigridem
<i>ablative</i>	Tigride
<i>vocative</i>	Tigris
<i>locative</i>	Tigride

See also

- [tigris](#)

Serbian

Proper noun

Tigris *m.*

1. [Tigris](#)

See also

- [Тигрис](#)

Slovak

Proper noun

Tigris *m.*, **Tigrisy** *pl.*

Tigris *stem*

Tigrisu *gen sg*

declension pattern **dub**

1. the river **Tigris**

Categories: [Ancient Greek derivations](#) | [Entries which need Old Persian Cuneiform script](#) | [Entries which need Cuneiform script](#) | [Rivers](#) | [bs:Rivers](#) | [Czech proper nouns](#) | [cs:Rivers](#) | [la:Ancient Greek derivations](#) | [Latin proper nouns](#) | [la:Rivers](#) | [sr:Rivers](#) | [de:Rivers](#) | [fi:Rivers](#) | [sk:Rivers](#)

Bible wiki

Up to date as of January 23, 2010

From BibleWiki

One of the four streams mentioned in **Gen 2:14** as watering the **Garden of Eden**, and described, from the standpoint of **Palestine**, as flowing "in front of **Assyria**" (R. V.). The Tigris has its source in several springs in Mount **Ararat**, not far from the head-waters of the **Euphrates**. Near one of these springs the figures of Sardanapalus and **Tiglath-pileser** III. are found carved in the rock. After flowing a short distance the **river** receives the waters of several mountain brooks from the east; and at Diarbekr it is already a fairly large stream. South of **Mosul** it is navigable for rafts, and at Bagdad it carries boats, while at Korna it unites with the **Euphrates** to form the Shatt al-'**Arab**, which empties into the Persian Gulf. Its chief period of rise occurs, opposite **Mosul**, at the time of the melting of the **snow** (Ecclus. [Sirach] xxiv. 25), when it devastates the surrounding country. Hence, even in antiquity it was necessary to dig transverse canals in various places to carry off the superfluous **water**, which is whitish in color and is famed for its potability among those who live in the vicinity and who are accustomed to it. The **river** contains great numbers of **fish**. The Tigris is referred to in only one other place in the Bible, namely, **Dan 10:4**, where in the English version the name is transliterated simply "Hiddekel."

The **Targum** and the **Talmud** term it the Digtat, the earlier form of the name. In answer to the question why this **river** was called also Hiddekel, R. Ashi replied that it was on account of its sharpness and swiftness, the word (*missing hebrew text*) being etymologized as a compound of (*missing hebrew text*) ("sharp," "swift") and (*missing hebrew text*) ("light," "quick"; Ber. 59a). Neubauer proposed to separate the name into (*missing hebrew text*) or (*missing hebrew text*) and (*missing hebrew text*) ("the swiftly running Diklah"). In the **Talmud** the **water** of the **river** is considered to be both quickening for the mind and healthful for the body on account of its lightness (*ib.*). It was also held to be one of the oldest rivers; and when a Jew saw its waters from the bridge Bostane he was enjoined to recite the blessing "Blessed be He who hath made the work of Creation (*ib.*; Yeb. 121a).

From Bagdad to Apameia the **river** formed the boundary of **Babylon** (Kid. 71b).

Bibliography: McClintock and Strong, *Cyc.* iv. 232, x. 403; Herzog-Hauck, *Real-Encyc.* xv. 662; Nöldeke, in Schenkel, *Bibelllexicon*, v. 536 *et seq.*; Friedrich Delitzsch, *Wo Lag das Paradies?* Index, Leipsic, 1881; Neubauer, *G. T.* pp. 334-337, Paris, 1868; S. Löwisohn, *Mehkere Erez* pp. 136-137, Vienna, 1819.

*This entry includes text from the **Jewish Encyclopedia, 1906.***

Categories: [Articles missing Hebrew text](#) | [Jewish Encyclopedia 1906](#)

Simple English

[[File:|thumb|right|The river Tigris, near Diyarbakir, in Turkey]]

The **Tigris** is a **river** in the **Middle East**. It is one of two rivers that define **Mesopotamia**. Mesopotamia literally means (*the land between the rivers*). The other river is called **Euphrates**.

The **source** of the river is in the **Taurus mountains** in **Turkey**.

From there, it flows through various countries, most notably **Turkey**, **Syria** and **Iraq**. The river is 1,900 **kilometres** long. It comes together with the Euprates in the Shatt-al-Arab(which is called Arvand Rud in **Persian**). The Shatt-al-Arab flows into the **Persian Gulf**.

File:Tigris river
The river, in **Mosul**, in **Iraq**

Related links

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[. . Tigris/Dicle is of Kurdish origin - PWD-Kurdistan: Banlandýnýz](#)

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