A Tale of a River. — The Columbia river, which flows through the states of Washington and Oregon, is one of the largest and most important rivers in North America. It is about 1245 miles long and drains an area of over 262,000 square miles. The river is navigable for about 800 miles, and is one of the major waterways in the Pacific Northwest. The Columbia river is known for its rich salmon runs, which are an important part of the region's culture and economy. The river also provides a source of hydroelectric power, and is an important water supply for the surrounding area. The Columbia river is a vital part of the region's natural heritage and is enjoyed by tourists and local residents alike.