



Would the Ancient Egyptians have achieved as much without the Nile?

St White's Primary School – Geography

Phase: UKS2

Topic: The Nile



What should I already know?

- Cinderford is near the River Severn which is the longest river in Britain
- Rivers flow from the source to the mouth.
- Civilisations settle near rivers.
- Physical geography is about natural features

Biomes, climate zones and vegetation belts

- Egypt is in a desert biome and has an arid (dry) climate.
- Even though Egypt does not get much rain, its natural vegetation is varied.
- The Western desert lacks plants; the coastal strip has a rich plant life in spring.
- The Nile and its canals and channels support many kinds of water plants. The more than 100 types of grasses found around the Nile include bamboo and esparto.

Farming

- In ancient civilisations, farming was essential for a settlement thriving.
- The Ancient Egyptians had three seasons: Akhet (flooding), Peret (planting), Shemu (harvest).
- Floodwaters leave a rich black soil called silt along the riverbanks which is good quality for growing crops.

Transport

- Egypt is connected to other countries by the Nile.
- The Nile was the fastest way to travel in Ancient Egypt.
- Today, the Nile is still a major transportation route. Cruise ships bring holidaymakers. Barges haul building materials. Large vessels ship cars, washing machines, tractors and cranes.

Modern Egypt

- Cruises on the Nile make money for the Egyptian economy
- Fishing on the Nile
- Floating pump stations allow water to be pumped onto crops
- Many people use the Nile for washing themselves and clothes.
- Nile is used for water sports and sailing.
- Animals need water.

Facts about the Nile

The Nile is historically considered the longest river in the world. It has two main branches – the Blue Nile and the White Nile. It flows into the Mediterranean Sea.



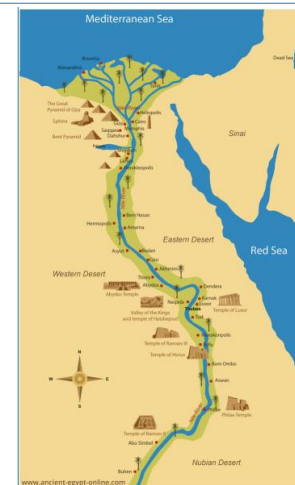
Geographers study places and the relationships between people and their environments.

Technical vocabulary

Biome	A biome is a large area characterized by its vegetation, soil, climate, and wildlife
Climate zone	Climate zones are areas around the world with specific patterns of weather.
Vegetation belt	A vegetation belt is the plant life within a biome.
floodplain	A low lying area of ground next to a river that is subject to flooding
silt	fine sand, clay, or other material carried by running water and deposited as a sediment
Shaduf	a hand-operated machine used to transport water from a lower level to a higher one.
Tributary	a stream or river that flows into a larger stream or river or a lake. A tributary does not flow directly into a sea or ocean
Delta	an area of low, flat land shaped like a triangle, where a river splits and spreads out into several branches before entering the sea

Trade on the Nile

Life revolved around the Nile. Every year, The river was also used to irrigate fields in other areas. Mud from the river banks was used to make bricks and papyrus plants were used to make paper. Most people lived along and around the Nile. This is still true in Egypt today. The ancient Egyptians were excellent traders. They traded gold, papyrus, linen, and grain for cedar wood, ebony, copper, iron, ivory, and lapis lazuli. Ships sailed up and down the Nile River, bringing goods to various ports.



Uses

- Rivers are used for leisure, industry and conservation.
- River users include fishermen, factory owners, power generation companies, tourists, watersports groups.