

ANCIENT EGYPT ALONG THE NILE

Ancient Egyptians created a civilization along the banks of the Nile river which lasted for thousands of years. Starting with primitive tribes, the Egyptians advanced and thrived because of their location and their connection to the Nile River. Dry barren desert lay to east and west. In between, the Nile overflowed every year. Dark silt created a rich soil, supporting agriculture.



The Nile provided food and transportation in ancient Egypt. Because of the rich soil, many crops were planted and harvested. People fished, hunted wildlife, and raised animals. Papyrus, a plant that grows along river edges, was used to make a paper-like material. The Egyptians wrote in picture-like hieroglyphics on papyrus.

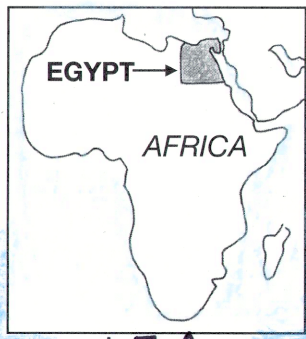


Boats of many kinds moved along the Nile, carrying local people as well as the mummies of Pharaohs. From further south by boat, came huge stones and precious minerals, like gold and gemstones. Simple light barges and small boats were made of river-grown reeds. Larger boats for heavier tasks, like transporting large stones, were built of rare wood that came from the Middle East.



The Egyptians hoped that everything in this life would be experienced in a next life. This belief in the afterlife made them preserve their dead pharaohs as mummies. Detailed art decorated tombs. Ancient Egyptians erected amazing architecture, like pyramids and obelisks, using natural rock and stone. Even today, anthropologists are not sure how they created these complex structures.

Today we can visit these sites and wonder about the amazing culture, art, religion and architecture that developed along the River Nile.



MEDITERRANEAN SEA

LOWER EGYPT

Giza
Memphis
el-Lisht

Baharia

Western Desert

SINAI

Port of Mersa
Gawasis
Eastern Desert

Abydos
Tuhk
Valley of the Kings
Luxor

UPPER EGYPT

Dahkla
el-Kharga

Elephantine
1st cataract

LOWER NUBIA

Nubian Desert

UPPER NUBIA

2nd cataract

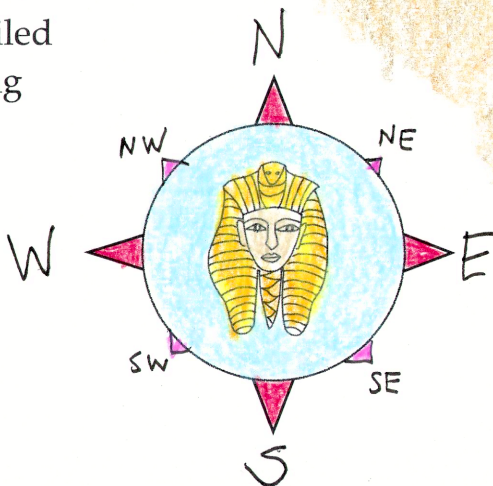
3rd cataract

KUSH

Baiyuda Desert

4th cataract

5th cataract



Map Key

Add these symbols to your map, and label and color the following:

- Bodies of water: blue
- Fertile area along the Nile: green
- Desert: light brown
- Desert routes
- Oasis
- Granite Quarry
- Limestone Quarry
- Pyramid
- Temple
- Old Kingdom capitals
- Middle Kingdom capitals
- Nubian gold sites: yellow
- River Cataracts (on map)

Add more to your map as you learn about history along the Nile

ANCIENT KINGDOM TIMELINE

- Neolithic: 5000 BCE and earlier**
Naqada communities settle in Nile Valley
- Predynastic: 4000-3150 BCE**
No central government, early pottery
- Early Dynastic period: 3150 BCE**
Dynasties I and II
Early writing and tombs, Memphis capital
- Old Kingdom: 2686-2181 BCE**
Dynasties II, IV, V and VI
First pyramid built; Giza pyramids; Sphinx
- First Intermediate: 2081-2041 BCE**
Dynasties VI - X
Many pharaohs ruling at the same time
- Middle Kingdom: 2040-1782 BCE**
Dynasties XII and XIII
Government unified, Thebes becomes capital
Kingdom of Kush conquered
- Second Intermediate Period**
Dynasties XIII - XVII
N. Egypt controlled by Hyksos; chariots introduced
- New Kingdom: 1570-1070 BCE**
Dynasties XVIII, XIX, XX
Egypt conquers Canaan, Lebanon and Syria
Ramses the Great art
- Late period: 1069-332 BCE**
Dynasties XXI - XXXI
Foreigners attack; decline of dynasties
- Ptolemaic period: 332-30**
Dynasties XXXII - XXXIII
Alexander the Great, Cleopatra