
A decorative border surrounds the central text area, featuring various Egyptian motifs such as pyramids, sphinxes, scarabs, and hieroglyphs in a stylized, colorful manner.

**Today we will be learning  
about why The River Nile  
was so important.**

**First let's discuss why people settle in  
certain areas.**

A simple map of the Nile River basin, showing the river winding through a green landscape. The river is colored light blue, and the surrounding land is light green. There are some faint, stylized symbols on the map, possibly representing settlements or landmarks.

# Why do People Settle in Certain Areas?

There are very important reasons why people throughout history have chosen to live where they do. If we look at maps of different places in the world, we will notice that most large communities and cities are located on, or near the water. Let's look some maps of two countries where there were early **civilizations**, and see if this is true.

**Civilizations:** groups of people living in a certain area who have improved their way of life over time.



The map above is a map of China. As you can see, most of the cities are along rivers, or near the coast of the ocean. On the map of Egypt below, you will notice the same thing. We will learn the reasons for this, as we discover where people settle and live, and why.



Around 5000 years ago, the first civilizations began to pop up along the southwest part of the continent of Asia. Today, this is an area we call the Middle East. Towns began to develop along **river valleys**, where water was available. There were some important reasons for this.

**River valleys:** low lying areas of land that surround a river and are good for farming



The land along the rivers is **fertile**. If there is fertile land, then crops can be grown. Animals can also be raised if there is enough food and water for them. People learned that they could stay in one place and grow enough food to feed their community, if they were near a water supply.

**Fertile:** able to grow plants because of nearby water supply



As time went on, waterways began to serve more purposes. Rivers, lakes, and seas began to be used for transportation. People built boats, and started exploring the area around them.

**Now, let's think about why  
the River Nile was so  
important.**



# The River Nile




The River Nile runs through Egypt. Most people live along and around the River Nile.


This is because it is green and crops can be grown in the areas around the Nile whilst the rest of Egypt is desert.

The people of ancient Egypt depended on the Nile to survive.


# Floods



The River Nile would flood every year and leave behind a rich, black silt that fertilised the soil.



This was essential for growing food for everyone.




A system of canals that led from the Nile were also used to water fields in other areas. This is called **irrigation**.



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# Crops and Food



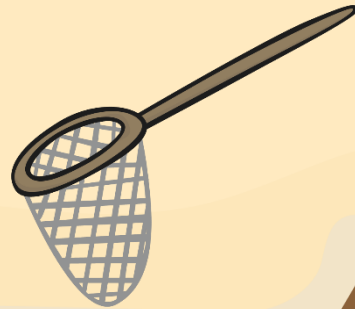
The Egyptians grew wheat and barley as well as fruits and vegetables like melons, figs, peas, garlic, lettuce and cucumbers.




Flax was grown for making linen to make clothes.




The Nile was also important for fishing. This was done in boats with nets.



# Transport and Trade




There was no such thing as money in ancient Egypt so people would trade by swapping things like pottery, food, jewellery and art etc.




Boats were used to travel up and down the Nile to trade throughout the country.



# Building and Papyrus



Mud from around the River Nile would be used to make bricks for building.




The papyrus plants around the river were used to make papyrus which was the paper of the ancient Egyptians.



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# The Egyptian Calendar

 The Egyptian year was based on the happenings of the River Nile. It had 3 seasons, each one lasting 4 months:

- **AHKET** - July – October, this was flooding season
- **PERET** – November – February, the fields were planted in this season
- **SHEMU** – March – June, the crops were harvested.

# Key facts and Key Vocabulary

Crops grown along the Nile and fish caught in the river provide food for the people of Egypt.

**fertile** – to be able to grow plants because of a nearby water supply

**valley** – a low area of land between hills or mountains, typically with a river or stream flowing through it

– groups of people living in a certain area

**civilizations** who have improved their way of life over time

# Task



Think about why the River Nile was so important to the ancient Egyptians. Your task is to create a job advert for someone to come and work at the River Nile. Remember to explain why it would be beneficial to them and also include the key facts and vocabulary! Draw pictures and make your advert attractive!