



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



Phase:
UKS2

Topic: The Nile
Physical and Human geography

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

Geography

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

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.

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.

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.

Ancient Egypt

- They made papyrus from reeds that grew near the Nile
- Use shadufs to bring water from the Nile for crops
- Funeral processions involved transporting on the Nile
- Need water to raise animals for meat, wool and milk.

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.
climate	The weather conditions in an area in general.
Vegetation belt	A vegetation belt is the plant life within a biome.
Leisure	Using free time for enjoyment
Industry	Economic activity to do with manufacturing goods
Conservation	Protection of the natural environment
shaduf	An Egyptian pump that lifted water.
Irrigation	Watering crops through man-made channels such as ditches and canals.
harvesting	Gather up a crop
crops	A plant grown in a large scale
Akhet, Peret, Shemu	The three Egyptian seasons
canals	Artificial waterways to allow boats to come inland or to convey water for irrigation
floodplain	A low lying area of ground next to a river that is subject to flooding
merchants	A person involved in trade with others
bartering	Exchange of other goods without using money
trade	The action of buying and selling goods
riverbank	The bank of a river
silt	fine sand, clay, or other material carried by running water and deposited as a sediment

Uses

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