

River Nile

Human and Physical Geography



Quick Facts



- The Nile flows through 11 countries: Eritrea, Sudan, South Sudan, Burundi, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda and Egypt.
- Length: Approximately 6650 km (4130 miles) – It is the longest river in the World!
- Source: The White Nile (primary tributary) has its source in either Rwanda or Burundi. The Blue Nile (secondary) starts at Lake Tana, Ethiopia.
- Mouth: Mediterranean Sea
- Egypt's population has depended up the Nile for thousands of years. Most of Egypt's population and settlements lie along the banks of the Nile.

Vocabulary



River Nile	The longest river in the world. It flows north from Uganda in East Africa through Sudan and Egypt into the Mediterranean Sea.
Egypt	A country in North Africa on the Mediterranean and Red Seas.
Irrigation	The supplying of water to land by man-made means.
River	A large natural stream of water flowing in a particular course toward a lake, ocean, or other body of water.
Cairo	Cairo is the capital of Egypt.
Flood	An overflow of water onto land that is not normally under water.
Tributary	Where a small stream meets another stream or river.
Continent	A landmass made up of different countries
Mouth	The end of the river (usually where it meets the sea).
Source	The origin (beginning) or a river.

Knowledge

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.

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.

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.

Diagrams



Egypt

