THE NILE RIVER

The Nile River was very importante in the lives and society of Ancient Egypt. The Nile provided the Ancient Egyptians with food, transportation, building materials, and more.

The Nile River is the longest river in the world. It is over 4,100 miles long! The Nile is located in northwest Africa and flows through many different African countries including Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, and Burundi.

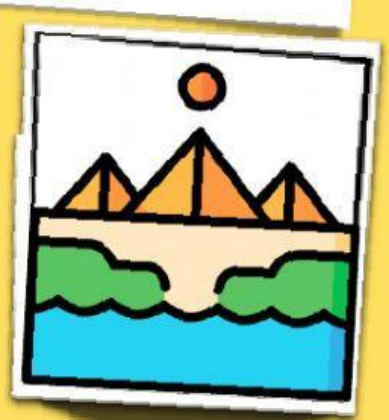
The Nile River flows north through Egypt and into the Mediterranean Sea. Ancient Egypt was divided into two regions, Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt. This looks a bit confusing on a map because Upper Egypt is to the south and Lower Egypt is to the north. This is because the names come from the flow of the Nile River.

The most important thing the Nile provided to the Ancient Egyptians was fertile land. Most of Egypt is desert, but along the Nile River the soil is rich and good for growing crops. The three most important crops were wheat, flax, and papyrus.

- Wheat was the main staple food of the Egyptians. They used it to make bread. They also sold a lot of their wheat to other regions, helping the Egyptians to become rich.
- Flax was used to make linen cloth. This was the main type of cloth used by the Egyptians.
- Papyrus was a plant that grew along the shores of the Nile. The Egyptians found many uses for this plant including paper, baskets, rope, and sandals.

Around September of each year the Nile would overflow its banks and flood the surrounding area. This sounds bad at first, but it was very important because the flood brought rich black soil and renewed the farmlands.

Most of the major cities of Ancient Egypt were built along the Nile River, so it was used as a highway to travel up and down the Nile carrying people and goods.



LIVEWORKSHEETS

VOCABULARY

1. Translate the underlined words in the text. Use the dictionary if necessary (wordReference).

land:

soil:

crops:

wheat:

flax:

staple:

shores:

overflow:

highway:

goods:

READING COMPREHENSION

2. Answer the following questions about the text.

Why are the terms "Upper Egypt" and "Lower Egypt" confusing?

a. Because the should be side-to-side.
b. Because on a map, it seems the contrary.
c. Because of the path of the Nile River.
d. Because the Nile River grows from north to south.

Flooding of the Nile was...

a. bad for the Egyptians because it ruined their farmlands.
b. bad for the Egyptians because it caused destruction.
c. good for the Egyptians because it renewed their farmlands.
d. good for the Egyptians because it provides drinking water.

Which is not true about the Nile river?

a. Papirus was a plant the grew along the Nile's shores.
b. It flooded during the spring each year.
c. Wheat was used to make dresses and shirts for clothing.
d. The Nile river is the longest river in the world.

Where does the Nile River flow into?

a. Mediterranean Sea
b. Sudan
c. Upper Egypt
d. Lower Egypt

LIVEWORKSHEETS