Grade 8 Unit 9 Lesson 3 Worksheet

The Nile



In the past, the Ancient Egyptians called the longest river on our planet Ar or Aur, which means 'black', because after the river flooded it left behind black sediment. Nowadays, the most common name for this river is en-Nil or an-Nil in Arabic and Nile in English. The Nile flows for 6700 km through ten different African nations and its large delta meets the Mediterranean Sea on the coast of Egypt.

Throughout history, there have been many expeditions to discover the source of the Nile. In the nineteenth century, many people believed the source of the Nile to be Lake Victoria, but nowadays, we know that the real source of the Nile is probably one of the many the smaller rivers that flow into Lake Victoria. However, we still don't know which one, and and explorers from all over the world still travel to Africa to try to solve the mystery.

Lake Victoria is definitely the source of the White Nile, one of the two big tributaries of the Great Nile, the great mother river which flows down to the sea. The other main tributary is the Blue Nile, which comes from Lake Tana in Ethiopia. The two meet in Sudan to form the Great Nile, which flows into Egypt, where it finally meets the sea. The Nile delta is about 160 km long and covers 240 km of coastline. The sea tides bring salt water into the Nile's estuary where it mixes with fresh water. This is home to some of the biggest reptiles in the world: the Nile crocodiles!

2 Read the text again. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?

1. The longest river on Earth has changed names through time.
2. The Nile is an international river.
3. The source of the Nile is no longer a mystery.
4. The Nile is made up of other smaller rivers.
5. The Great Nile is formed in Ethiopia, where the two tributaries meet.

LIVEWORKSHEETS