

The Nile River: the lifeblood of Egypt

Lesson Map: <http://esriaustralia.com.au/education/SpatialActivity51>

Engage

Where is the Nile River in Egypt?

- Click on the URL above to open the lesson's Story Map, *The Nile River*. Scroll down to get started.
- Read the information on the first page. You can zoom in for a closer look at the Nile River by pressing the + icon. You can zoom out to gain a broader geographical context by pressing the – icon.
- Scroll down to bring up the next page. Read the information. Take notes if required.
- ? What do you notice about the distribution of light and civilization in Egypt? *[There is a clear concentration of light along the Nile River, indicating a higher concentration of people / population density]*

Explore

How did the Nile River support and dictate life in Ancient Egypt?

- Scroll to the next page. Read the information. Take notes if required.
- ? Look at the background image. What land would be considered *Kemet* (Black Land) and what land would be considered Red Land? *[The shade of green bordering each side of the twisting Nile River is representative of Kemet whilst the Red Land is represented by the shades of red, purple and yellow]*
- Scroll to the next page. Read the information. Take notes if required.
- Notice the reeds on the river's edge. The boat, whilst a modern example, represents the travel that was possible due to the river.
- Scroll to the next page. Read the information. Take notes if required.
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Download student worksheet [here](#).

Time

30 minutes

Activity

Investigate the role geographical location and the Nile played in contributing to the prosperity of Ancient Egypt.

Learning Outcome

Students will be able to:

- Investigate how geographical location contributed to Ancient Egypt's development
- Examine how the Nile River influenced daily life
- Understand the significance of the Nile River to Ancient Egypt

ACARA Curriculum Link

[Year 7 History: The ancient world](#)

[ACDSEH002](#) | [ACDSEH033](#) |
[ACDSEH206](#) | [ACDSEH214](#)

Teacher Feedback:

To share your feedback on this, or any Spatial Activity, please contact education@esriaustralia.com.au

Explain

How did features of geography lead to stability and prosperity for Ancient Egypt?

- Scroll to the next page. Read the information. Take notes if required.
- ? Explain how Egypt's borders and climate would have contributed to this peace. In your response, consider all four directions.
- West: lies the vastness of the Sahara Desert meaning that no large hostile force could come from this direction.
- South: the tributaries of the Blue and White Nile acted as a natural border, making it difficult for any potential forces to cross into Egypt.
- East: the Red Sea protected Egypt's East border and separated the country from countries on the other side of the Sea.
- North: The River delta made it difficult for enemy forces to gain a foothold as Egyptian forces could hold certain parts of the delta and retreat as necessary over the next tributary
- Scroll to the next page. Read the information. Take notes if required.

Extend

Consolidate your knowledge.

- Scroll to the next page. This page has a series of questions.
- ? Why is Egypt referred to as a Mediterranean country? [*Egypt's north coast borders the Mediterranean Sea. The Nile River allowed Egypt to trade significantly among other Mediterranean countries.*]
- ? Explain why Cairo, the capital of Egypt, is located to the north of Egypt, near the Nile Delta? [*The Nile Delta is extremely fertile land; It is close to the Mediterranean meaning that it would have been a major trading city; its proximity to the Mediterranean also meant that it would have more exposure to new ideas, technology and customs that visitors and trade vessels brought with them*]
- ? The Ancient Greek historian Herodotus visited Egypt in the fifth century BCE and remarked that Egypt was 'the gift of the river'. Is this point of view appropriate when describing Egypt? [*Yes. As seen throughout the Story Map, the Nile provided the means for life and prosperity. Without the river, the land would be near*

uninhabitable]

- Scroll to the next page. This page has a task asking students to summarise the importance of the Nile River on the following topics for Ancient Egypt:

Food	Provided means for agricultural land; animals grazing; hunting fish and bird species
Transport	Boats able to travel up and down the Nile
Frontiers	The tributaries to the South (Blue and White Nile) provided natural boundaries and defenses
Calendar	The Nile's flood cycle was so important that their calendar revolved around it (inundation, coming forth and harvest)
Religion	Osiris and Hapi were worshipped in order to gain favourable blessings and a good flood season.
Resources	The Nile allowed the Egyptians to transport their precious metals and semi-precious stones up and down the river, among other resources

Next Steps:

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