

# The Nile Valley



Essential Question:

**How did the Egyptians  
use the Nile to  
establish their culture  
and religion?**



# What are some features of the Nile River?

- The **Nile** is the world's longest river. It is 4,160 miles long
- It flows **north** and empties into the **Mediterranean Sea**



- Lower Egypt is at the Nile's mouth near the Mediterranean Sea.

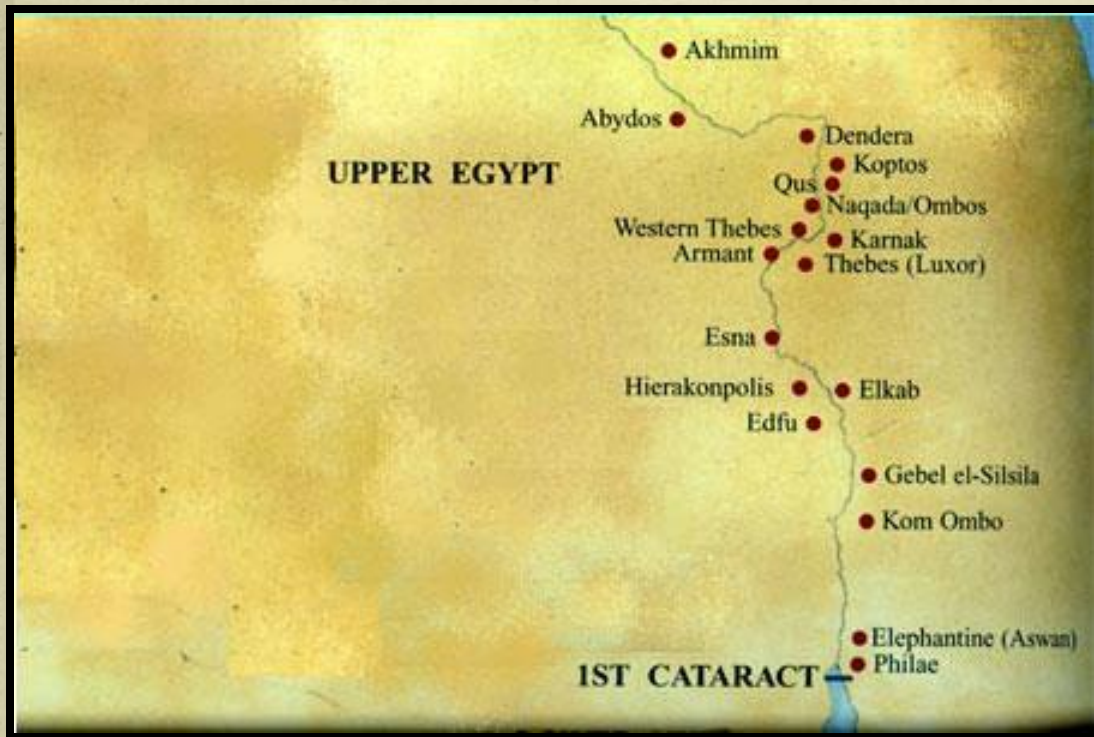
# Lower Egypt

- It is in Northern Egypt
- It is made up of a delta
- A delta is a triangular piece of land formed from soil deposits



# Upper Egypt

- Upper Egypt was located to the south of lower Egypt



Further South the Nile flow through several cataracts waterfalls.

- Essential Question:

**What are some features of the Nile River?**

# How did the Egyptians learn to control the Nile?

- The Nile flows through the Sahara desert
- The only place the Egyptians could grow crops was along the Nile's banks.
- They grew wheat and barley

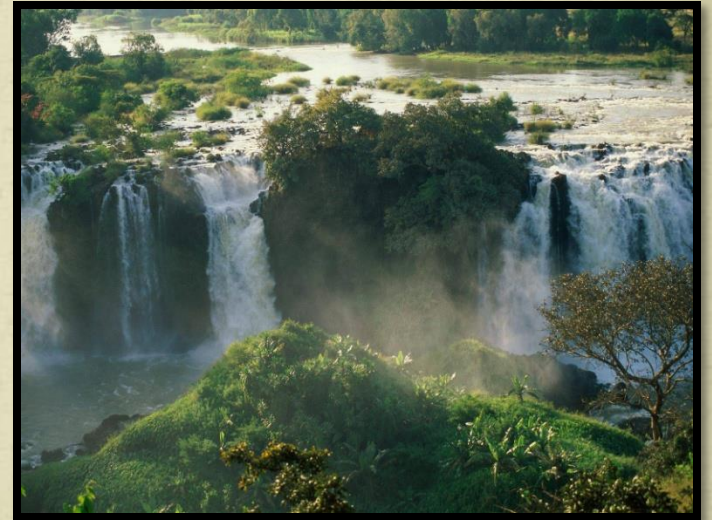


- Heavy rains fall in the mountains at the Nile's source far to the south
- The rain caused the river to overflow its banks, causing flooding
- The river deposited silt when it receded.
- Making good soil for the Egyptians to use





- The good soil along the riverbanks led people to permanently settle in the area
- By 4000 BC farming villages lined the Nile River from the delta to the first waterfall.
- To the Ancient Egyptians the Nile was “the giver of life”



Even though the Nile  
provided life for the  
Egyptians, it also took life  
away



- Some years the rains were not heavy enough to make the Nile flood its banks. When this happened, the land would be in a **drought**, and the crops dried up.
- Other years it rained TOO much and the Nile **flooded** heavily, drowning people and destroying crops.





- Eventually, like the Sumerians, the Egyptians developed ways to **control** the water.

- They created **dikes** and used **irrigation** to control the flooding

- They **stored** water in ponds and **basins** for time when the river did not flood.

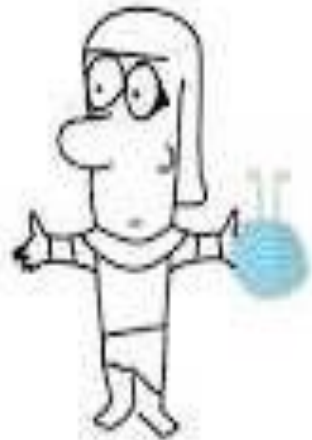


# 3 Seasons:

Flood

Growing

Harvest/Drought



An aerial photograph of Egypt with the Nile river system highlighted in a vibrant green color. The river flows from the south, through the desert, and branches out into the Nile Delta at the Mediterranean coast. The surrounding landscape is a mix of sandy desert and some green vegetation. The text "How did Ancient Egyptians learn to control the Nile?" is overlaid in a large, red, serif font.

How did Ancient  
Egyptians learn to  
control the Nile?



## How did the unpredictability of the Nile's flood affect the Egyptian's religious beliefs?

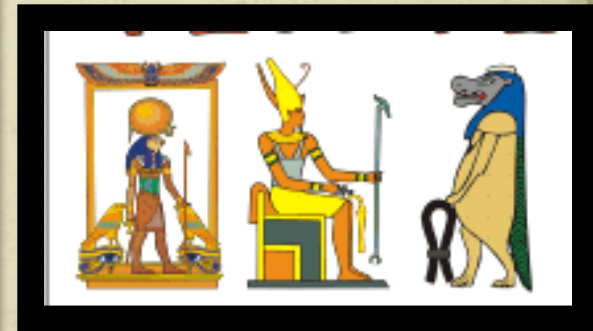
- As the water was able to be controlled, the population along the Nile grew
- The water was supervised by government officials.
- Soon, the **government** had complete control over all farming and **irrigation**.
- This gave them the most **power**





- The **government** only had authority so long as they could **provide** water for the crops.
- Irrigation systems became more complex, and the government was able to get a **surplus** of food
- They also used this surplus to feed the workers.

- Even though the Egyptians could CONTROL the Nile, they could not predict it.
- The flooding of the Nile influenced the religious beliefs of the Egyptians
- They created stories to explain the natural events that occurred around them, with a god or goddess in charge of each part of nature.
- This led to a polytheistic religion, similar to the Sumerians.





# Gods and Goddesses of Ancient Egypt



- One of the Egyptians most important gods was the sun god **Ra** (or Re),
  - They believed the sun was a god who was born each day and died each night
  - He moved across the sky in a chariot
  - This led the Egyptians to believe in an **afterlife**, which became an important part of Egyptian culture.



- Hapi, god of the flood



- Horus, god of the sky



- Osiris, god of the next world





- Each Egyptian city had a **god** or **goddess** who ruled over it, as the city gained strength, it's god or goddess became more important
- As Thebes grew in power, their god, **Amon**, became very important.
- They Egyptians combined the gods Amon and Ra, and considered **Amon-Ra** their most important god.

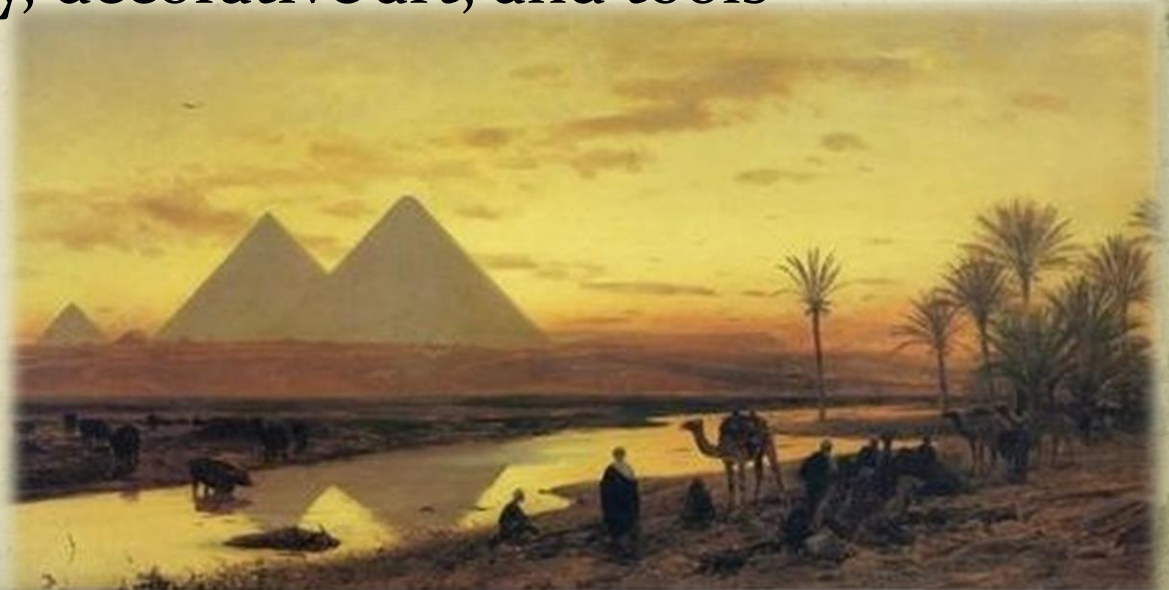


How did the unpredictability of the Nile's floods affect the Egyptian's religious beliefs?

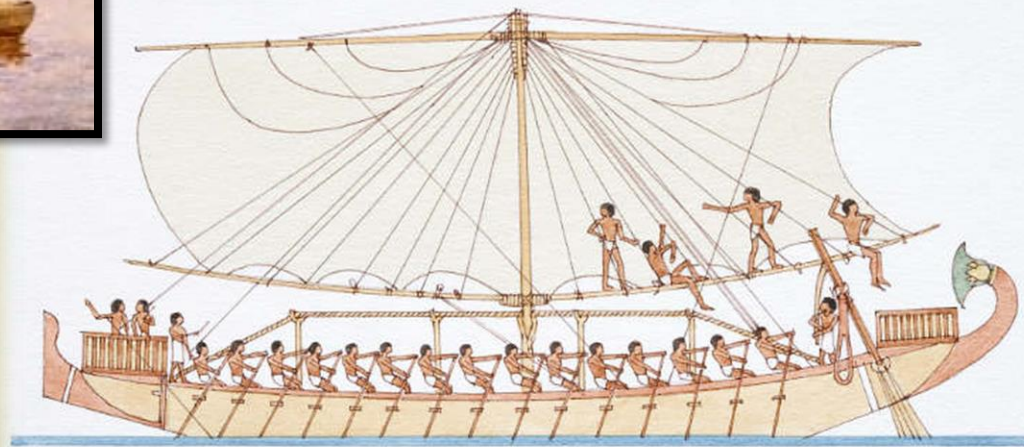
Use questions 12-13

# How did trade along the Nile support the growth of Egypt?

- By 3100 BC the Egyptians were developing an advanced civilization along the Nile.
- They built temples to worship their gods in, including great pyramids.
- They built large tombs for their dead
- They made pottery, decorative art, and tools



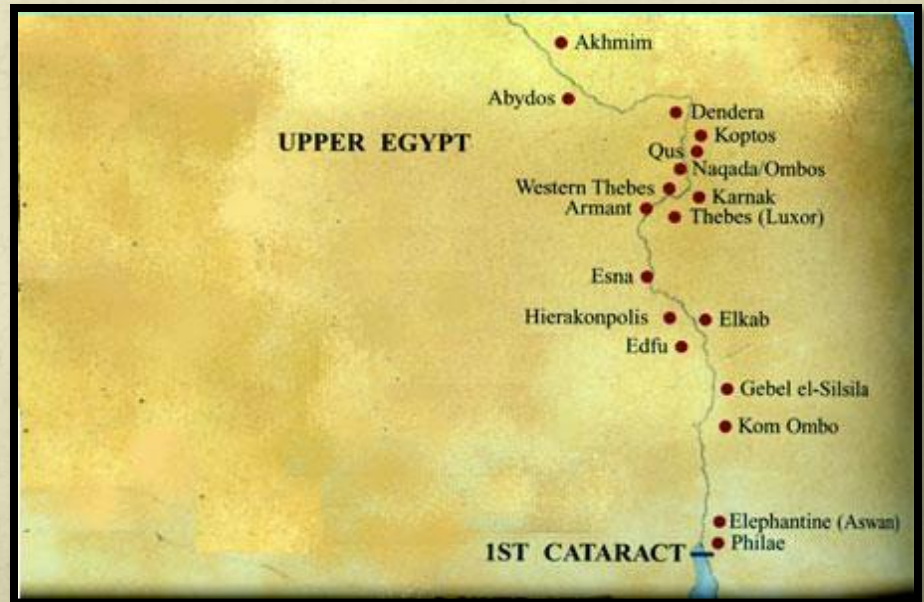
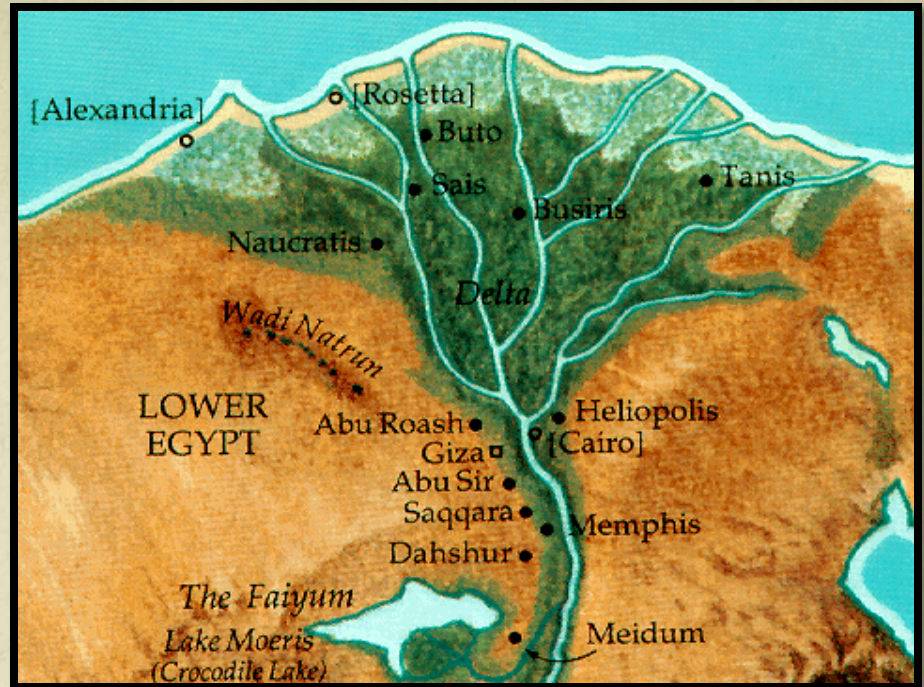
- With greater advances, the Egyptians created a **surplus** of food, with this they traveled and **traded** with other nations.
- The Nile River became a **highway** to transport their extra food and supplies.
- Soon, they became expert **ship** builders



- Traveling and trading along the Nile made it possible for some towns to grow into cities.

- Some of these trade centers emerged as separate cultures

- By 3100 BC, two separate kingdoms had emerged, Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt





How did trade along  
the Nile support the  
growth of Egypt?

Use questions 17-18



Essential Question:

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# How the Nile River impacted Ancient Egypt Song

[Gift of the Nile song 3 min.](#)



# The End

- PowerPoint created by James A. Reese, 2011

- Primary Source: Harcourt Social Studies Book, Ancient Civilizations Volume One. Copyright 2010 Houghton Mifflin Publishing Company.