

Shared reading: River Nile part 1



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.

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**.

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.



Retrieval (it's in the text)

- a. Which plant was linen made from?
- b. Why do people in Egypt mostly live by the Nile?

Vocabulary (it's new – for you!)

- c. The seeds planted in **fertile** soil grew well. **Tick** the meaning of fertile below:
 - Soil which drains easily
 - Soil which contains goodness for the plants
 - Soil which comes from rivers
- d. Finish the sentence: The Egyptians **irrigated** their land because...

Inference (use what you know and clues in the text)

- e. What do you think would happen if the Nile did NOT flood for some reason?

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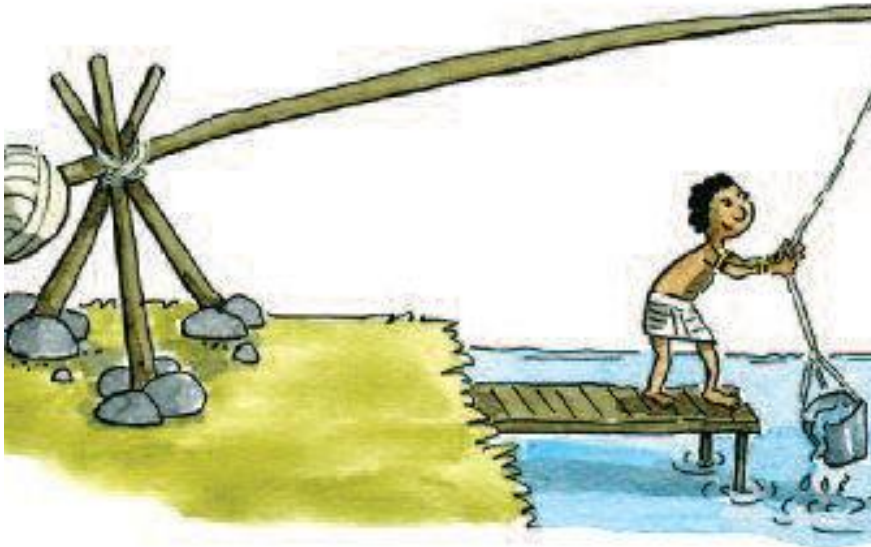
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irrigate

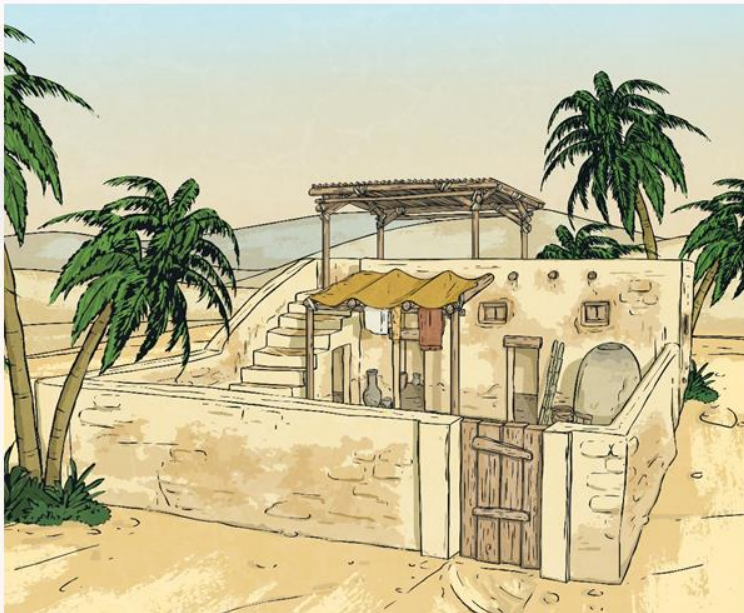


**To supply water to land
or crops**

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.



Mud from around the River Nile would be used to make bricks for building.

The papyrus plants around the river were used to make papyrus which was the paper of the ancient Egyptians.

The Egyptian Calendar

The Egyptian year was based on the happenings of the River Nile.
It had 3 seasons, each one lasting 4 months:

- **AKHET** - July – October, this was flooding season
- **PERET** – November – February, the fields were planted in this season
- **SHEMU** – March – June, the crops were harvested.

Retrieval (it's in the text)

- a. True or false. The Ancient Egyptians traded with money.
- b. In which season were the crops harvested?

Vocabulary (it's new – for you!)

- c. Name the plant the Egyptians used for making paper. Use this word in a sentence.

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papyrus



Egyptian paper

