

## Make a Map of Ancient Egypt

Using reference materials from your textbook please label and color the following items listed below

Mediterranean Sea (Blue)

Nile River (Blue)

Nile Delta (Brown)

Arabian Desert (Yellow)

Libyan Desert (Yellow)

Fertile (Nile) Valley (Green)

Upper Egypt

Lower Egypt

Nubia

Abydos

Akhetaten (Tel el Amarna)

Alexandria

Cairo

Giza

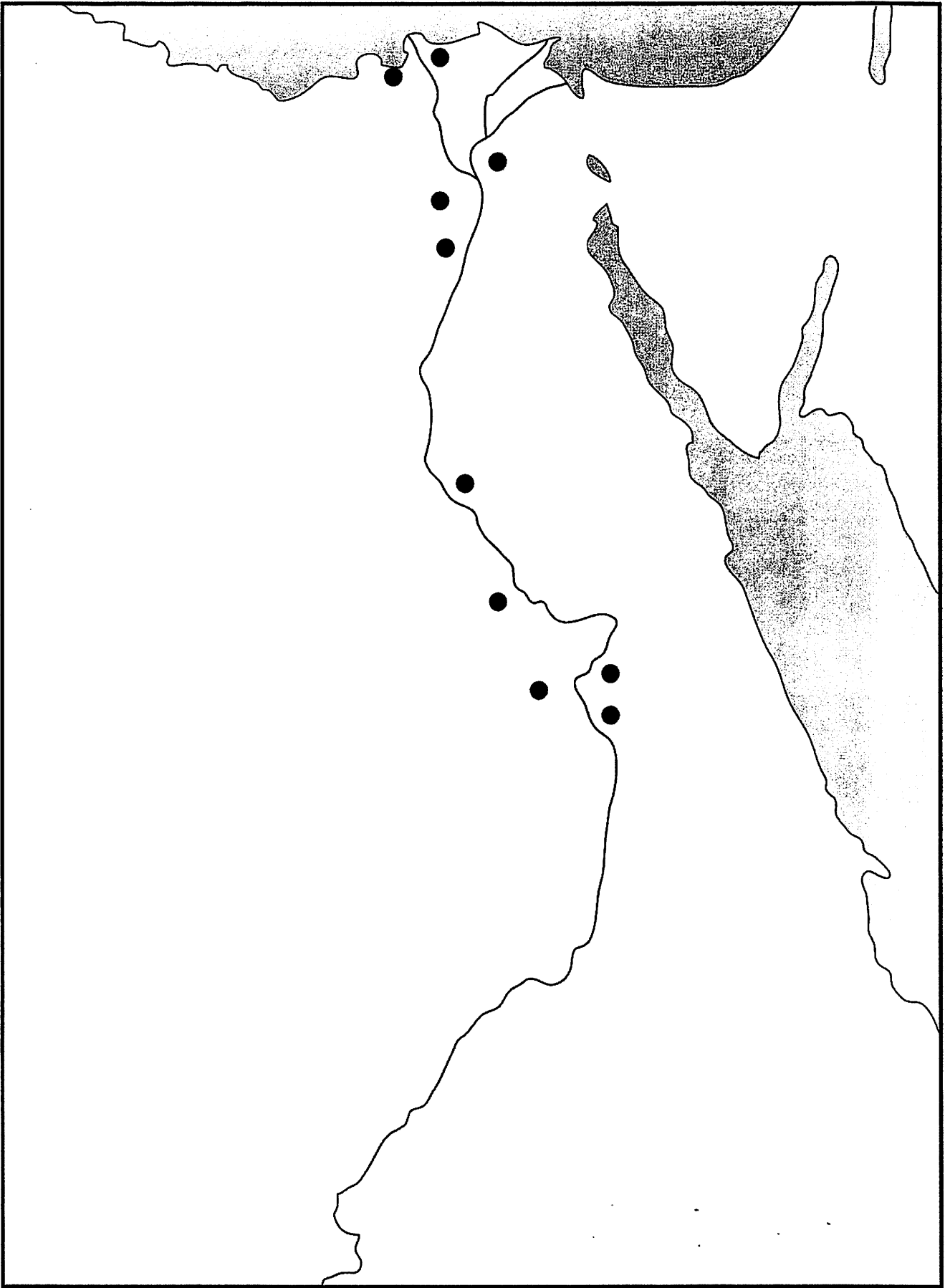
Karnak

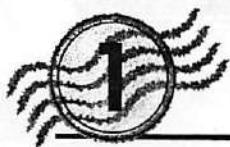
Luxor (Thebes)

Memphis

Rosetta

Valley of the Kings





# The Geography of the Nile

## CHAPTER 3 Ancient Egypt and Nubia

### A. As You Read

*Directions:* As you read Section 1, complete the statements below.

1. An early description of the Nile was written by the Greek historian \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The direction that the Nile River flows is \_\_\_\_\_ to the Mediterranean Sea from its sources in Africa.
3. The Blue Nile and White Nile meet at the city of \_\_\_\_\_, in the present-day country of Sudan.
4. The marshy region of the Nile near the Mediterranean Sea is known as \_\_\_\_\_ Egypt.
5. The ancient Egyptians called their land \_\_\_\_\_, "the black land," because of the dark soil left by the Nile's floods.
6. Deserts to the east and west protected the Egyptians from \_\_\_\_\_ by foreign enemies.
7. Communities appeared in the Nile delta of Lower Egypt by around \_\_\_\_\_.

### B. Reviewing Key Terms

*Directions:* Complete each sentence by writing the correct term in the blank provided.

8. Water from the Nile River deposited rich, fertile soil called \_\_\_\_\_ when the river overflowed its banks.
9. In the Nubian section of the Nile, the river contains many rock-filled rapids, or \_\_\_\_\_.
10. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Nile, a triangle-shaped area of very rich farmland; is located in Lower Egypt.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Chapter 7, Lesson 1, Study Guide*****The Gift of the Nile***

How was the Nile River important to the development of Egypt?

Name four gifts of the Nile.	How was each gift useful to the Egyptians?
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

Compare the achievements of different time periods.

	Old Kingdom	Middle Kingdom	New Kingdom
When was it?			
What were the most important achievements?			

Answer this question on the back or on another sheet of paper.

What does the legend of Menes say about the union of Upper and Lower Egypt?

## **Saba the Farmer**

- 1. Why does Egypt have so much fertile soil?**
- 2. What is inundation?**
- 3. Why does the Nile flood, and how does the flood affect all aspects of Egyptian life?**
- 4. How did the Egyptians divide the year? How is it different from our seasons?**
- 5. Name at least three tools used in farming or irrigation**
- 6. What are some of the dangers to crops?**
- 7. How did the cataracts affect the transportation of goods?**
- 8. Describe an Egyptian irrigation system**
- 9. Name at least three gifts of the Nile**
- 10. Why was papyrus so significant to the Egyptians?**

# Egyptian Vocabulary

## Directions:

- Use the words from the word splash to fill in the blanks

1. A measuring device used to predict the height of the Nile's flood is a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ is a plant used to make rope and clothing.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ or the season of inundation, during this time the Nile floods its banks.
4. The season of emergence is known as \_\_\_\_\_, this is when the soil is ready for planting.
5. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a device used to raise water over the Nile's banks and into the channels used for irrigation.
6. Large insects that can destroy entire crops and blacken the whole sky are \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The season of harvest is known as \_\_\_\_\_.
8. This plant is used to make paper and is called \_\_\_\_\_.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ is the term meaning "black land", it also is a symbol of life and well being.
10. This place is feared by all ancient Egyptians, \_\_\_\_\_ means "red land", it stands for everything that is bad. Evil spirits are said to live there.
11. A triangular patch of marshy land at the mouth of the Nile is called a \_\_\_\_\_.
12. A group of channels and \_\_\_\_\_, (earthen walls that hold back water) create a \_\_\_\_\_ that the Egyptians used to bring water to their fields.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Essential Question**

## How much does geography affect people's lives?

**Preview** Before you begin this chapter, think about the Essential Question. Understanding how the Essential Question connects to your life will help you understand the chapter you are about to read.

**Connect to Your Life**

- ① Choose a major geographic feature of your region, such as a river, a mountain, or a desert. On the table below, explain how that geographic feature could affect each category named.

Effects of Geographic Feature			
Economy	Outdoor Activities	Climate	Transportation

- ② Think about why places with similar geographic features might develop differently from one another. Consider other factors such as government, history, and culture.

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**Connect to the Chapter**

- ③ Preview the chapter. Skim the headings, photos, and graphics. In the table below, predict how you think geography affected ancient Egypt and Nubia.

Geographic Features of Ancient Egypt and Nubia	Effect on Culture and Everyday Life	Effect on Economic Activities and Trade	Effect on Building Materials
Climate			
Waterways			
Deserts			

- ④ After you have read the chapter, circle the predictions that were correct.

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- \_\_\_\_\_

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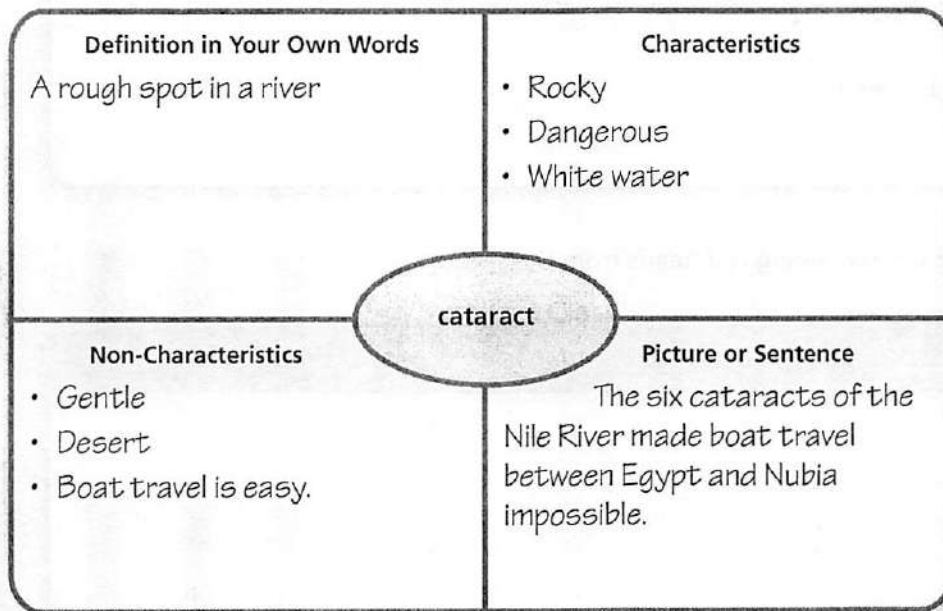
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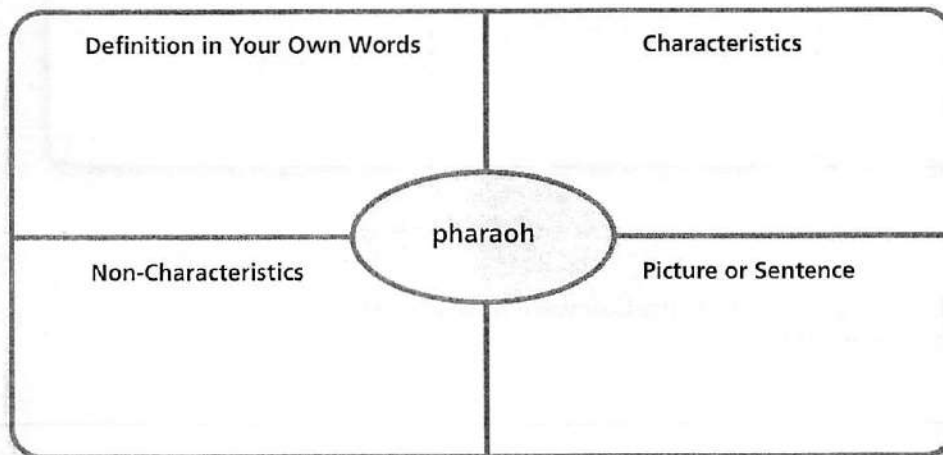
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Word Wise

**Word Map** Follow the model below to make a word map. The key term *cataract* is in the center oval. Write the definition in your own words at the upper left. In the upper right, list Characteristics, which means words or phrases that relate to the term. At the lower left, list Non-Characteristics, which means words and phrases that would *not* be associated with it. In the lower right, draw a picture of the key term or use it in a sentence.



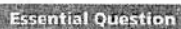
Now use the word map below to explore the meaning of the word *pharaoh*. You may use your student text, a dictionary, and a thesaurus to complete each of the four sections.



Make word maps of your own on a separate piece of paper for these words: *mummy*, *bureaucracy*, *delta*, *artisan*, and *dynasty*.

**Identify Main Ideas and Details** Use what you have read about Egypt and Nubia to complete the table. In each space at the top, write one main idea, using the heads in red in your textbook. Beneath each head write at least two details to support the main idea. Follow the example.

In the table below, use the remaining red heads from the section.

This image shows a single, blank page from a lined notebook. The paper is off-white or light cream in color, suggesting it might be somewhat aged. Horizontal blue or grey ruling lines are spaced evenly down the length of the page. On the far left, a portion of the dark, textured notebook binding is visible. There are no markings, text, or drawings on the page itself.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Word Wise

**Words in Context** For each question below, write an answer that shows your understanding of the boldfaced key term.

- ① How were **hieroglyphics** different from an alphabet?

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- ② What was **papyrus** made from and what was it used for?

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- ③ How did Egyptians come to have such a good knowledge of **anatomy**?

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- ④ How did Egyptians make and use **sculptures**?

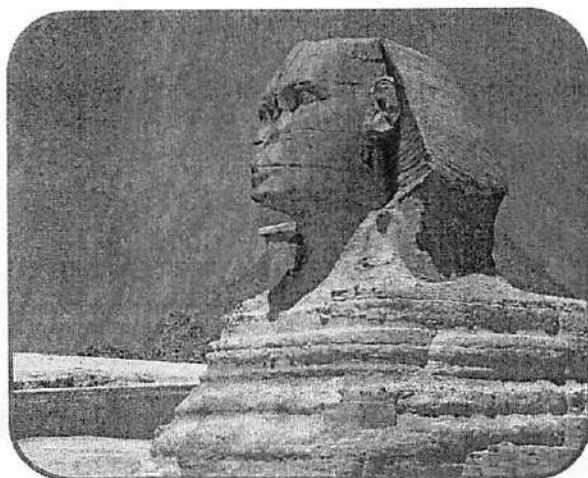
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- ⑤ What was the purpose of a **pyramid**?

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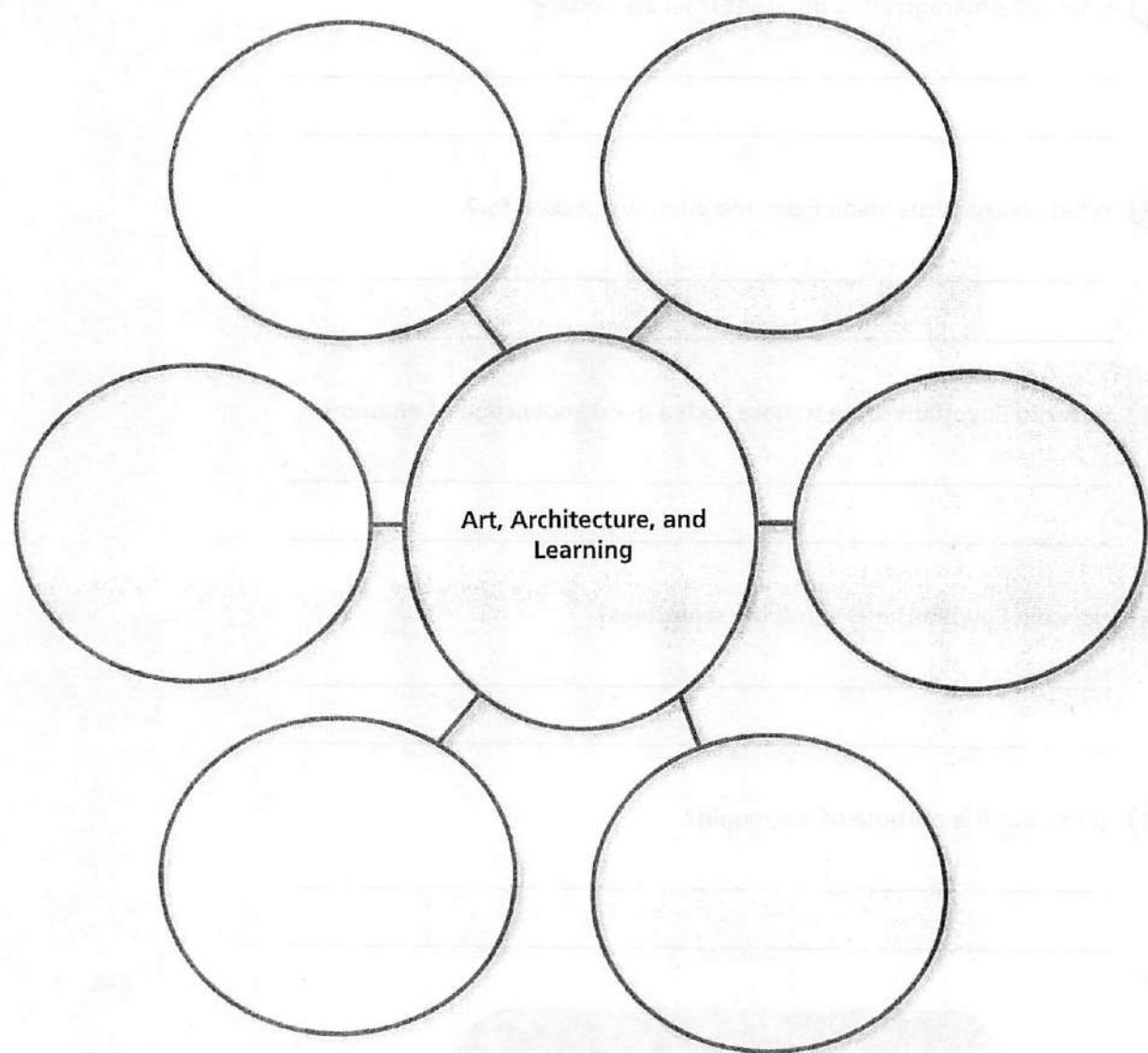




Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Take Notes

**Summarize** Use what you have read about art, architecture, and learning in Egypt to complete the concept web below.



### Essential Question

What was the connection, if any, between Egypt's geography and its achievements?

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

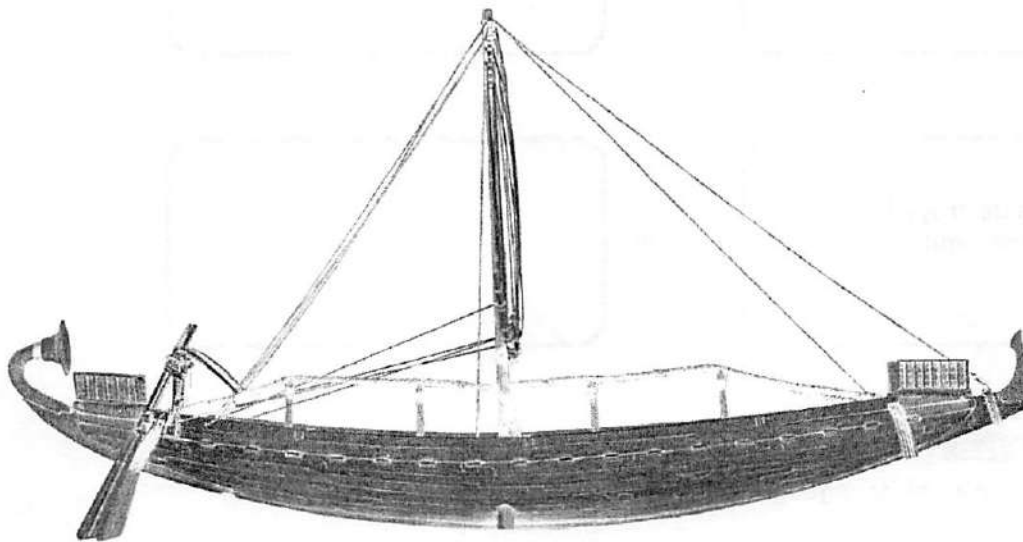
## Word Wise

**Word Bank** Choose one word from the word bank to fill in each blank. When you have finished, you will have a short summary of important ideas from the section.

### Word Bank

commerce                      ebony  
interdependence              ivory  
Meroitic script

Egyptians and Nubians became wealthy through \_\_\_\_\_  
with other nations. They traded elephant tusks for their  
\_\_\_\_\_. Ivory, cloth, and gold were traded for a dark  
wood called \_\_\_\_\_. This trade between Egypt and Nubia  
resulted in economic \_\_\_\_\_. As the Nubians became more  
sophisticated, they created one of the world's first alphabets, called  
\_\_\_\_\_.



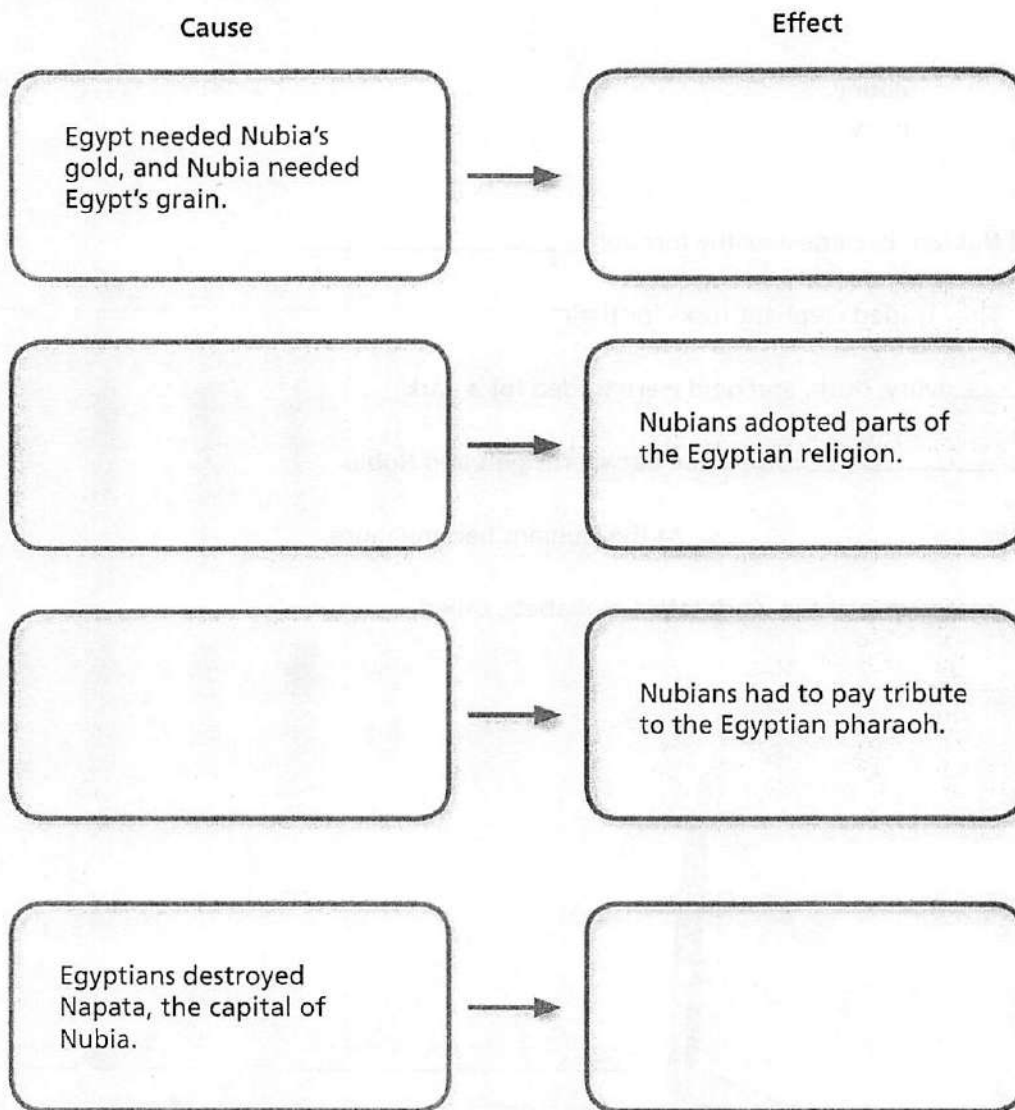




Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Take Notes

**Analyze Cause and Effect** Use what you have read about Egypt and Nubia to complete the chart. Where there is a cause, provide the effect. If the effect is given, write the cause.



### Essential Question

Give examples of how geography helped shape the civilization of Nubia.

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# Saba the Farmer

**Narrators 1-8**

**Saba**, the farmer

**Mara**, his wife

**Setu**, his friend

**Nebu**, his son

**Hada**, his friend

**Tika**, his daughter

**Ptah**, a peasant

**Narrator 1:** Ancient Egyptian life centered around the life-giving waters of the **Nile**, the longest river in the world. Many other African rivers and marshlands feed into it on its 4,150-mile journey northward to the **Mediterranean Sea**. As the river approaches the sea, it comes to a head, where it divides into many small channels and streams that form a triangle of marshy land called a **delta**.

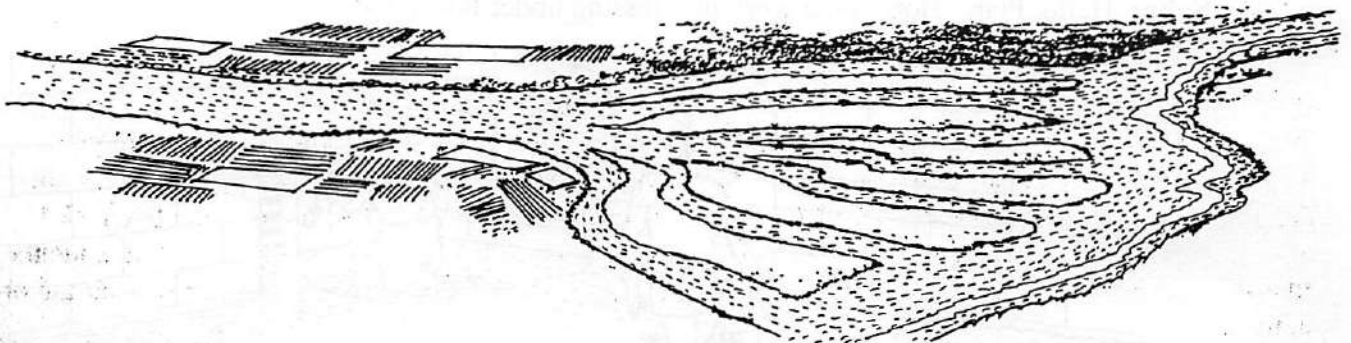
**Narrator 2:** In ancient times, the delta contained seven mouths, or flows, that emptied into the sea. Today there are two main mouths—the Rosetta on the west and the Demietta on the east. Cairo, the capital city of modern Egypt, sits at the head of the delta. Listen now, as we go back in time to Ancient Egypt to hear the story of one farmer who lives and works along the banks of this great river.

**Saba:** Hello. My name is Saba, and I am a humble farmer who works the land to provide for my family. I live in a small village north of Thebes, the capital of Egypt. My village is very near the Nile, in the area known as the **fertile valley**. All of us who live in Egypt, from the poorest peasant to our wealthy king, the pharaoh, depend upon the Nile. My friends Setu and Hada will help explain why the river is so important to us.

**Setu:** If you look at a map of Egypt, you can see that most of the land is desert. The Arabian Desert to the east and the Libyan Desert to the west are both part of the Sahara, a vast desert that covers much of northern Africa. Few people live in these desert regions because crops will not grow. Indeed, the only land with soil able to grow crops lies along the banks of the Nile. This narrow strip of land is what Saba referred to as the fertile valley.

**Hada:** The fertile valley replenishes its rich soil each year when the Nile floods. We consider the flooding an annual miracle. Without it, we would be unable to farm, for the land would be barren desert like the rest of Egypt. In gratitude we worship H'apy, the god of the Nile, who provides us with food and is the creator of all good.

**Saba:** Some years there are "high Niles." During these years, crops grow well and there is plenty to eat. In other years, the flood waters are low. The fields are baked by the sun, dry out, and are worthless for planting. If several years of low water occur in a row, we cannot grow enough food, and people starve.



# Saba the Farmer (cont.)

**Setu:** When Egypt was suffering through seven years of famine because of low flooding, King Zoser from the Old Kingdom turned to his advisor Imhotep for help. Imhotep said they needed to learn the name of the Nile god who controlled the floodgates so they could ask him to send more water to Egypt. It was believed that the god of the Nile slept in two caverns below a temple at the southern tip of Egypt. Then the Nile god, H'apy, came to King Zoser in a dream and said he would flood the land if the people would worship him. King Zoser made it so, and a high Nile ended the famine. Later, Imhotep furthers the fame of King Zoser by building the first pyramid in Egypt for him.

**Narrator 3:** Egypt gets almost no rain. The myth of King Zoser was a way for people to feel they could influence their fate. We now know that the right weather conditions must occur in other parts of Africa for the Nile to flow and flood. At the end of winter, snow on the mountains of central Africa melts and runs into the small tributaries that feed the Nile. Spring rains are followed by summer monsoons, swelling the Nile and its tributaries. Join us as we walk through the farmlands before the flooding begins in early August.

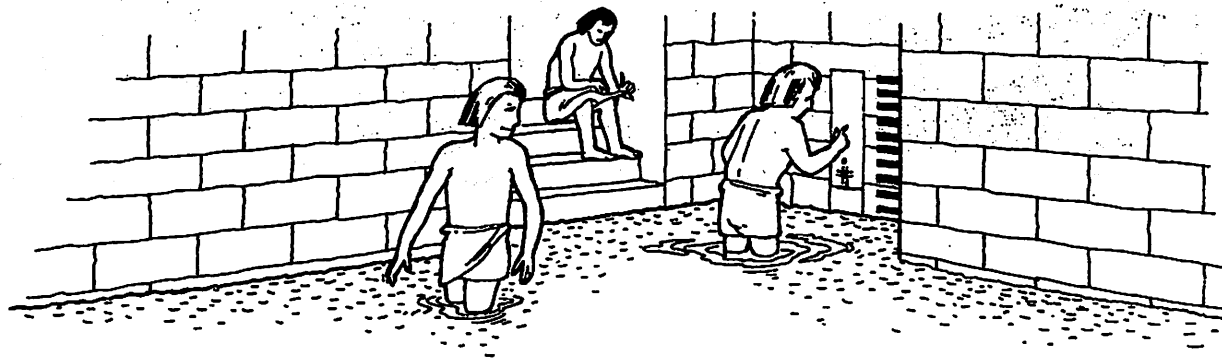
**Nebu:** Hello, Father and friends! I am working hard to finish the harvest and repair the farming equipment and irrigation canals. As you know, we cannot predict when the flooding will begin. I am hoping the yearly inundation will not be too little or too great. If the waters do not rise high enough, some farm land will remain barren. If the flooding is too great, our irrigation system, our home, and other buildings may be damaged.

**Saba:** We were fortunate to have a high Nile last year, and our crops were bountiful, as you can see. The floodwaters carried great amounts of alluvium, or silt, which greatly enriched our soil when the flooding receded. We can only hope it is the same this year. We will keep an eye on the Nilometer.

**Narrator 4:** A Nilometer is a measuring device used to help predict the height of the coming flood waters. Notches are made along the stone walls of the Nile channels to mark previous flood levels. Priests read the water level at the beginning of the year and compare it to an average year. This comparison allows people along the banks to decide whether or not they need to move their houses and livestock to higher ground and to better prepare for the planting season.

**Nebu:** Father, your workers are preparing the land for the flooding. Please check that they correctly dig the channels from the river that form our irrigation system. I will then make sure that they are cleaned out properly so water can run through them with ease. I believe Ptah is helping build an earthen dike.

**Saba:** Hello, Ptah. How is the work progressing under this hot sun?





## Saba the Farmer (cont.)

**Ptah:** Greetings, Saba! The work is difficult, but if you are prepared and have a good growing season, it benefits us all. The many dikes or dams we build will hold the water when the floods start receding. They must be in good working order. It will be too late to repair or rebuild them once the inundation has begun. During the flooding, the channels are opened. They are closed once the river has reached its maximum height. The checkerboard of fields can then be drained or irrigated as needed during the rest of the year. This is a very complicated system in which every member of the village community plays a role. I am doing my part.

**Narrator 5:** Like Ptah, most of the men who work for Saba are peasants. However, he also has a few male slaves who help on the farm and some female slaves who work in their house with his wife. They are treated well in exchange for hard work, loyalty, and honesty. Slaves who have worked diligently for a long time are sometimes given their freedom.

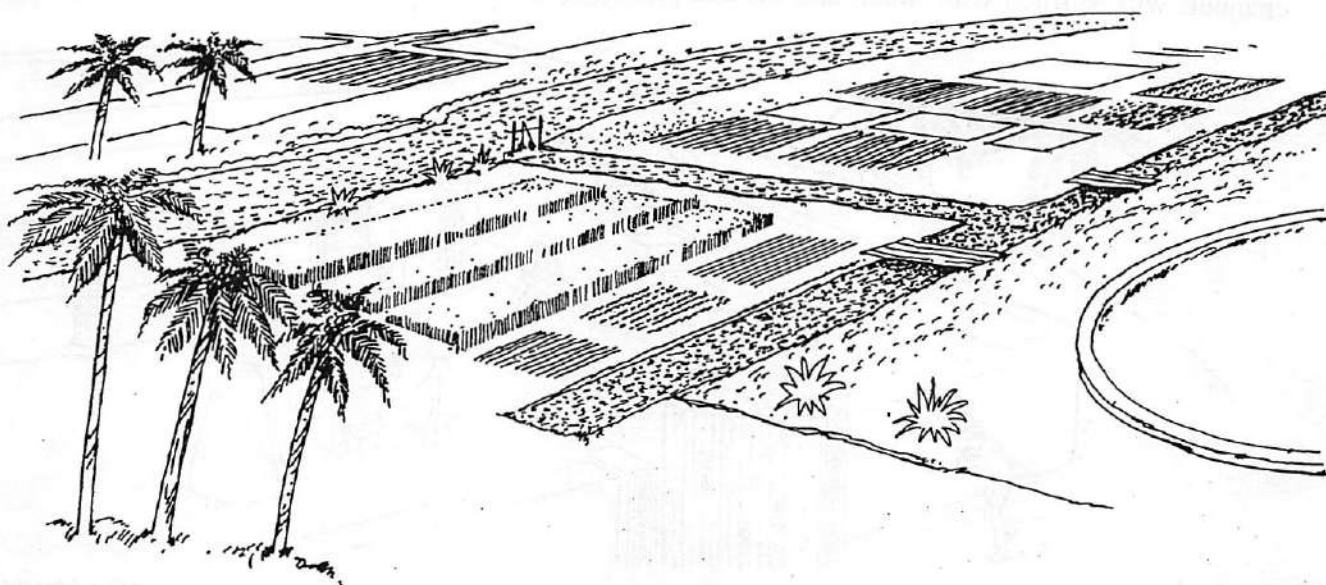
**Saba:** Let us go to my house. I believe Mara is working with the slaves to weave some of the flax from the harvest. Tika is also there, sorting the grains to preserve seeds for planting and to store those we will use for food.

**Narrator 6:** Saba and his friends head toward his house, a structure of sun-dried bricks. The walled courtyard contains silos of grain. They pass some herds of animals and enter the courtyard where Tika is sorting grains at the silos. Geese and goats roam freely and eat grain that slaves provide. On the upper deck under a thatched roof, Mara weaves on a loom. She comes down to greet her husband and guests and sends a slave girl for refreshments.

**Mara:** Greetings, husband and honored guests. How are things in the fields?

**Saba:** It is hot and laborious work preparing for the inundation. But we had a bountiful harvest.

**Mara:** Yes. We grew a variety of crops this year. Wheat and barley are being ground to make the bread and beer you enjoy with your meals. The flax harvest was abundant. Even after discarding the older plants whose fibers are too tough to weave, we had plenty of young plants to provide us supply fibers for cloth and sitting mats. We will soon make ropes and heavier fabric to use in the fields.



# Saba the Farmer (cont.)

**Saba:** Ah, here are the refreshments. Tika, come join us. Mara, send someone to fetch Nebu. It isn't often we have guests in the middle of the day.

**Setu:** I understand you also have a garden near your home.

**Mara:** Yes. Our house has been built far enough away from the river to be out of reach of the flooding, but irrigation channels have been dug so that there is a supply of water to the house and garden. We grow different fruits and vegetables in the garden, and I am especially proud of our vineyard. Most of the grapes are used for making wine, although we pick some for the table. You are eating some that have been dried into raisins. We also grew the figs and dates you are enjoying.

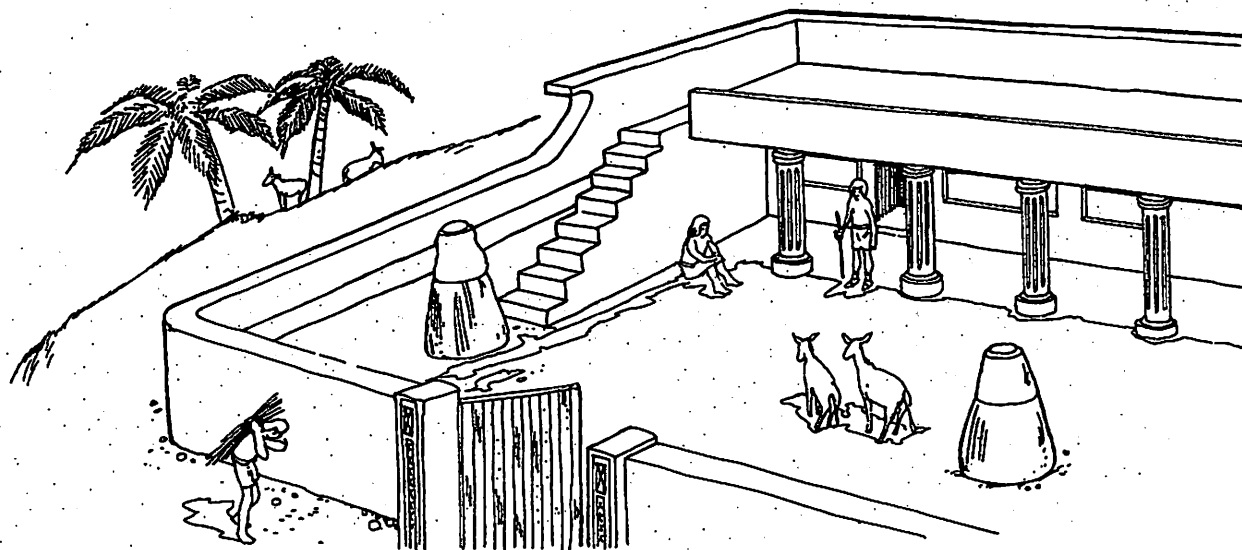
**Tika:** It is so pleasant sitting here overlooking the fields. Every season brings something new and exciting. I like the way we divide the seasons so that they are not based on climate but on the flooding of the Nile.

**Narrator 7:** The Ancient Egyptian year begins in June, and there are three seasons. The first season is known as **shait**, or the season of inundation. From the middle of July through October the waters of the Nile rise, bringing with them the precious silt that makes the soil fertile.

**Tika:** Shait is my favorite time of the year. There is not much work on the farm when our fields are flooded. I like to go to the banks of the Nile and watch as the farmers float blocks of limestone across the swollen river to use for pyramids for the pharaoh. It seems like hard and dangerous work.

**Saba:** I, too, enjoy the season of inundation and look forward to the months ahead. During these months I travel by boat to check my fields and arrange other work. Sometimes the tops of the dikes remind me of a well-traveled roadway running through the water and leading me to a new adventure in trading, bartering, and meeting new people. I may even be commissioned to help with one of the pharaoh's special building projects.

**Nebu:** I prefer the time of the year when the water starts to recede. During **piruit**, the season of emergence, the soil is ready for planting. This brings much work but also many new possibilities. The channels will be filled with water, and we will plant a new series of crops.



## Saba the Farmer (cont.)

**Narrator 8:** The planting is not easy work. First, the soil must be broken up. They used a plow called a mattock. The soil can be very heavy after the flooding, and the plowman must be strong to keep the blade down as it cuts. Then the farmers scatter barley or wheat seeds over the field, and they are plowed under. Finally, a herd of goats or sheep will be driven over the field so that their hooves can firmly embed the seed into the ground.

**Nebu:** Once the crops are sown, we move on to land farther away from the river. This is the first soil to dry out, and so we must make sure that the channels and ditches that carry water to this land later in the year are clear of any debris, such as trees or branches.

**Narrator 9:** Sometimes farmers use a **shaduf** to raise the water over the Nile's bank to the higher level of the channels. A shaduf is a type of lever made from a pole on a pivot. There is a clay weight on one end that balances a bucket on the other end. It makes it easier for farmers to collect water from the river to pour into the irrigation channels.

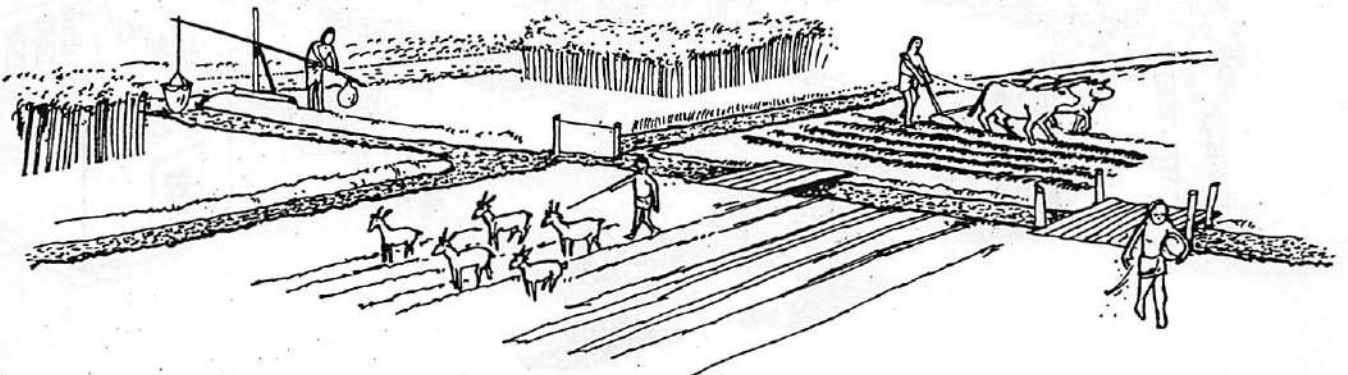
**Nebu:** From October through February we will care for our plants as they grow. This is an exciting time of the year when we see whether new irrigation and planting techniques have been successful.

**Hada:** Nebu will make a fine proprietor of your lands, Saba, once the great gods carry your body off to the afterworld. Although there is great satisfaction in watching crops grow, there can also be problems. Birds and insects are a continual hazard. In my own fields I often have small boys make noises to frighten the winged beasts away. Sometimes we try to catch birds with a flaxen net. We then kill them for food. Insects are a different matter. What can you do?

**Setu:** Nebu and Tika were too young to remember the devastation caused by the plague of **locusts**. The whole sky was blackened by the insects, and they ate everything in their path.

**Saba:** And storms and gales can also damage a crop beyond repair. However, despite all of these difficulties, it is rare that my land doesn't provide more than enough for my family to eat—and even provide a surplus that I can sell. The land of Egypt truly is the gift of the Nile.

**Hada:** That is why I like **shemu**, the season of harvest, when the crops are gathered by all members of the family and great feasts are planned. Watching the ripe grain being cut by the reapers swinging their curved wooden sickles with flint teeth is almost like watching a dance.



# Saba the Farmer (cont.)

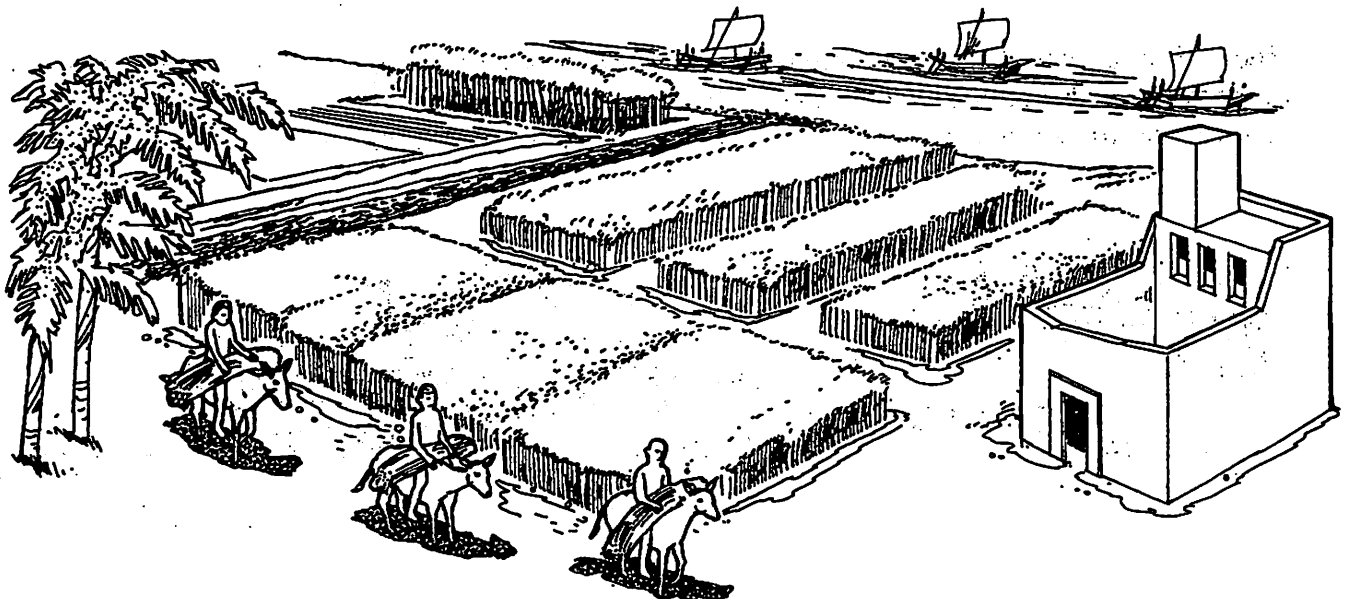
**Narrator 10:** Harvested grain is taken to the threshing floor where oxen trample the stalks, leaving chaff and grain that workers will winnow, using wooden trays. As the workers throw the grain and chaff into the air, the chaff blows away and leaves the precious grain behind. Donkeys carry it to the granaries and family silos. From February until the end of May, everyone is busy harvesting and selling their wares. This is the time of the year when the Nile is at its lowest.

**Saba:** Yes, and the time for getting another visit from the tax assessors, eh? I always make sure that my land is well marked with clear boundaries. This is an urgent task once the flooding has receded. Later the tax assessors will come to estimate the yield of my crop so they can calculate the taxes that have to be paid. Then, during the harvest, they return to collect my tax payment. Many is the time that I have seen disputes as landowners argued over the boundary or title of the land once the tax assessor arrived. Sometimes I pity the assessors, for they are often harassed and their lives made difficult. No one likes to give away part of their crops as a tax payment.

**Mara:** I feel truly thankful for all of the gifts the Nile brings to our family. Not only does it provide rich soil for growing crops but it also gives us fish and fowl for our table. The Nile nurtures papyrus, the long, thin reed that grows wild along the riverbanks. Saba and Nebu use it to build boats. I use papyrus to make baskets, sandals, and lightweight paper. How fortunate Egypt is to be the sole provider of this valuable and sought-after writing medium.

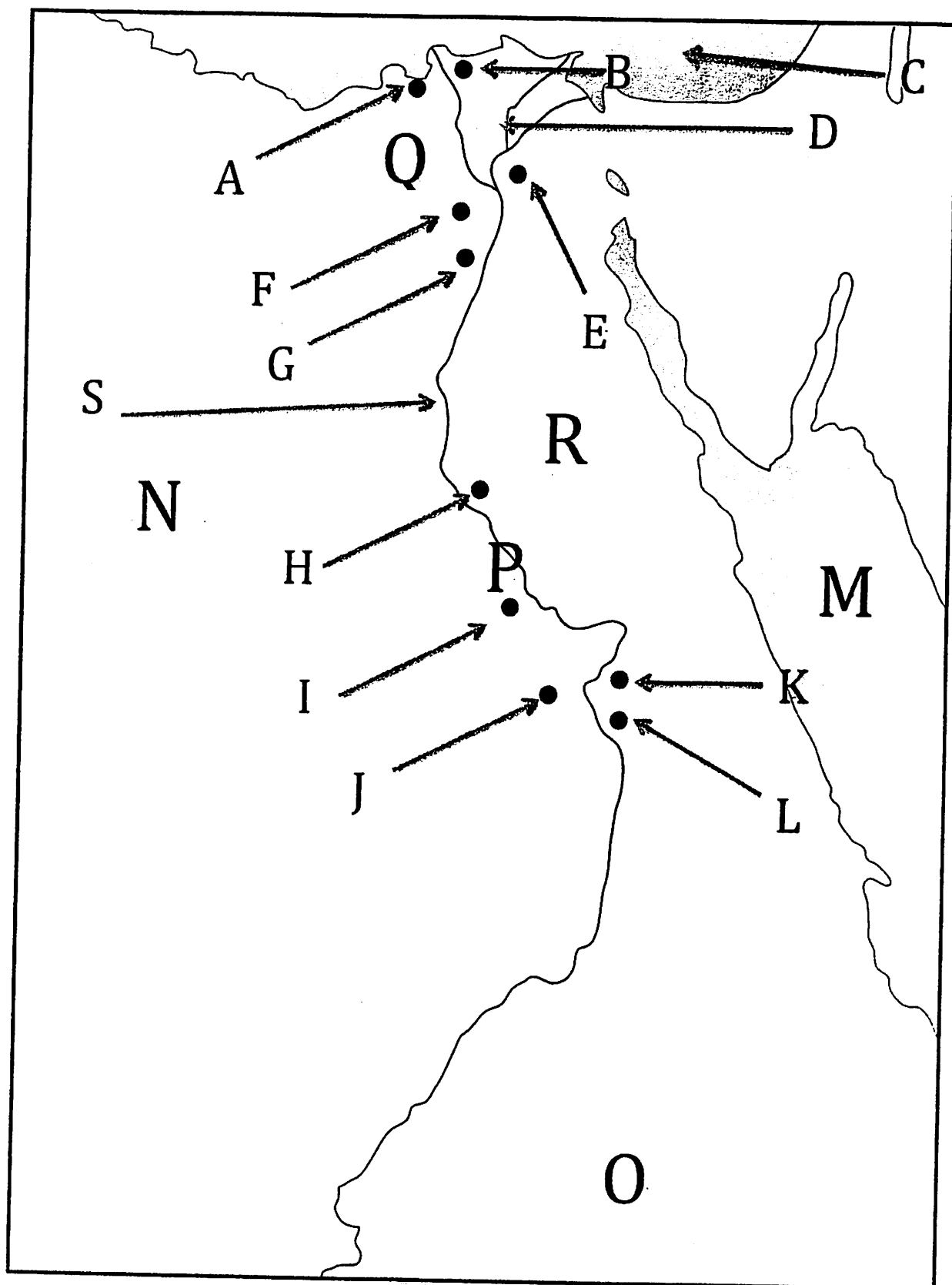
**Tika:** And don't forget how useful the Nile is for transportation and trading. The Nile is Egypt's main highway. In six places cataracts have been built to fill the river full of rocks. This creates ports for trade since it slows down the boats and makes it difficult to travel.

**Saba:** Yes, and the Nile also provides us transportation to the afterworld. During the funeral processions to the Valley of the Kings, the deceased and his possessions are floated across the Nile to be buried in a secret tomb. It is truly amazing, the number of ways our lives depend upon and benefit from this marvelous river.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Which letter represents the Nile River
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Which letter represents the Mediterranean Sea
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Which letter represents the Red Sea
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Which letter represents the Nile Delta
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Which letter represents the Arabian Desert
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Which letter represents the Libyan Desert
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Which letter represents Lower Egypt
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Which letter represents Upper Egypt
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Which letter represents Nubia
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Which letter represents the city of Karnak
11. \_\_\_\_\_ Which letter represents the city of Thebes/Luxor
12. \_\_\_\_\_ Which letter represents the Valley of the Kings
13. \_\_\_\_\_ Which letter represents the city of Rosetta
14. \_\_\_\_\_ Which letter represents the city of Alexandria
15. \_\_\_\_\_ Which letter represents the city of Akhetaton
16. \_\_\_\_\_ Which letter represents the city of Abydos
17. \_\_\_\_\_ Which letter represents the city of Cairo
18. \_\_\_\_\_ Which letter represents the city of Memphis
19. \_\_\_\_\_ Which letter represents the city of Giza



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Place the correct number of the definition in the correct box. If you do it correctly the rows and columns will add up to the same number

1. Upper Egypt is located in what part of Egypt
2. Name of Egyptian plow
3. The Nile deposits \_\_\_\_\_ each year making the soil very fertile & productive
4. Word meaning Red Land associated with all that is evil or bad
5. An irrigation tool used to raise water out of a channel
6. Triangle patch of marshy land located at the mouth of the Nile river
7. The season of inundation
8. Name meaning Black Land
9. The season of harvest
10. Legendary king who united Upper & Lower Egypt around 3100 B.C.
11. Reed like plant used to make baskets, boats, sandals, & paper
12. Lower Egypt is located in what part of Egypt
13. The season of emergence
14. The Libyan desert is \_\_\_\_\_ of the Nile river
15. Device used to measure the height of the Nile flood
16. The Arabian desert is \_\_\_\_\_ of the Nile river

East	Mattock	Silt (Alluvium)	Piruit
Shaduf	Papyrus	Menes	Kemet
Shemu	Shait	Delta	Northern
Deshtret	West	Nilometer	Southern