

## The Nile River “Yesterday and Today”

Essential Questions:

1. How did the geographic features of the Nile River impact the development of *ancient* Egypt?
2. How are the *current* Nile River basin countries addressing economic development issues and water rights?

### Key Geography Features to Know:



### On the Map:

Mediterranean Sea  
Red Sea  
Indian Ocean

Lake Victoria  
Lake Tana  
Lake Nasser

Aswan  
Cairo  
Ethiopia

Kenya  
Uganda  
Sudan  
Egypt  
DR of Congo

Nile River Delta  
  
**Not on the Map:**  
Sahara Desert

White Nile  
Blue Nile

**Guided Video Questions to Take Notes On:**

What river flows through the center of Cairo?

Why do so many people live in Cairo?

Why can't people use tap water for drinking and cooking?

How do local peoples get the water they need?

Where do the vast majority of people in Egypt live? Why?

During ancient times, the flood waters of the Nile actually reached Giza and the Valley of the Kings where the ancient pyramids stand. But the waters no longer reach the pyramids. Why do the waters of the Nile River no longer flood?

In the days of the floods, the Nile River stood flooded for 3 months. This softened the soil and deposited rich silt on the banks of the river. After the river subsided, farmers were able to cultivate the land.

What problems now exist for the Egyptian farmers?

What is replacing agriculture as the chief lifeblood of the Egyptian economy?

Why was the Aswan Dam built?

What is the Egyptian government trying to do to alleviate the pressure of population growth along the river banks and boost its agricultural industries?

What problems arise when the Egyptians do this?

On what basis does Egypt claim to be able to control the majority of the waters in the Nile?

What problems have arisen because of this international agreement?

Describe the environmental conditions of Ethiopia.

Ethiopia has the source that provides the Nile River with 90% of its water.  
What is the name of that source?

What are the reasons Ethiopia has not been able to yield a strong agricultural economy?

What plans does the Ethiopian government now have in the works to solve this problem?

Why will this plan lead to conflict between Ethiopia and Egypt?

Ethiopia is predominantly a Christian nation. Christianity was brought to Ethiopia by missionaries from the southwest Asia, and has always been under the religious authority of the Egyptian Christian Church. Because of this, Ethiopia was always very hesitant to take any acts that would upset the Egyptian authorities and would therefore break their religious lifeline. However, in 1959, Ethiopia made a bold move towards national independence and broke this connection.

How did this religious detachment impact Ethiopia's eventual decision to try to solve its water issues?

What is the being built in Ethiopia that might reduce Egypt's supply of water by as much as 40%?

Why are the Ethiopians building this structure?

Who is helping the Ethiopians build this structure? Why?