

ANCIENT EGYPT STUDY GUIDE 1 – THE NILE RIVER

Overview

The Nile River was the heart of ancient Egyptian civilization. It flowed through the desert, bringing water, food, and transportation. Its predictable flooding deposited rich silt, making farming possible. Without the Nile, Egypt would have been a desert with very few people.

Geography and Farming

The Nile flows from south to north. Farmers planted barley, wheat, and flax along its banks. They built canals to control flooding and irrigation systems to water crops. Fishing and hunting along the river also provided food.

Transportation and Trade

The Nile served as a natural highway. Boats carried people, goods, and ideas up and down the river. This helped trade with neighboring regions and allowed Egypt to grow wealthy.

Timeline

- c. 3100 BCE – Egypt unified under Narmer
- c. 2600 BCE – Pyramid building begins
- c. 1500 BCE – New Kingdom expansion

Key Vocabulary

Nile, silt, irrigation, floodplain, delta, trade

OVERALL:

The Nile shaped all aspects of Egyptian life. Its floods, fertile soil, and transport routes made Egypt one of the most stable and advanced civilizations of the ancient world.

Comprehension Questions

1. Why was the Nile important for farming?
2. How did the Nile help trade and transportation?
3. What might have happened to Egypt without the Nile?