

Mr. Friedman

Geography: The Gift of the Nile

The Geography of Egypt

Egypt began on the banks of the Nile River. The Nile is the longest river in the world, which stretches for over 4,100 miles. Egypt sprung up around the Nile for the same reason Mesopotamia sprung up around the Tigris and Euphrates - the flooding river made the soil rich and fertile, allowing people to live on land that was otherwise a desert.

Water Flow

The Nile flows opposite of what you might imagine. It flows from South to north and empties into the Mediterranean Sea. Egypt is divided into 2 sections, Upper Egypt (down near the start of the river) and Lower Egypt (up near the end of the river).

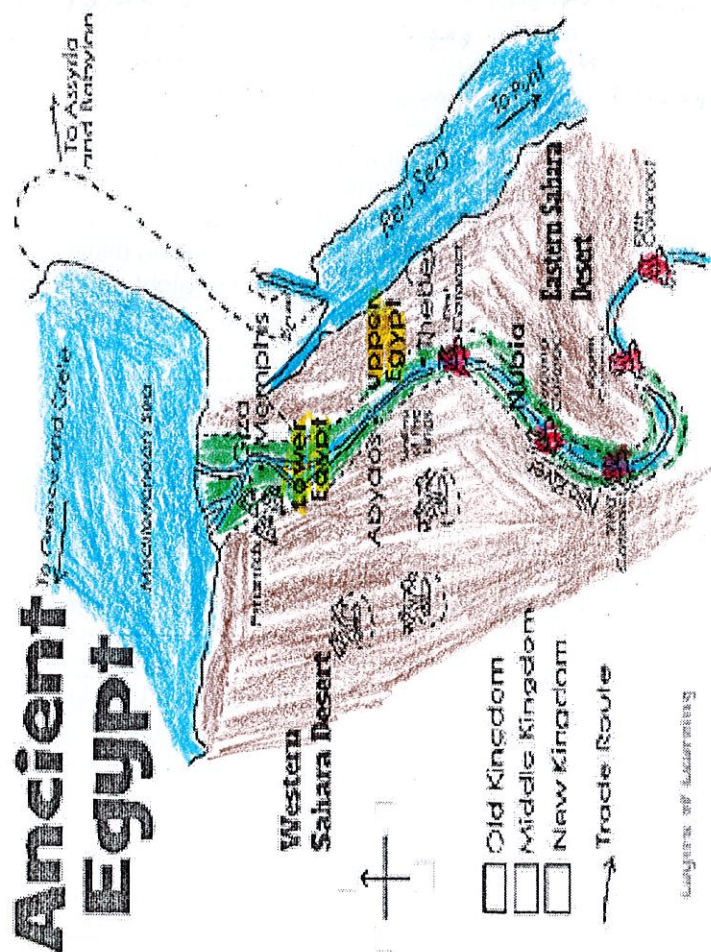
Delta, Delta, Delta!

The Nile Delta is in lower Egypt where the river drains into the Mediterranean Sea. River deltas are marshy, usually triangular area of sediment (dirt or soil) deposited at the mouth of a river that flows into a larger body of water. The Nile delta was a highly populated area in ancient Egypt because of the access to water and fertile soil.

Part #2: Compare the Nile River Valley to the Mesopotamian River Valley. Geography: Now that you have learned about the first two river valleys, think about it. In what ways are they similar? In what ways are they different? Use what you have learned to help you compare. As you fill in the comparison chart, think about the physical features that made each valley important to the history of civilization.

Nile River Valley Features	Mesopotamian River Valley Features
* Single River	* 2 Rivers
* Flooding	* Flooding
* Silt	* Silt

- Map Instructions: Use the symbols to color each of the main features. Check off the task as you complete each step.
1. Color the Nile River (BLUE)
 2. Color the Mediterranean Sea (GREEN)
 3. Draw a triangle around the Delta at the end of the River and label it (GREEN)
 4. Color the Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt (YELLOW)
 5. Trace a line around the 2 desert names (BROWN)
 6. Color the 3 kingdoms of the Nile River (RED)



Part #2: Physical Features Impact on Development Chart

Chart Directions: Fill in the chart with each physical feature in Ancient Egypt. How, mountains, desert, or sea to explain how they made the Nile River Valley a perfect location to develop a civilization. Add this information to the map next to the physical feature.

Physical Feature Name	How Did It Help Development of The Nile River Valley
Eastern & Western Sahara Desert	* Protected them from invasion of other civilizations
Mediterranean Sea & Nile Sea	* Promoted trade & economies
The Nile River	* Supplied freshwater and transportation
The Delta	* Fertile growing area