

Ancient Egypt: Life Along the Nile

Learning objective: To understand the significance of the River Nile and the social structure of Ancient Egyptian society.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of Ancient Egyptian history to provide detailed, accurate responses. Think about how the environment shaped the lives of the people.

Ellie the elephant has been digging into the history of the Ancient Egyptians! She knows that everything in Egypt relied on the River Nile, which provided water and fertile land for the people to thrive in the middle of a vast desert.

Word bank: Pharaoh · Irrigation · Silt · Papyrus · Hieroglyphics · Afterlife · Shaduf · Dynasty

1. Explain why the annual flooding of the River Nile was considered a 'gift' by the Ancient Egyptians. (2 marks)

2. Describe the function of a 'shaduf' and justify why this invention was essential for farmers living away from the riverbank. (3 marks)

3. Compare the role of a Pharaoh to the role of a scribe. What were their different responsibilities in society? (3 marks)

4. If the River Nile had never flooded, what might have happened to the growth of Ancient Egyptian civilisation? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

5. Justify why the discovery of the Rosetta Stone was a monumental breakthrough for historians trying to understand hieroglyphics. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of a farmstead along the Nile. Include a shaduf, a field of crops being watered, and a reed boat on the river.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a scribe living in 1300 BC. Write a short diary entry describing a day in the life of a worker helping to construct a monument for the Pharaoh. Use at least four words from the word bank in your writing.