

Ellie's Ancient Egyptian Expedition

Learning objective: To understand the significance of the River Nile and the importance of pharaohs in Ancient Egyptian civilisation.

Read the passage below carefully. Use the word bank to help you understand the terminology. Answer the questions in full sentences, ensuring you provide evidence from the text to justify your ideas.

Ellie the elephant has travelled back in time to the banks of the River Nile. She observes the Ancient Egyptians living in a bustling civilisation that relies entirely on the river. Every year, the Nile floods, leaving behind a thick layer of dark, nutrient-rich mud called silt. This makes the land incredibly fertile, allowing farmers to grow crops like wheat and papyrus even in the middle of a hot, dry desert. Ellie watches as the people work together to build grand structures for their leader, the Pharaoh. The Pharaoh is considered to be a bridge between the people and the gods. Because the society is so well-organised, they are able to create intricate irrigation systems to move water to their fields. Ellie notices that without this life-giving river, the people would not have been able to build their magnificent stone monuments or develop their unique system of writing. She realises that the Nile was not just a river to them; it was the lifeblood of their entire culture, providing food, transport, and a way to build a lasting legacy.

Word bank: Pharaoh · Civilisation · Silt · Fertile · Papyrus

1. What is the name of the nutrient-rich mud left behind by the Nile, and why is it important for the farmers? (2 marks)

2. According to the passage, what role did the Pharaoh play in Ancient Egyptian society? (2 marks)

3. Why does the author describe the Nile as the 'lifeblood' of the civilisation? (2 marks)

4. Explain why the Ancient Egyptians needed to develop irrigation systems. (2 marks)

5. If the River Nile had never flooded, how might the development of Ancient Egyptian civilisation have been different? Justify your answer. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a map of the River Nile, showing the fertile green banks contrasted against the dry, sandy desert, and include one of the grand stone monuments mentioned in the text.



Extension challenge: Compare and contrast the importance of the River Nile to the Ancient Egyptians with the importance of a local river in your own town or city today. What are the similarities and differences in how we use water?