Ancient Egypt: Life Along the Nile

Learning objective: To understand the importance of the River Nile to Ancient Egyptian civilisation and identify key features of their landscape.

Follow the drawing steps to create an annotated scene of an Ancient Egyptian settlement. Use your knowledge of geography and history to label the features correctly.

Draw: Create a landscape drawing in a clear, illustrative style. Include a wide, winding river (the Nile) flowing from the bottom to the top. On one side, draw a small mud-brick house and a farmer using a shaduf (a counterweight irrigation tool). On the riverbanks, draw clusters of tall papyrus reeds. Ensure there is a clear contrast between the green, fertile strip near the water and the dry, sandy desert landscape in the background.

Label words: River Nile · Irrigation canal · Shaduf · Papyrus · Fertile silt · Mud-brick house · Desert

Steps:

1. Step 1: Draw the River Nile winding through your page. Label the dark, fertile soil on the banks where crops grow.
2. Step 2: Draw a 'shaduf' near the water. Explain why this tool was essential for Ancient Egyptian farmers.
3. Step 3: Label the 'Desert' area on your drawing. Why did the Ancient Egyptians consider this land to be dangerous or 'Red Land'?

4. Step 4: Draw a tall plant growing by the riverbank. What was this plant called, and how did it change how people recorded information?

5. Step 5: How does the annual flooding of the Nile explain why the Ancient Egyptian civilisation was able to thrive in such an arid climate?