

Name _____

Introduction:

Ancient Egyptian civilization was completely dependent on the Nile River. Its annual summer floods deposited rich soil along its banks, making the land very fertile. Egyptians also relied on the Nile for irrigation and transportation. The river was so important to their livelihoods that they often spoke of it in religious terms, referring to it as a god.

Directions:

You will read the “Hymn to the Nile” to see how the Egyptians viewed the river. You’ll also see pictures of a Nilometer, a structure the Egyptians used to measure the height of the river. As you read the text and look at the pictures, think about why the Nile was so important to the Egyptians and why they spoke of it and treated it with such respect.

- Type in mregedy.org
- Under Current Courses, click on 6th Grade Social Studies
- Scroll down to *Unit 4 - Egypt*
- Click on Importance of the Nile
- Use the blue hyperlinks in the assignment to access the necessary websites

1. Click on the Hymn to the Nile <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/hymn-nile.html>

-This text reveals some of the ancient Egyptians’ attitudes towards the Nile River. Read the first four paragraphs and the last two paragraphs of the text. Then answer the following questions.

-Here are some helpful definitions:

- Manifests: shows
- Re: the god of the midday sun; the most important Egyptian god
- Seb: god of the earth
- Nepera: god of grain
- Ptah: god who created Memphis
- Inundation: flood
- Perpetuity: eternal life, lasting forever
- Nun: the waters from which the god Re first arose
- Immolated: sacrifice by burning

a. List 4 of the good things the Nile does for the people of Egypt.

b. According to the text, what would happen if the Nile ceased to flow or its waters dropped?

c. What evidence do you see in the passage that the ancient Egyptians viewed the Nile as a god?

Name _____

d. What sacrifices were made to the Nile?

e. Why do you think people made these sacrifices?

f. Why do you think this hymn was written?

g. When do you think the Egyptians may have recited this hymn?

2. Go to the website <http://www.art-and-archaeology.com/egypt/egy27-17.html>

-scroll through the pictures and answer the following questions.

a. What is this structure made of?

b. What do you think it is used for?

c. How would this device help the Egyptians plan for the harvest?

3. Go to the website

http://web.archive.org/web/20030308031858/briegull.com/egypt/fullimages/nilometer_f.jpg

a. Describe the structure seen in the image.

b. How deep does this Nilometer go (estimate)?

c. How could a structure such as this be useful to the ancient Egyptians?

Name _____

4. Go to the website <http://www.ancient-egypt-online.com/river-nile-facts.html>

- a. What did the Egyptians call the Nile? Why?

- b. Where does the Nile begin?

- c. Where does it end?

- d. How was the Nile Egypt's "*umbilical cord*"?

- e. Exactly how many miles long is the Nile River?

- f. What modern countries does the Nile flow through?

- g. Where does it start/what is the Nile's source?

- h. Describe the Nile delta.

- i. Describe Aswan.

- j. How long was a boat trip down the Nile?

- k. Describe the boats that the Egyptians used.

Name _____

l. How wide was the Nile? How wide did it get during flooding?

m. What made the Nile flood?

n. What types of plants and animals could be found on the Nile?

o. What is Peret? When was it?

p. What is Shemu?

q. What crops did the Egyptians grow?

r. Who is Hapy?

s. Describe the difference between the east bank and west banks of the Nile.

t. What is one modern city that can be found on the Nile River today?

5. Go to <http://www.ancientegypt.co.uk/geography/index.html>.

-click on *Explore* (left)

-on dropdown menu (different maps), select *terrain*

a. Describe the terrain of Egypt. Ex: Is it flat? Where are the mountains?

Name _____

-on the dropdown map menu, select *modern political*

a. What major cities are currently located on the Nile River?

b. There are 2-3 cities not on the Nile. What is important about their location?

-on the dropdown map menu, select *geographic features*

a. What do the green palm tree things represent?

b. What do the blue dots represent? What types of stone were quarried?

c. Click on the red dots. What did the Egyptians mine?

-on the dropdown map menu, select *natural resources*

a. What natural resources were found in Ancient Egypt?

b. Where was most of the gold located?

-click on *Story* (left)

-follow along and select your stories' outcome.