

Geography – The River Nile

Question: Are all rivers the same? Thread: Water World



What pupils should already know: I know the generic features of a river. I know why rivers are important and how they are involved in the water cycle. I know the causes of river pollution and how it affects our environment. In History we learnt how the River Nile is one of the biggest rivers in the world and the biggest river in Egypt. I know the River Nile was essential to daily life for the Ancient Egyptians and in Ancient Egyptian times, the River Nile used to flood every year, which made the land around it ideal for growing.

Enquiry Questions

- Where is the River Nile and what are its features?
- If we went on a journey down the River Nile, what would it look like at different points?
- Has the Aswan High Dam been a positive or negative thing for the River Nile?
- How have humans had an impact on the geography of the River Nile?
- How is the River Nile used and how has this changed over time?

Key Vocabulary

Alexandria – A Mediterranean port city in Egypt. It was founded by Alexander the Great and was Egypt's capital for hundreds of years. Today it is a popular tourist destination and a successful city after canals were built to link it to the River Nile.

Aswan High Dam – A huge dam built across the River Nile at Aswan, in southern Egypt. It was built to control the yearly flooding of the Nile.

Blue Nile – A river originating at Lake Tana in Ethiopia. One of the two major tributaries of the River Nile and supplies about 80% of its water during the rainy season.

Delta – A triangle of sand and soil deposited at the mouth of some large rivers.

Elevation – The height to which something rises or its height above sea level or ground level.

Human geography – The branch of geography dealing with how human activity affects, or is influenced by, the earth's surface.

Mouth – The place where a river runs into a larger body of water.

Physical geography – The branch of geography dealing with natural features (not man-made)

Sediment – Solid material that settles at the bottom of a river or is deposited by a river.

Source – The place where a river starts.

Tributary – A river or stream that flows into a larger river or stream, or into a lake.

White Nile – A river in Africa; one of the two main tributaries of the River Nile, beginning at Lake Victoria in Tanzania.

Geographical Skills and Knowledge

Pupils will:

Location Knowledge

- Locate the world's countries, using maps to focus on Europe (including the location of Russia) and North and South America, concentrating on their environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries and major cities.

Human and physical geography

- Describe and understand key aspects of:
 - i. physical geography, including: climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts, rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes, and the water cycle;
 - ii. human geography, including: types of settlement and land use, economic activity including trade links, and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water.

Geographical skills and fieldwork

- Use maps, atlases, globes and digital/ computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied.

Ask geographical questions



Map of the River Nile



The Aswan High Dam



Egypt's capital city of Cairo along the River Nile



Night time aerial map showing the human settlements along the River Nile

Links to other areas of the curriculum: History – Ancient Egypt;

