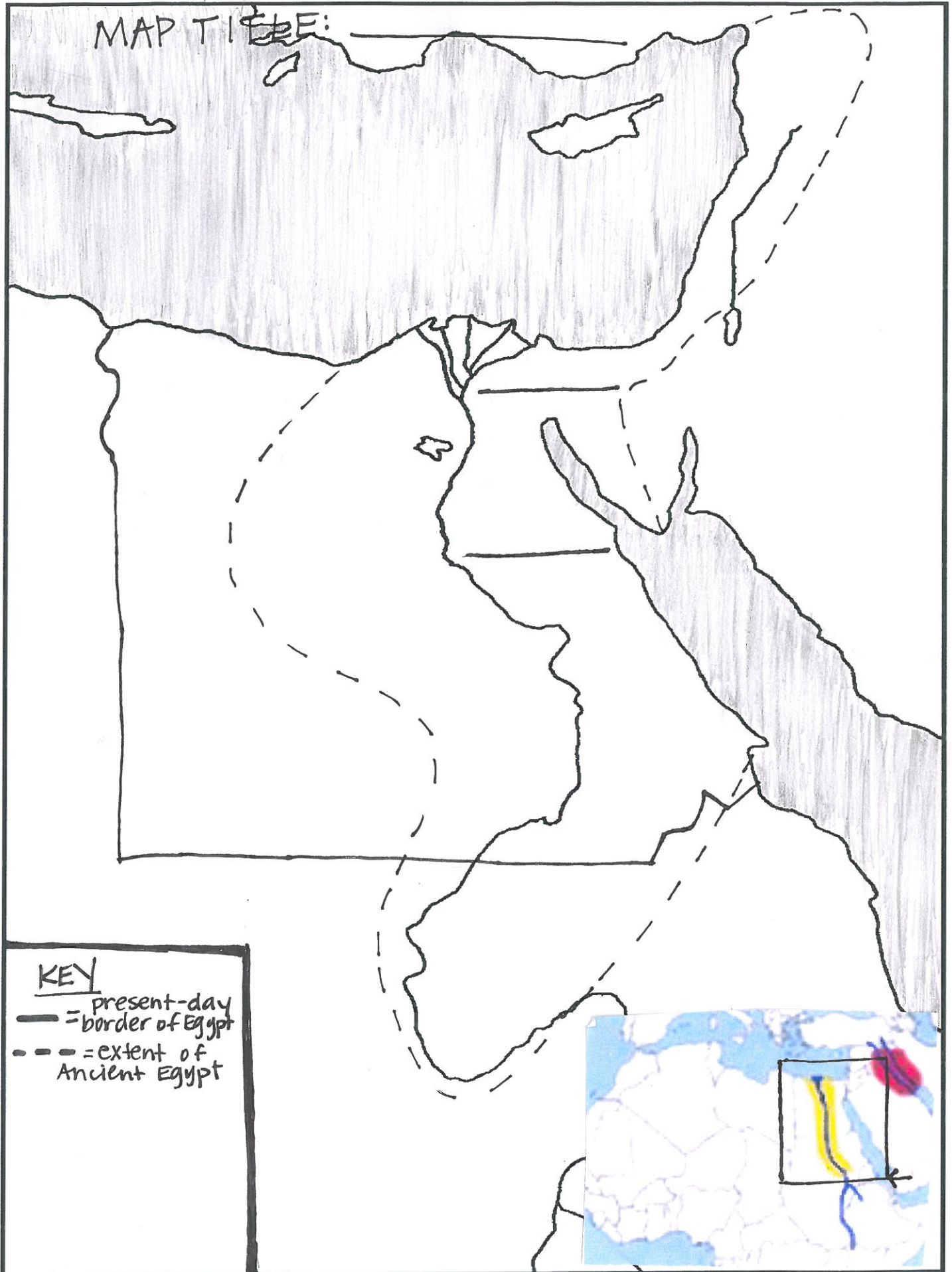


MAP TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_

# Ancient Egypt Map Activity

1. Complete your map using the instructions on the "Ancient Egypt Map Instructions" page. (not attached)
2. Use the "Egypt Under Pharaohs" article to complete the following activities to learn about the geography of Egypt.

**PART ONE:**

Answer the following questions using "The Nile River Valley" section of the article.

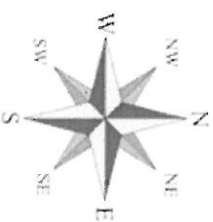
1. What are the sources of the Nile River?

**PART TWO:**

The Nile River was clearly important to the Ancient Egyptians. Using "The Nile River Valley," "Civilization Develops," **AND** your own brainstorming, list and draw 6 different ways the Egyptians used the Nile.

**PART THREE:**

Using the compass rose and a map, determine whether the statements written below are true (T) or false (F).



2. What is a cataract?
3. What forms the Lower Egypt region?

4. How did the Nile River help the Egyptians? How did it harm them?


\_\_\_\_\_ 1. The city of Memphis is north of Thebes.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. The Nile River flows into the Mediterranean Sea.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Lower Egypt is south of Upper Egypt.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Traveling from the Nile River to the Red Sea you would cross the Western Desert.

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. Egypt is in the northeastern corner of Africa.

## Ancient Egypt Map Instructions

Use the provided resource maps to help you complete each of the following steps to create your Ancient Egypt Map!

1. **Title** your map: Ancient Egypt

2. Color the following bodies of water **in blue**. **Label** each one in **black** or in pencil.

Mediterranean Sea      Red Sea

3. Trace the **Nile River** in **blue**, also **label** it in **black** or in pencil (label along the river).

4. Using **small blue arrows**, show that the Nile River flowed downstream to the Mediterranean (from South to North).

5. Label the ancient Egyptian cities of **Memphis, Giza, and Thebes**.

*Giza* should be represented by a **black dot** and labeled. (major city)

*Memphis* and *Thebes* should be represented with a **black star** and labeled. (capital cities)

6. Label the following regions of Ancient Egypt:

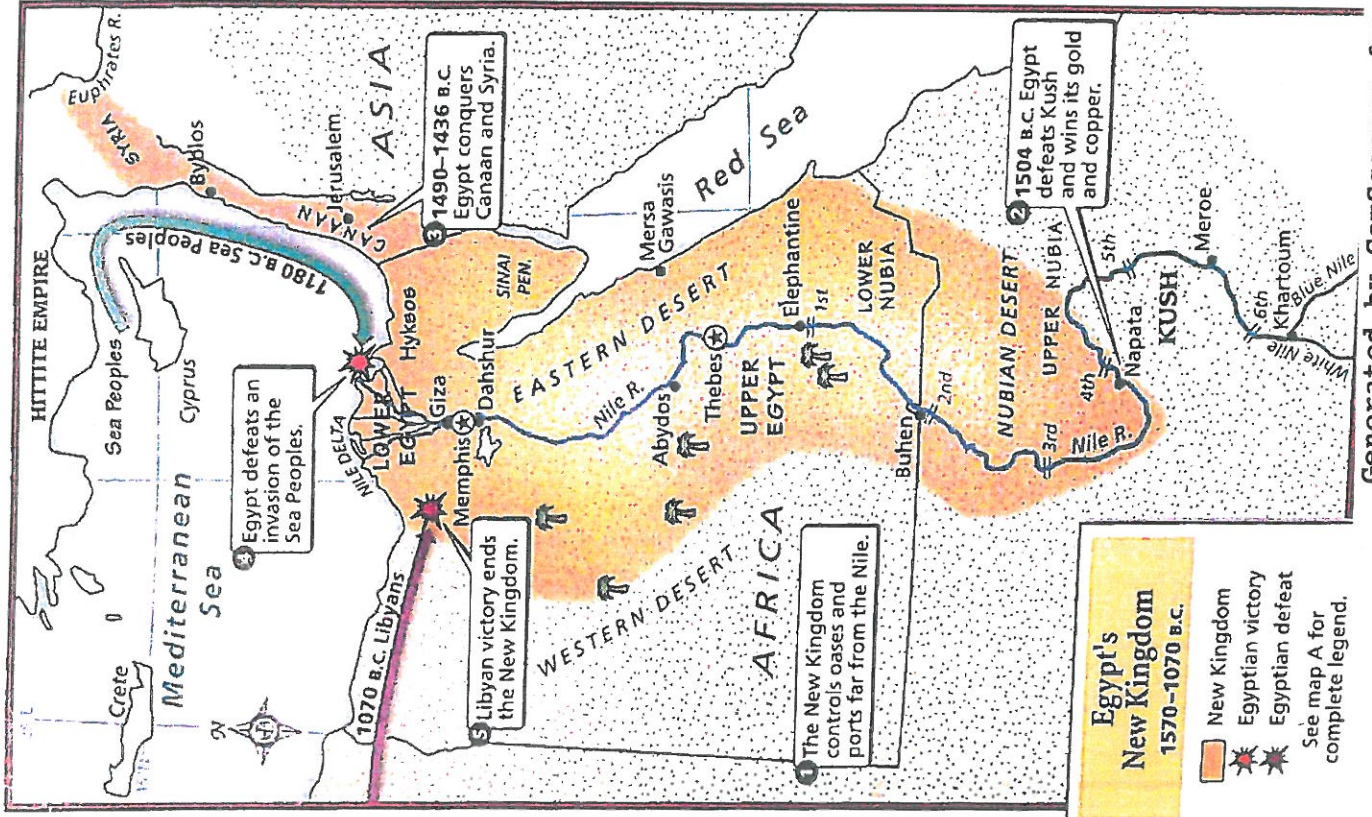
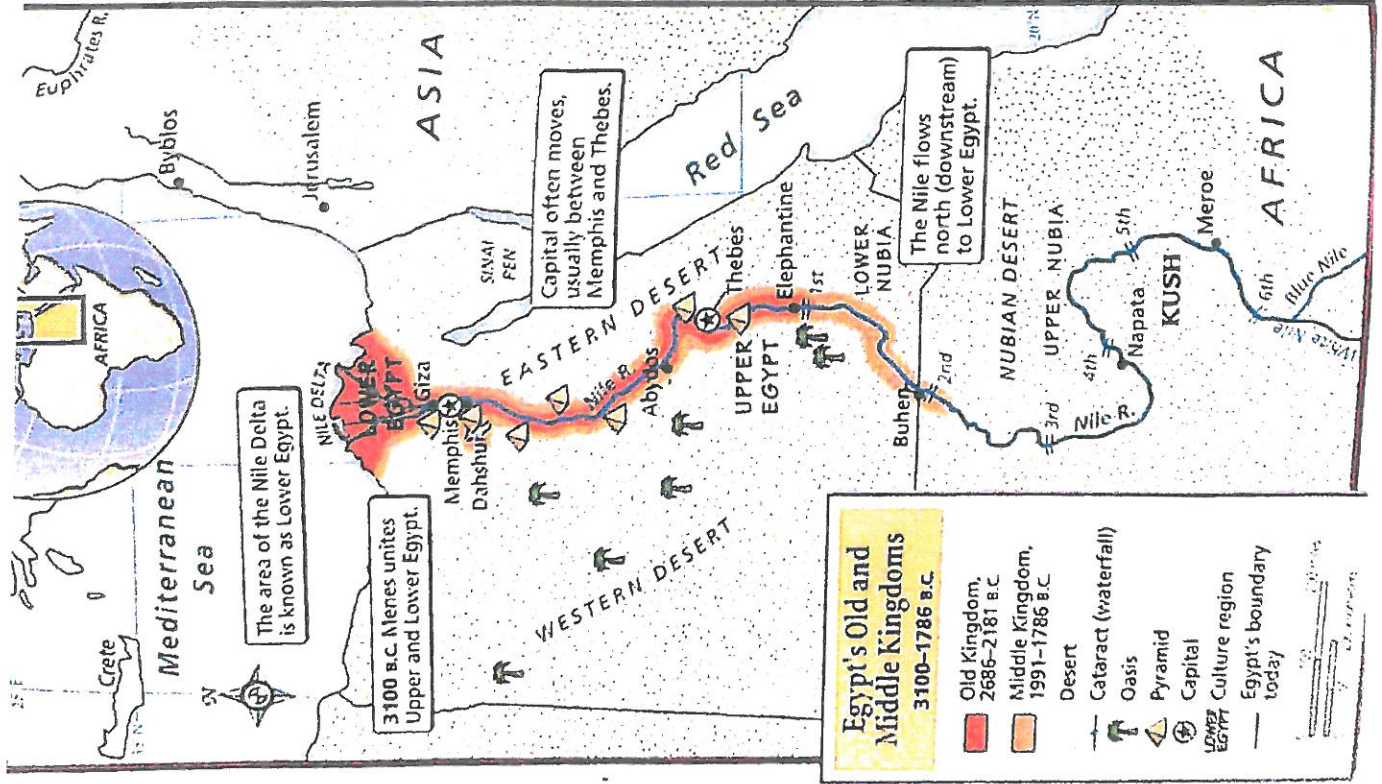
Lower Egypt      Upper Egypt

7. Color the following deserts light brown:

Western Desert      Eastern Desert

8. Add a **compass rose** to your map.

9. Color code and complete the **key** to show what the different symbols and colors on your map represent.



## Section 1

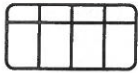
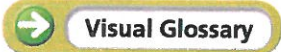
# Egypt Under the Pharaohs

### Key Ideas

- Egypt's unique geography helped shape its civilization and farming methods.
- Pharaohs belonging to dynasties ruled Egypt and were seen as gods.
- Egyptians worshiped many gods.

### Key Terms

- cataract
- delta
- artisan
- pharaoh
- dynasty
- bureaucracy
- mummy



**Reading Skill Identify Main Ideas and Details** Take notes using the graphic organizer in your journal.

Coffin mask of Pharaoh Tutankhamen ▼



**L**ike the Fertile Crescent, Egypt was home to one of the world's first great civilizations. As in the Fertile Crescent, Egypt's civilization developed in a river valley with rich soil. However, Egypt's geography and culture differed in many ways from those of the Fertile Crescent.

## The Nile River Valley

The ancient Egyptians treasured the Nile River. They knew that without the Nile, their land would be nothing but a sun-baked desert of bright blue skies and dry sand.

**The World's Longest River** The Nile is the world's longest river. It begins in East Africa and flows about 3,500 miles north to the Mediterranean Sea.

This great river has two main sources—the White Nile and the Blue Nile. The White Nile flows from Lake Victoria. The Blue Nile rushes down from the highlands of present-day Ethiopia. The two rivers meet in present-day Sudan. In ancient times, northern Sudan was known as Nubia, or Kush.

In Nubia and Egypt, the Nile flows through the Sahara, a vast desert that stretches across most of northern Africa. Before reaching Egypt, the river in ancient times roared through six **cataracts**, or groups of rocky rapids. The rocky cataracts made

it impossible for people to travel by ship upstream from Egypt.

**Upper and Lower Egypt** Below the cataracts, the Nile flows through a narrow valley lined with cliffs. This region is known as Upper Egypt because it is upstream from the Mediterranean Sea.

The river carries silt—fine mineral particles that can form fertile soil—from its sources in East Africa. Near the end of its journey, the Nile slows down and fans out into many streams and marshy areas. As it slows, the river drops its silt. Over thousands of years, this silt has built up to form a large river delta. A **delta** is an area of sediment—soil or minerals carried by water—deposited at the mouth of a river. The Nile delta forms the region known as Lower Egypt.

**Floods and the Black Land** A narrow strip of fertile soil lines both banks of the Nile and covers its delta. This rich, dark soil was so important to the Egyptians that they called their country *Kemet*, which means “the Black Land.”

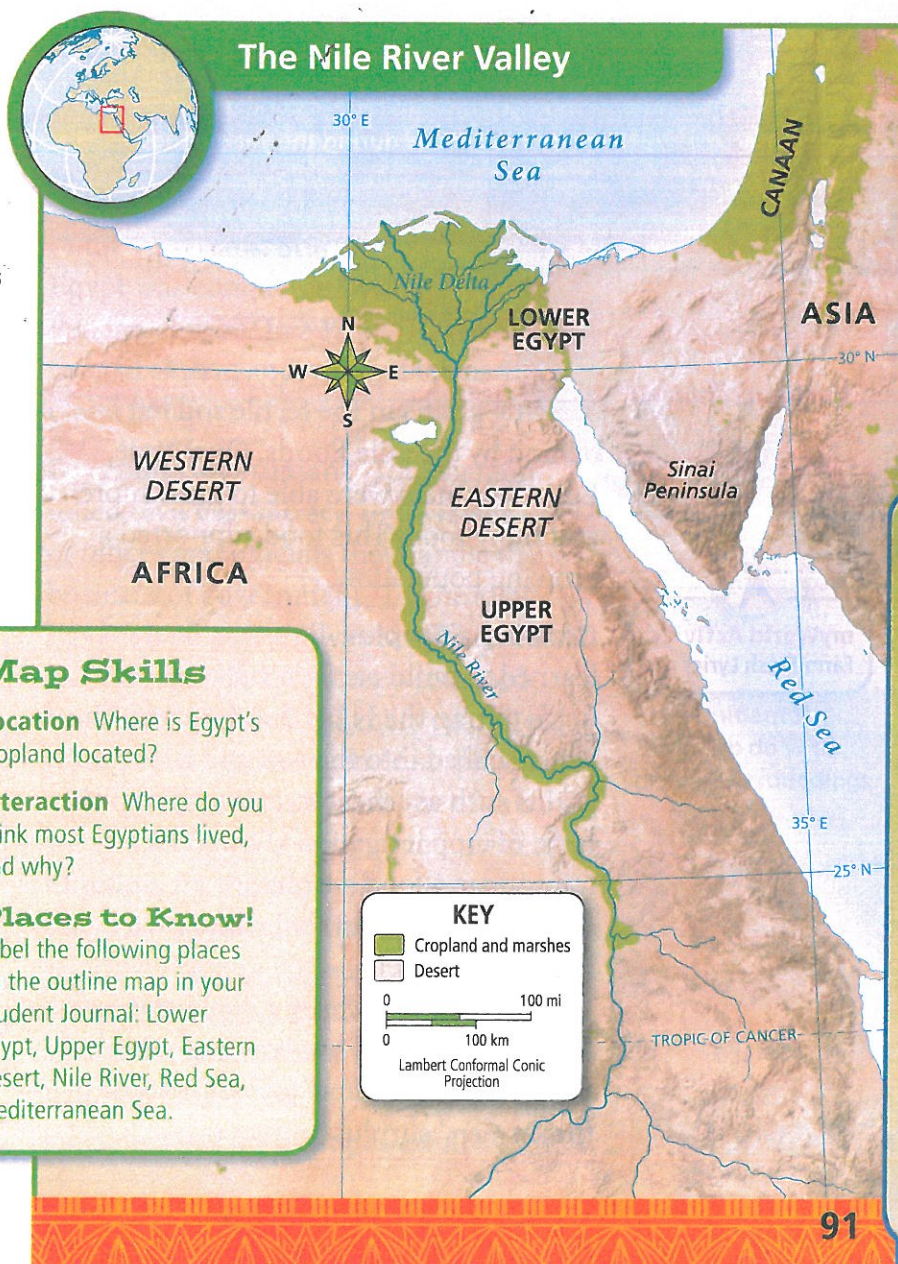
The yearly flooding of the Nile created the Black Land. Each summer, heavy rainfall in East Africa poured into the Nile’s sources. Flood waters surged through Egypt. When the flood waters drained away, they left behind a layer of fresh soil.

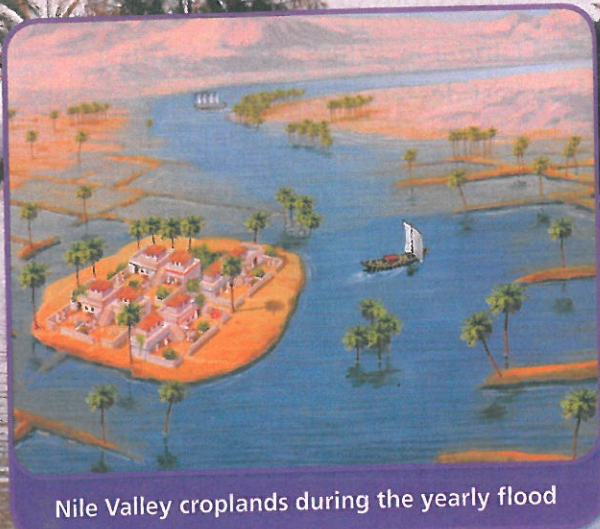
However, the Nile floods were unpredictable. If too much water came, the floods could be a natural disaster that swept away soil. If too little water came,

Egypt could suffer a drought, or a shortage of water. Droughts could bring hunger by causing crops to fail.

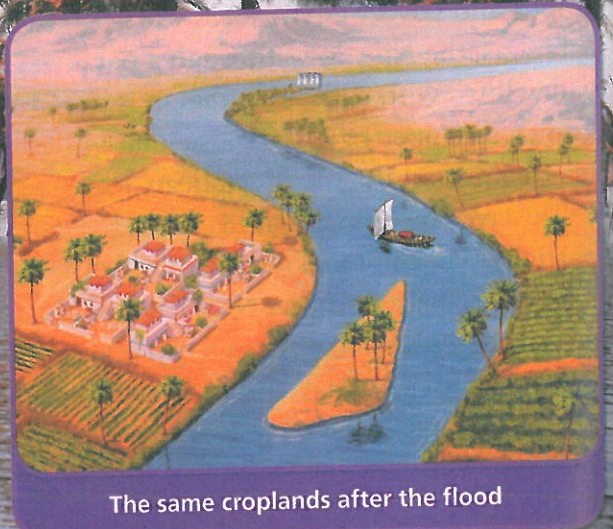
**The Red Land** On either side of the Black Land lay vast deserts. Egyptians called these deserts “the Red Land.” Unlike the Black Land, the Red Land was a deadly place of hot, burning sands.

**Reading Check** What are the sources of the Nile River?





Nile Valley croplands during the yearly flood



The same croplands after the flood

## Civilization Develops

More than 7,000 years ago, people began growing grains in the fertile soil left behind by the Nile floods. Over time, Egypt's farmers were able to grow more and more food. This food supported a growing population.



**myWorld Activity**  
Farm Fresh Lyrics

**Growing a Surplus** Egyptian farmers learned to build earthen walls around fields to trap the Nile's flood waters. The water soaked into the soil and allowed grains such as wheat to grow. This simple form of crop irrigation allowed farmers to produce a food surplus, or an amount of food greater than their own family's needs.

Meanwhile, powerful people and families gained control over regions within Egypt. They were able to collect some of the farmers' surplus crop as taxes.

**The Birth of Cities** These local rulers used this surplus to buy rich cloth, jewelry, and luxury goods. These were supplied by merchants and **artisans**, or skilled workers who practice a handicraft.

Farmers' production of a surplus supported these artisans. Some became full-time artisans, such as weavers or potters. Skilled artisans' products were much more advanced than similar products made by farmers. Artisans and merchants began to settle around the homes of local rulers. In time, these settlements grew into cities.

Egypt's cities brought together wealthy and skilled people. They became centers of culture and power. Skilled architects built impressive buildings. Artists created great works of art to decorate them.

**Reading Check** Why could some Egyptians take jobs other than farming?