

Chapter 4 Lesson 1: Geography and Early Egypt

Nile River= Egypt's lifeline- 4,000 miles (world's longest river)

- At six places stone cliffs and boulders force its water through narrow channels

Cataracts- Steep rapids in a river; a large waterfall

1st Cataract-Southern boundary of ancient Egypt

- Nile flows north for 600 miles as a single river
- Divides into many small channels and streams

Delta- Triangle-shaped deposit of soil near the mouth of a river

Droughts and Floods

Black Land- Nile- moist, fertile river valley

Red Land- dry, barren desert

- Egypt rarely get rain

Sahara Desert- deserts on the east/west (desert covers most of northern Africa)

Natural Barriers

1. Desert on the east
2. Desert on the west
3. Mountains on the south
4. Mediterranean Sea to the north

**** These natural barriers protect Egypt from invaders** Use classnotes to see how**

-Rains of central Africa/snow melting of east Africa helps water level to raise

- Overflowed banks in Egypt= flooding
- Egyptians knew when flooding occurred
- Measured Time by river

Three Seasons

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| A. Flood Season | Summer |
| B. Planting Season | Fall/Winter |
| C. Harvest Season | Spring |

Five Gifts of the Nile

1. Water

- Built Irrigation channels to carry water into the fields= how they took advantage of annual floods
- Also built dams= for droughts
- Difference between floods in Egypt and Sumer is that the floods in Egypt were predictable

2. Black Mud

- Nourished the soil
- Helped grow crops

3. Papyrus

- Thin reed
- Baskets, boats, sandals, writing material

4. Edible Water Birds

- **Added options to food supply**

5. Transportation

- Important for trade, travel long distances

The Union of Two Lands

Upper Egypt= Southern part. 1st cataract and northward to the Nile Delta

Lower Egypt= Northern part, Nile Delta

- King of Upper Egypt wore tall, white, pear-shaped crown
- King of Lower Egypt wore short red crown

** Knowledge of prehistoric Egypt mixed by legend**

Menes (MEE neez)

- King of Upper Egypt
- 3100B.C.E. defeated Lower Egypt, united two lands
- Created **double crown** (stood for the union of the two lands)
- Formed **dynasty** (series of rulers from same family)
- 30 different dynasties rules
- Memphis- **capitol** of Menes dynasty

Why did history for ancient Egypt begin around 3000 B.C.E.?

** Invention of hieroglyphic writing**

Old Kingdom- 2686-2181 (great pyramids)

Middle Kingdom- 2055-1650 (stronger literature, architecture, art)

New Kingdom- 1570-1070 (world power empire)

Accomplishments Before the Old Kingdom

1. Learned to Irrigate
2. Formed governments
3. Hieroglyphic writing
4. Created belief systems that formed the basis of society