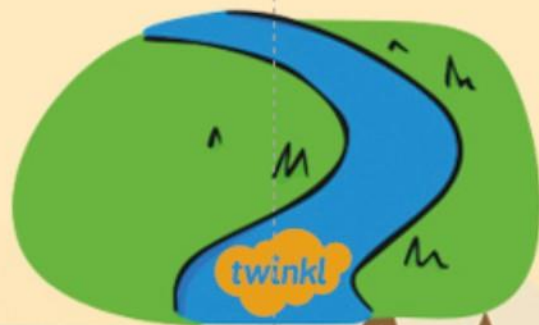




Why Was The River Nile So Important?




Floods



The River Nile would flood every year and leave behind a rich, black silt that fertilised the soil.



This was essential for growing food for everyone.




A system of canals that led from the Nile were also used to water fields in other areas. This is called **irrigation**.



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Crops and Food



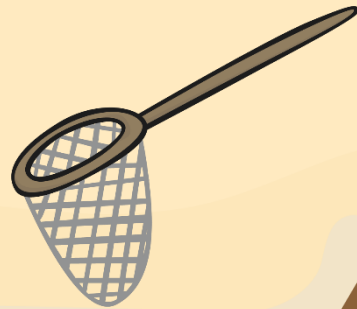
The Egyptians grew wheat and barley as well as fruits and vegetables like melons, figs, peas, garlic, lettuce and cucumbers.




Flax was grown for making linen to make clothes.




The Nile was also important for fishing. This was done in boats with nets.



Transport and Trade




There was no such thing as money in ancient Egypt so people would trade by swapping things like pottery, food, jewellery and art etc.




Boats were used to travel up and down the Nile to trade throughout the country.



Building and Papyrus



Mud from around the River Nile would be used to make bricks for building.




The papyrus plants around the river were used to make papyrus which was the paper of the ancient Egyptians.



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The Egyptian Calendar

 The Egyptian year was based on the happenings of the River Nile. It had 3 seasons, each one lasting 4 months:

- **AHKET** - July – October, this was flooding season
- **PERET** – November – February, the fields were planted in this season
- **SHEMU** – March – June, the crops were harvested.

THE NILE

The Water

Where the river Nile starts is not certain. Some people think that it originates in Burundi. The water in the Nile comes from the White Nile and the Blue Nile. The White Nile water comes from Lake Victoria whilst the Blue Nile water comes from lake Tana in Ethiopia.

The Uses

Nile was the reason that the first farmers settled there around 5000BC. The river was used for water, food and transport, as well as making the soil in the area perfect for growing crops.

The river banks were also filled with a reed called papyrus, which was turned into a kind of paper. The ancient Egyptians also used these reeds to build the boats that they would use to transport people, goods and materials up and down the river.

The ancient Egyptians would also use the river to catch fish with spears and nets as well as catch birds that came to the water.



Quick Facts!

1. The Nile is approximately 4132 miles long (6650km). That makes it the longest river in the world.
2. The river starts in the country of Burundi and runs through Ethiopia, Uganda, Sudan and touches a few more before it reaches Egypt, where it flows into the Mediterranean Sea.
3. Since ancient Egyptian times, Crocodiles have lived in the water, most measuring in at 4 metres long.



Flooding

The melting snow on the Ethiopian mountains and the summer rain is what caused the flood. The water would rush down the Nile and into Egypt where it would burst the banks and flows onto all the nearby flat fields.

The farmers would then build mud-brick reservoirs to keep the water in. They would then build canals to allow the water to flow near their land to make it easy to move to the crops.

Moving the Water

The farmers would lift the water from the canals using a tool called a shaduf (or shadoof) (above). A shaduf is a large pole balanced on a beam. At one end of the pole was a heavy weight and on the other end was a bucket. The ancient Egyptian farmer would pull the bucket down into the water, then the weight would pull the filled bucket back up again. He would then swing the bucket round and empty the bucket onto his crops.



The God

It was very important to pay thanks to a God for their gifts so people would pay tribute to the God Hapi for bringing the flood to the land to allow them to grow their crops. A lot of farmers would keep an amulet of Hapi or a statue as a sign of respect.

