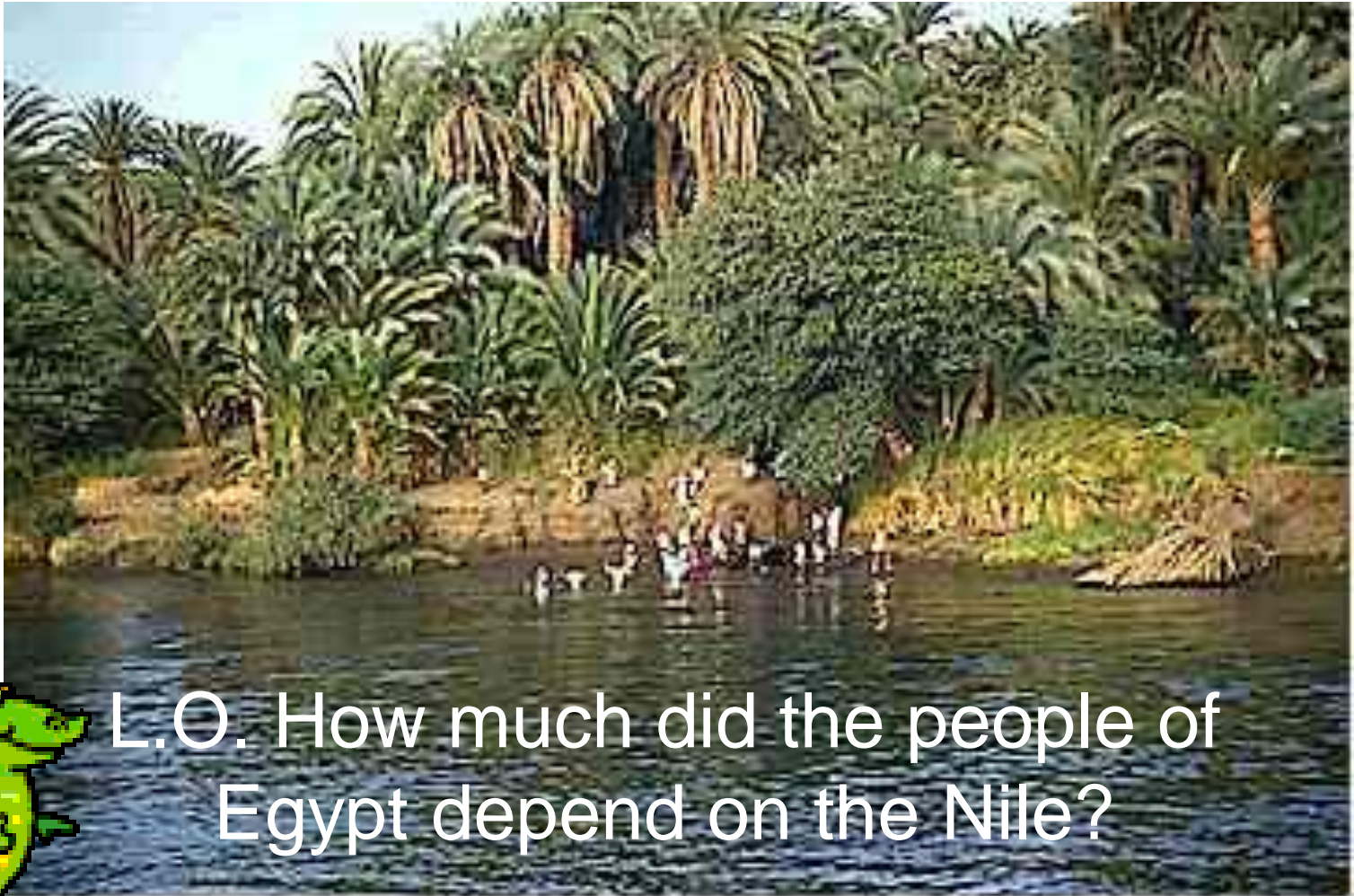


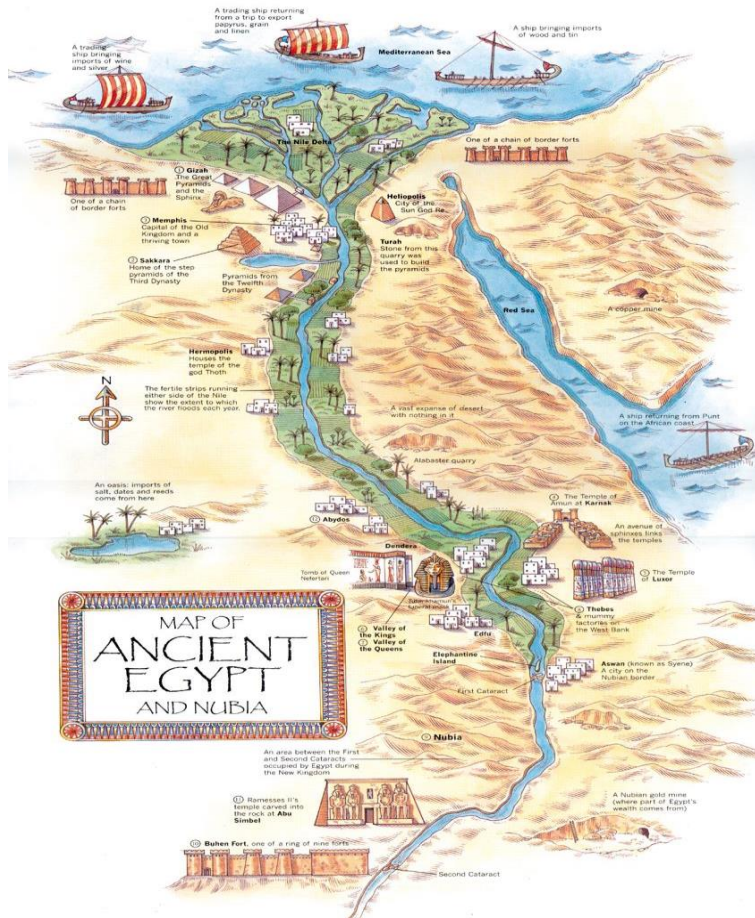
Ancient Egypt with Sami the Nile crocodile.



L.O. How much did the people of Egypt depend on the Nile?



The River Nile



The river Nile runs through the middle of Egypt. People could not live in Egypt if the Nile did not exist.



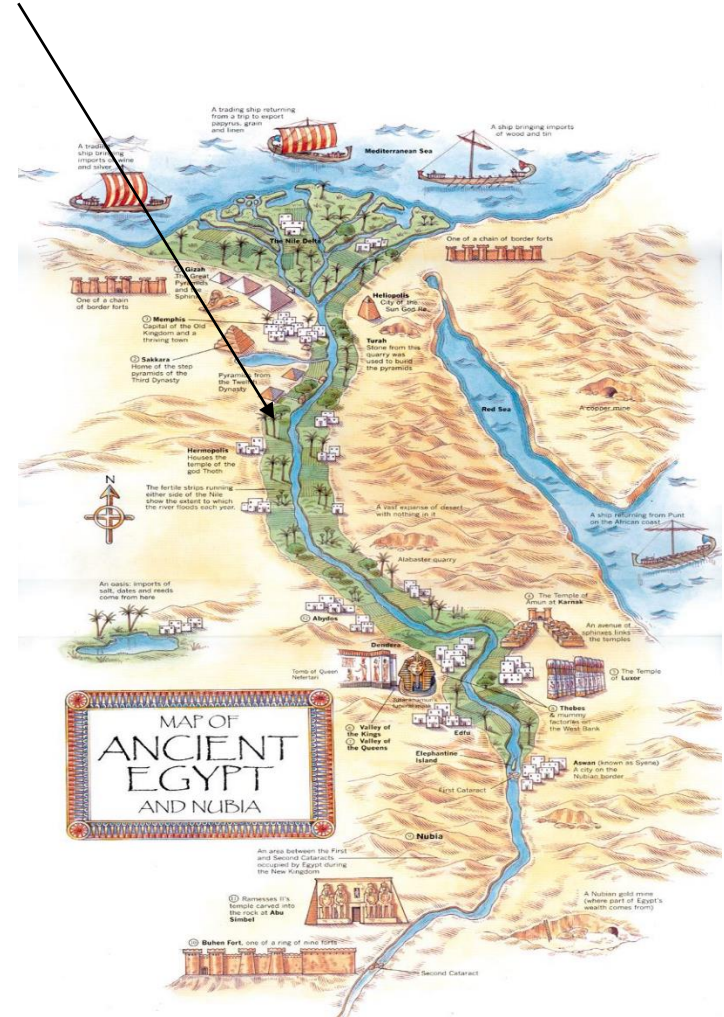
Food

Most of the country **is** desert. It is too hot and dry to grow crops or raise animals there. But **on each side of the river there is a strip of rich green land.** The people can grow food there and graze their animals.



The Black Land

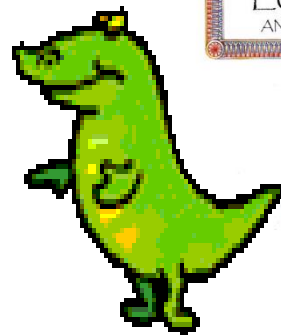
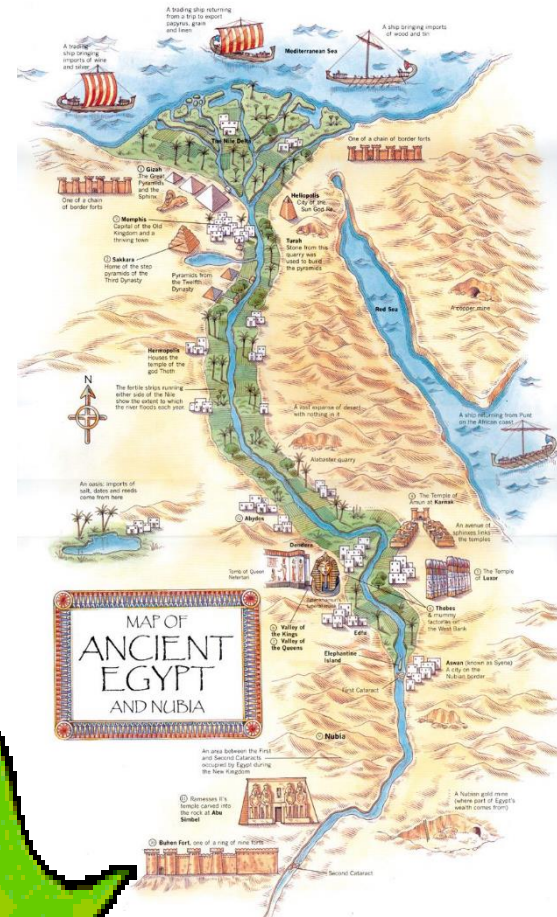
In ancient times the Nile flooded and spread a rich black silt over the land every year.



Rich black silt

This rich black silt made the ground very **fertile**. This means the land was very good for growing food.

Everyone depended on the farmers to grow enough food for all the people. If there was no food the people could starve.

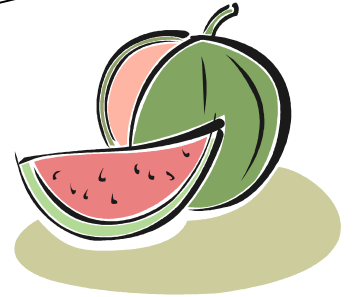




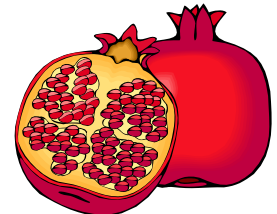
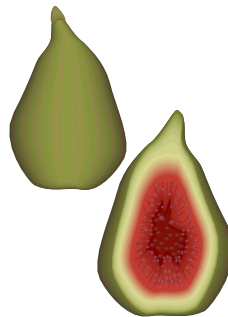
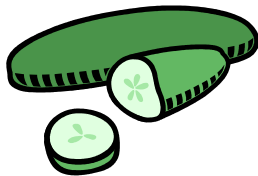
A good flood meant a good harvest. A bad one meant the people went hungry.



What did they grow?

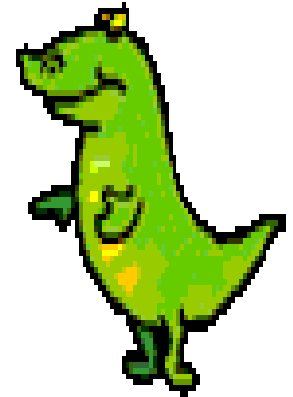


Melons, pomegranates, grapes, dates, figs, beans, peas, onions, garlic, lettuces and cucumbers.



The main crops were wheat and barley for making bread and beer.

wheat



They also grew flax,
for making linen for
clothes.





Fishing

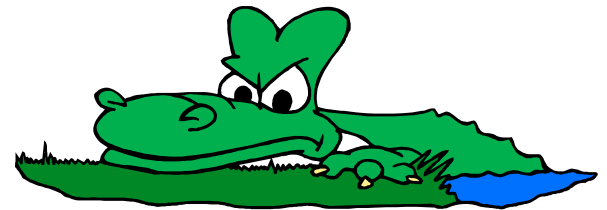
The river also gave them a chance to catch many fish. The Egyptians would build boats out of wood or papyrus and sail up and down the river. They would use spears and nets to catch fish. They would also use nets to catch birds that flew close to the surface of the water.



Transport



Boats were the only way to get from one side of the Nile to the other - unless you swam and liked crocodiles!



Trade



The Ancient Egyptians did not have money. They swapped things. This is called trading.

They could sail up and down the Nile trading goods they had made or grown.

Water

The waters of the Nile were also used to water the land next to the river. This is called **irrigation**. The water was carried to the fields surrounding the river through a system of small canals. As a result, crops could be produced from quite a small area.



Bricks

Mud from the banks of the Nile was used to make bricks for houses.



The Calendar



Their calendar was based on the annual flood and fall of the river. The Egyptians considered the year to be divided into three seasons, each lasting four months. 'Ahket' (July-October) was the season of the inundation. During the season of 'Peret' (November-February) the fields were planted. During the drought season of 'Shemu' (March-June) the crops were harvested.

Protection

The Nile also provided protection from attack. People wanting to invade Egypt would have to first cross the river, which was very wide in places.



Papyrus



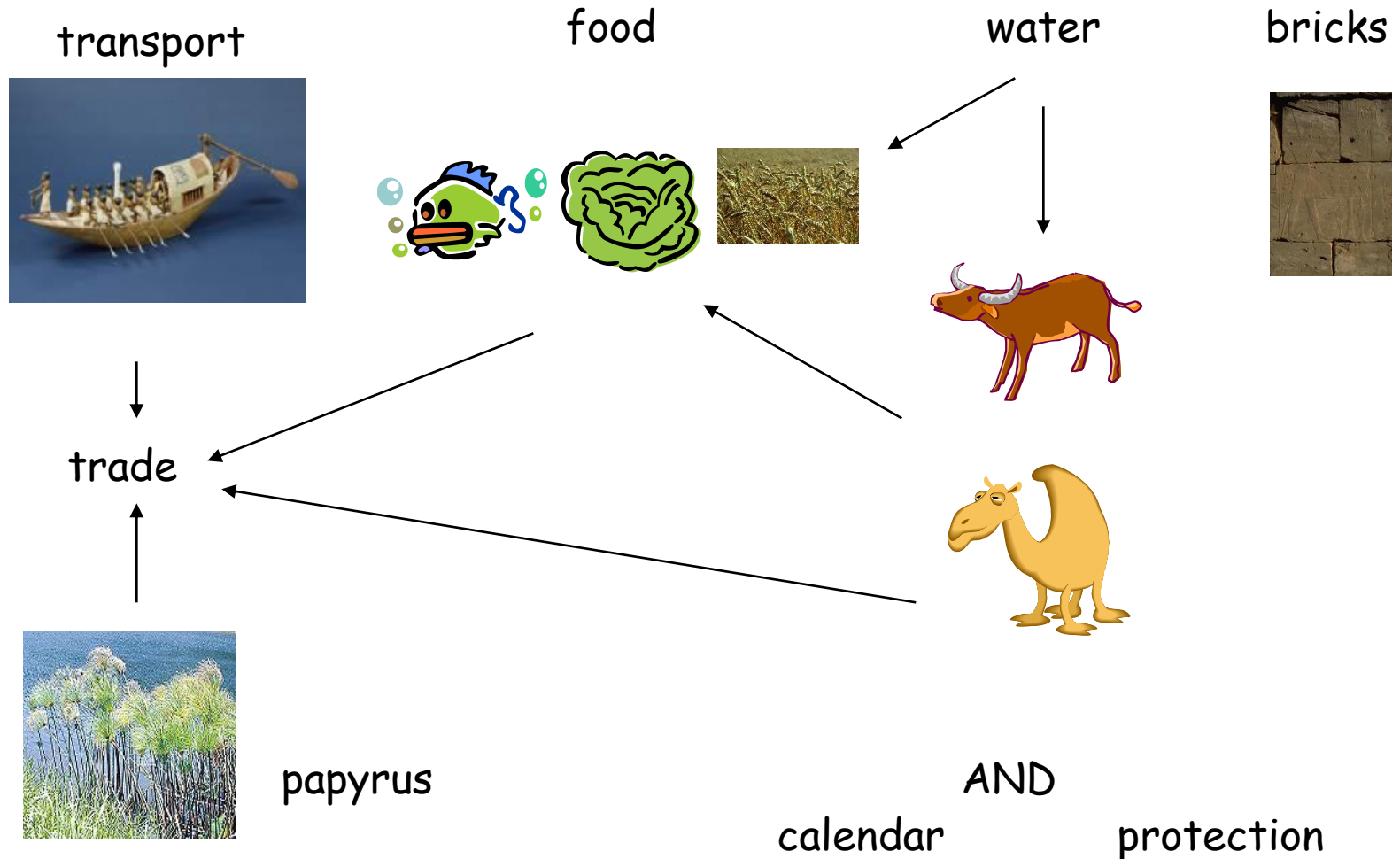
The ancient Egyptians started making paper from the papyrus plant over five thousand years ago and it became one of Egypt's major exports. The modern word "paper" originates from the word "papyrus".

What did they use papyrus for?



- The ancient Egyptians appeared to have used papyrus in so many ways. We know they made paper from papyrus but they also used it to make sandals, wove it into mats, baskets and fencing, made rope and also used parts of the plant for food as well as a medicine. The reeds were bundled together to make boats and dried to make fuel for fires. There are undoubtedly other uses that the ancient Egyptians found for papyrus.

Why was the Nile important?



Sami the Nile crocodile says



Can you remember some of the reasons why the Nile was so important to the Ancient Egyptians?