

Geography Knowledge Organiser

Year 5

Spring (i)

What are the main physical and human features of (Ancient) Egypt?

Substantive Knowledge – How Ancient and Modern Egyptians live in Egypt

Three different geographic features in Ancient Egypt are the Desert, the Delta, and the Fertile Land. The desert was a barren place full of sand dunes, mountains, and cliffs. The desert was a dangerous place and therefore acted as a natural barrier between ancient Egypt and invading foreign armies.

The Sinai Peninsula, the Western Desert, the Eastern Desert and the Nile Valley are all physical features in Egypt.



Aerial view on The Nile Valley



The Delta



The Nile Valley in Egypt is surrounded by deserts.

The Nile delta is situated in northern Egypt, where the river Nile reaches the Mediterranean Sea. The Nile is the longest river in the world. It originates near the equator and flows nearly 7000 km northward. Since the Nile brings both water and rich sediment, the Delta has been a perfect area to grow food for thousands and thousands of years.

The Egyptian Government wants to build power plants along the Delta to harness hydropower.

Did you know?

The Ancient Egyptians used reeds growing by the River Nile to make papyrus.

Fertile Land

The Delta has supported fertile land for millennia. Kemet or, “black land,” denotes the rich, fertile land of the Nile Valley, while Deshret, or “red land,” refers to the hot, dry desert where Giza and The Valley of The Kings is situated.. The entire crop area is irrigated, except for some rain-fed areas on the Mediterranean coast. To make the most of the annual rising and falling of the Nile, the Egyptians dug channels and walls to divert flood water away from cities and towards fields for farming. This was called basin irrigation.



Fertile Land – the black land Basin irrigation to redirect flood water to the crops

Human Features



The Pyramids of Giza



The Valley of The Kings



The Great Sphinx of Giza

Being able to adapt to the physical conditions and features of Egypt allowed Egyptian society to thrive. Egypt is still a thriving tourist destination today as people want to see the ancient monuments.

Portable Knowledge – What we need to remember

The main physical features of Ancient Egypt include the River Nile, the Nile Delta and the desert. Human features include the pyramids, temples, sphinxes and obelisks. The Ancient Egyptians’ ability to adapt to the conditions of the Nile Valley for agriculture supported society.

Core Vocabulary

fertile– land where crops can grow

arid– Dry and infertile (crops cannot grow)

delta – A triangular tract of sediment at the mouth of a river.