

Annotation Exercise 1

Ancient Egyptian Civilization

North Africa’s landscape is covered by the world’s largest hot desert--the Sahara. This massive Arid climate makes it a strange place for a large population of people. Most of the Sahara is too harsh for people to live. The Nile Valley, coastal areas, and the rare oases (plural for oasis) provide the only places that can support life. An oasis is an area of natural water in a desert that allows plant life. The Nile is the world’s longest river. It flows north through the Sahara creating a long oasis in the desert eventually dumping into the Mediterranean Sea. The Nile’s water comes mainly from highland areas near the center of Africa that receives frequent rain, which flows north, downhill into the Nile. The Nile is divided into sections by cataracts. A cataract is a rocky area that creates a waterfall or rapids. There are six cataracts in the Nile river.

For thousands of years, the Nile flooded when the rainy season began in Central Africa. The Nile flowed over the river banks and after several months it soaked into the ground, evaporated or flowed into the Mediterranean. As the water level lowered, it left behind rich, fertile soil for farmers. The flooding usually began around June and it happened every year, so it was a dependable source of water and fertilizer for farmers. Egyptians dug canals to pull water out of the flooded river, which they saved for irrigation later on. It didn’t rain in the Sahara, so Egyptians relied completely on irrigation from the Nile to farm. Fresh water, irrigation, fertile soil – this is why people called it the “gift” of the Nile.

10,000 years ago North Africa was a grassland with many plants and animals. North Africa took its current desert form around 6000 BCE. Around 6000 BCE the climate began to change, which might explain why humans changed from hunting and gathering to farming. Before civilization, early humans came to the Nile River to hunt, fish, and gather food, but gradually as people learned to farm and domesticate animals, and therefore live in permanent settlements, areas around the Nile became more crowded. Several towns grew and eventually kingdoms developed. The change from

Questions 1-4
Do the following statements agree with the information given in the passage
TRUE - if the statement agrees with the information
FALSE - if the statement contradicts the information
NOT GIVEN - if there is no information on this

1 In the course of Nile river, there are 6 cataracts

- ☐ True
- ☐ False
- ☐ Not Given

2 North Africa was once lush green and its dry, arid and desert form came into being around 5000 BCE

- ☐ True
- ☐ False
- ☐ Not given

3 A total of 31 dynasties controlled Egypt during nearly 4000 years of history

- ☐ True
- ☐ False
- ☐ Not Given

4 Egyptians developed a “Solar Calendar” system which had 365 days in one year

- ☐ True

☐ Review