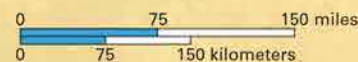
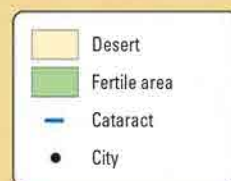


Ancient Egypt

Before You Read: K-W-L

Considering what you have already learned about ancient Egypt will help prepare you to read this chapter. Record the answers to the following questions in your notebook:

- What do you already know about Egypt?
- Study the map and time line on these pages. What do they tell you about Egypt's land and its people?
- What do you want to **learn** about Egypt?



AFRICA

Big Ideas About Ancient Egypt

Geography Civilizations developed in places that supported agriculture or trade or both.

Ancient Egypt developed along the Nile River. Rich farmland along the Nile provided plenty of food for the Egyptians. The river also became a trading highway. Farming and trade encouraged the development of a great civilization in Egypt.



Integrated Technology

eEdition

- Interactive Maps
- Interactive Visuals
- Starting with a Story



Ancient Egypt



INTERNET RESOURCES

Go to **ClassZone.com** for

- WebQuest
- Homework Helper
- Research Links
- Internet Activities
- Quizzes
- Maps
- Test Practice
- Current Events

EGYPT

WORLD

3100 B.C.

Upper and Lower Egypt are united.

3000 B.C.

2550 B.C.

Work on Khufu's Great Pyramid begins in Giza. (Great Pyramid is at far right.) ▶

2500 B.C.

2500 B.C.

Harappan culture rises in the Indus Valley. (Harappan elephant seal) ◀

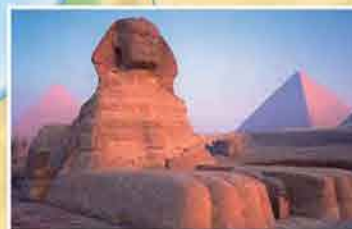


Ancient Egypt, 3100–1200 B.C.

INTERACTIVE

ASIA

Mediterranean Sea



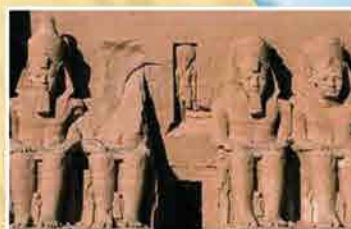
The Great Sphinx in Giza



The step pyramid in Saqqara



Queen Hatshepsut's Temple in Thebes



King Ramses II's Temple in Abu Simbel

S a h a r a

1720 B.C.
Hyksos invade Egypt.

1472 B.C.
Hatshepsut, first woman pharaoh, comes to power.

1279 B.C.
Ramses II begins his 66-year reign.

2000 B.C.

1500 B.C.

1000 B.C.

1790 B.C.
Hammurabi's Code issued in the Babylonian Empire.

1760 B.C.
Shang Dynasty comes to power in China.

1200 B.C.
Olmec rise in Mexico.
◀ (Olmec giant stone head)

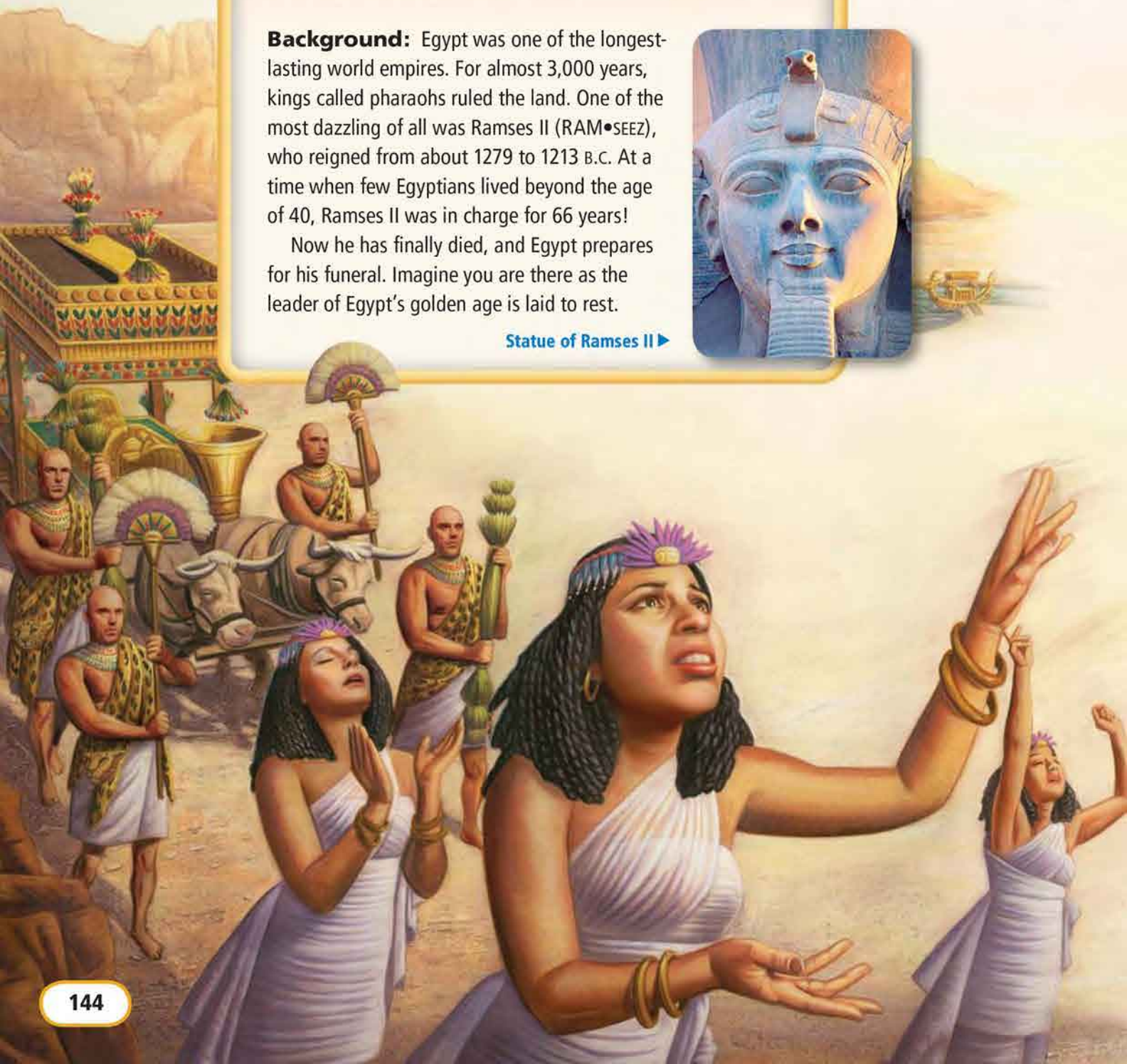


THE DEATH OF RAMSES II

Background: Egypt was one of the longest-lasting world empires. For almost 3,000 years, kings called pharaohs ruled the land. One of the most dazzling of all was Ramses II (RAM•SEEZ), who reigned from about 1279 to 1213 B.C. At a time when few Egyptians lived beyond the age of 40, Ramses II was in charge for 66 years!

Now he has finally died, and Egypt prepares for his funeral. Imagine you are there as the leader of Egypt's golden age is laid to rest.

Statue of Ramses II ►



You are a professional mourner, a person whose job is to cry at funerals. In the past, you've helped to bury some important people—but never a pharaoh! Your white mourning robe is spotless. You spent hours preparing the wreath of flowers to crown your head.

No one remembers any other pharaoh. Ramses II ruled Egypt when your grandparents were children. Some people thought he would live forever. Now he's dead and headed for his tomb in the Valley of the Kings. The ceremony began at his temple at Abu Simbel. At that temple, four 66-foot statues of Ramses II guard the entrance. Inside the secret chambers, priests preserved the pharaoh's body for burial.

Next, a royal barge carried Ramses' casket on the Nile River. Inside is the pharaoh's mummy, wrapped in orange linen and wearing a gold mask. Hundreds of important Egyptians are waiting at the tomb.

It's time to begin the procession. You line up with other mourners behind a group of slaves carrying Ramses' most important possessions. There is his sword! Could it be the one he carried into battle when he fought Egypt's enemy, the Hittites? Who will stop the Hittites now?

Tearing your hair and beating your chest, you wail your song of sorrow: "Great lord of our empire! Provider of lasting peace! Builder of temples that reach for the sun! Don't leave us! Without you, we are fatherless children!"

Sometimes you fake your cries at funerals, but today you mean every word. Trembling with fear, you wonder what will happen now.

What do you hope the new pharaoh will be like?

Reading & Writing

- 1. READING: Reading Aloud** What parts of this story benefit most from being read with appropriate intonation and expression?
- 2. WRITING: Narration** Suppose you are waiting to hear Ramses' son, the new pharaoh, speak for the first time. Write a brief scene in which you discuss your hopes and fears for Egypt with others in the crowd.

Lesson

1

MAIN IDEAS

- 1 **Geography** The Nile River helped Egypt develop a civilization.
- 2 **Economics** The fertile land provided everything Egyptians needed.
- 3 **Economics** The Nile and other resources influenced Egypt's economy.

TAKING NOTES

Reading Skill:

Understanding Cause and Effect

Following causes and effects will help you understand the main ideas in this lesson. In Lesson 1, look for the effects of each event listed in the chart. Record them on a chart of your own.

Causes	Effects
Floods	
New agricultural techniques	
Many land resources	

 Skillbuilder Handbook, page R26

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▲ **Lotus Pendants** This necklace once belonged to an Egyptian king. The pendants at the bottom are lotus buds. The lotus, a water lily that grows in the Nile River, is a symbol of Egypt.

Words to Know

Understanding the following words will help you read this lesson:

fine made of very small particles (page 147)

The fine soil was more like dust than sand.

barren lacking plants or crops (page 148)

While crops grew well next to the Nile River, the desert was barren.

noble a member of a wealthy and powerful family (page 149)

The nobles could afford more comfortable homes than could most people.

sought tried to find (page 150)

The Egyptians sought iron because it was good for making tools.

cataract
delta
silt
fertile
linen

Gift of the Nile

Build on What You Know Have you ever received a gift that was very important to you? How did it affect your life? The Nile River was so important to Egypt that 2,500 years ago, an ancient Greek historian called Egypt “the gift of the Nile.”

Geography of Ancient Egypt

1 ESSENTIAL QUESTION Why was the Nile River important?

The Greek historian knew what he was talking about. The Nile River fed Egyptian civilization for hundreds of years.

The Longest River The Nile is 4,160 miles long—the world’s longest river. It begins near the equator in Africa and flows north to the Mediterranean Sea. In the south it churns with cataracts. A **cataract** (KAT•uh•RAKT) is a waterfall. Near the sea the Nile branches into a delta. A **delta** is an area near a river’s mouth where the water deposits fine soil called **silt**. In the delta, the Nile divides into many streams.

The river is called the upper Nile in the south and the lower Nile in the north. For centuries, heavy rains in Ethiopia caused the Nile to flood every summer. The floods deposited rich soil along the Nile’s shores. This soil was **fertile**, which means it was good for growing crops. Unlike the Tigris and Euphrates, the Nile River flooded at the same time every year, so farmers could predict when to plant their crops.

The Nile Valley
Fertile land in Egypt stretches along the Nile and then gives way to desert. As a result, Egypt was a narrow country. ▼



Red Land, Black Land The ancient Egyptians lived in narrow bands of land on each side of the Nile. They called this region the black land because of the fertile soil that the floods deposited. The red land was the barren desert beyond the fertile region.

Weather in Egypt was almost always the same. Eight months of the year were sunny and hot. The four months of winter were sunny but cooler. Most of the region received only an inch of rain a year. The parts of Egypt not near the Nile were a desert.

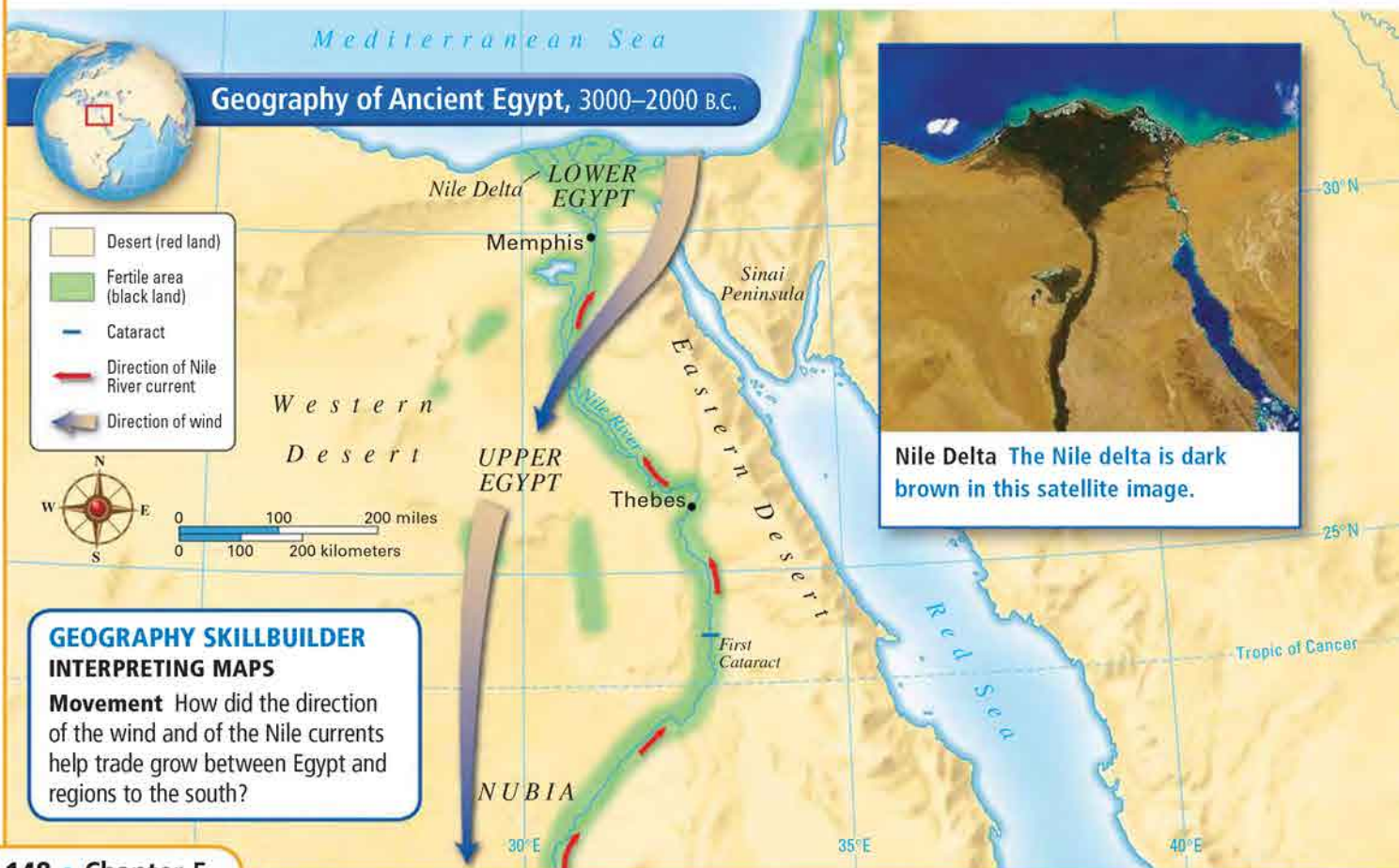
Isolation The harsh desert acted as a barrier to keep out enemies. The Mediterranean coast was swampy and lacked good harbors. For these reasons, early Egyptians stayed close to home.

REVIEW What did the floods of the Nile River provide for farmers?

Land of Plenty

2 ESSENTIAL QUESTION How did Egyptians use the land around the Nile?

Each year, Egyptian farmers watched for white birds called ibises (EYE•bihs•uhz), which flew up from the south. When the birds



Geography Shapes Egyptian Life

3 ESSENTIAL QUESTION What economic activities developed in Egypt?

Egypt's economy depended on farming. However, the natural resources of the area allowed other economic activities to develop too.

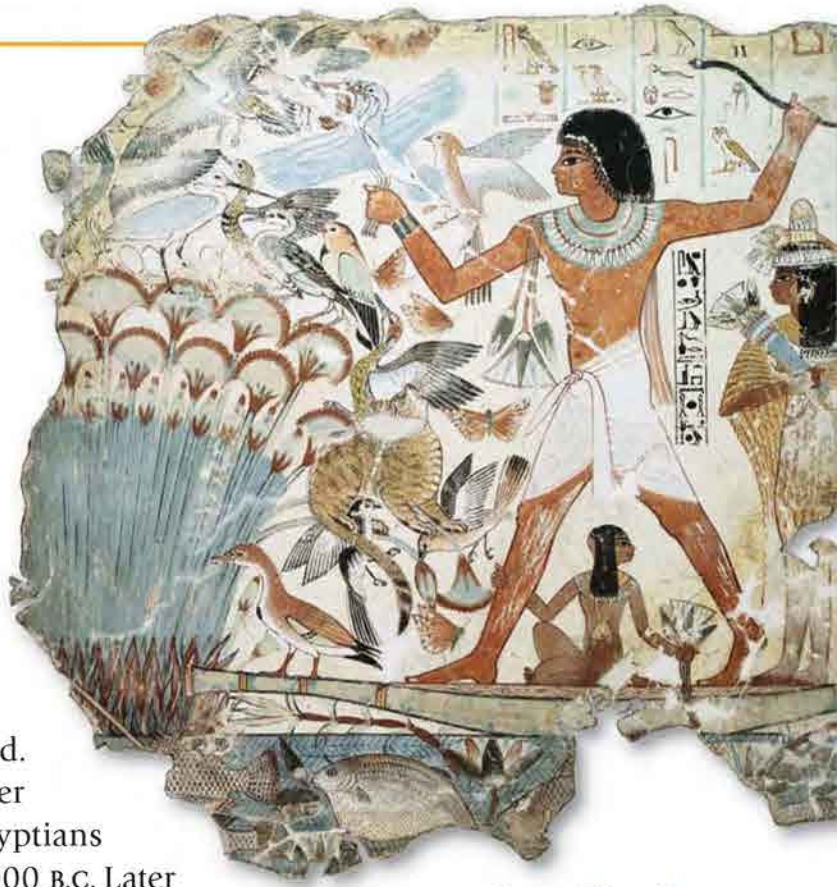
Mining The Egyptians wanted valuable metals that were not found in the black land. For example, they wanted copper to make tools and weapons. Egyptians looked for copper as early as 6000 B.C. Later they learned that iron was stronger, and they sought it as well. Ancient Egyptians also desired gold for its bright beauty. The Egyptian word for gold was *nub*. *Nubia* was the Egyptian name for the area of the upper Nile that had the richest gold mines in Africa.

Mining minerals was difficult. Veins (long streaks) of copper, iron, and bronze were hidden inside desert mountains in the hot Sinai Peninsula, east of Egypt. Even during the cool season, chipping minerals out of the rock was miserable work.

Egyptians mined precious stones too. They were probably the first people in the world to mine turquoise (TUR•KWOYZ). The Egyptians also mined lapis lazuli (LAP•ihs LAZ•uh•lee). These beautiful blue stones were used in jewelry.

Fishing and Hunting The Nile had fish and other wildlife that Egyptians wanted. To go on the river, Egyptians made lightweight rafts by binding together reeds. They used everything from nets to harpoons to catch fish. One ancient painting even shows a man ready to hit a catfish with a wooden hammer.

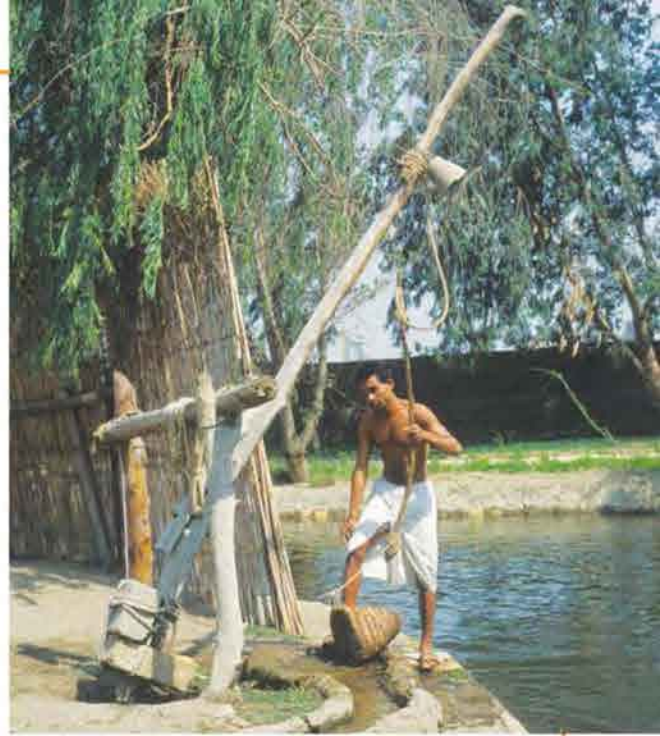
More adventurous hunters speared hippopotamuses and crocodiles along the Nile. Egyptians also captured quail with nets. They used boomerangs to knock down flying ducks and geese. (A boomerang is a curved stick that returns to the person who threw it.)



▲ Hunter This wall painting from a tomb shows a man hunting marsh birds.

arrived, the annual flood waters would soon follow. After the waters drained away, farmers could plant seeds in the fertile soil.

Agricultural Techniques By about 2400 B.C., farmers used technology to expand their farmland. Working together, they dug irrigation canals that carried river water to dry areas. Then they used a tool called a shaduf (shah•DOOF) to spread the water across the fields. These innovative, or new, techniques gave them more farmland.



Egyptian Crops Ancient Egyptians grew a large variety of foods. They were the first to grind wheat into flour and to mix the flour with yeast and water to make dough rise into bread. They grew vegetables such as lettuce, radishes, asparagus, and cucumbers. Fruits included dates, figs, grapes, and watermelons.

Egyptians also grew the materials for their clothes. They were the first to weave fibers from flax plants into a fabric called **linen**. Lightweight linen cloth was perfect for hot Egyptian days. Men wore linen wraps around their waists. Women wore loose, sleeveless dresses. Egyptians also wove marsh grasses into sandals.

Egyptian Houses Egyptians built houses using bricks made of mud from the Nile mixed with chopped straw. They placed narrow windows high in the walls to reduce bright sunlight. Egyptians often painted walls white to reflect the blazing heat. They wove sticks and palm trees to make roofs. Inside, woven reed mats covered the dirt floor. Most Egyptians slept on mats covered with linen sheets. Wealthy citizens enjoyed bed frames and cushions.

Egyptian nobles had fancier homes with tree-lined courtyards for shade. Some had a pool filled with lotus blossoms and fish. Poorer Egyptians simply went to the roof to cool off after sunset. They often cooked, ate, and even slept outside.

Connect to Today

▲ **Shaduf** A shaduf is a bucket on a lever. It was used to lift water from the Nile or canals. Some Egyptians still use shadufs today.

Vocabulary Strategy

The word *linen* has **multiple meanings**. Sheets and tablecloths are often called linens because they used to only be made from linen cloth.

REVIEW What agricultural techniques did ancient Egyptians use?



Transportation and Trade Eventually, Egyptians equipped their reed boats with sails and oars. The Nile then became a highway. The river's current was slow, so boaters used paddles to go faster when they traveled north with the current. Going south, they raised a sail and let the winds that blew in that direction push them.

The Nile provided so well for Egyptians that sometimes they had surpluses, or more goods than they needed. They began to trade with each other. Ancient Egypt had no money, so people exchanged goods that they grew or made. This method of trade is called bartering.

REVIEW How did geography affect Egypt's economy?

Lesson Summary

- The Nile River created a fertile land in a desert.
- The Egyptians used technology to expand their farms and grow many crops.
- Ancient Egyptians also mined, fished, hunted, and traded.

Turquoise Jewelry
This bracelet has turquoise and other precious stones. ▼

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Why It Matters Now . . .

Ancient Egyptians invented many things we use today, such as yeast bread, turquoise jewelry, and linen clothes.

1 Lesson Review

Terms & Names

1. Explain the importance of
- | | | |
|----------|---------|-------|
| cataract | silt | linen |
| delta | fertile | |

Using Your Notes

Understanding Cause and Effect Use your completed chart to answer the following question:

2. How did new agricultural techniques make the Egyptians more prosperous? (6.2.2)

Causes	Effects
Floods	
New agricultural techniques	
Many land resources	



Homework Helper
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Main Ideas

3. Why did Egypt develop along the Nile? (6.2.1)
4. How did irrigation canals expand farmland in Egypt? (6.2.2)
5. How did trade along the Nile come about? (6.2.6)

Critical Thinking

6. **Making Inferences** How did climate affect the daily lives of Egyptians? (6.2.1)
7. **Drawing Conclusions** Analyze the gifts of the Nile in terms of innovation and cultural endurance. (6.2.1)

Activity

Making a Sketch Create a sketch showing the different types of economic activities that took place in ancient Egypt. (6.2.2)

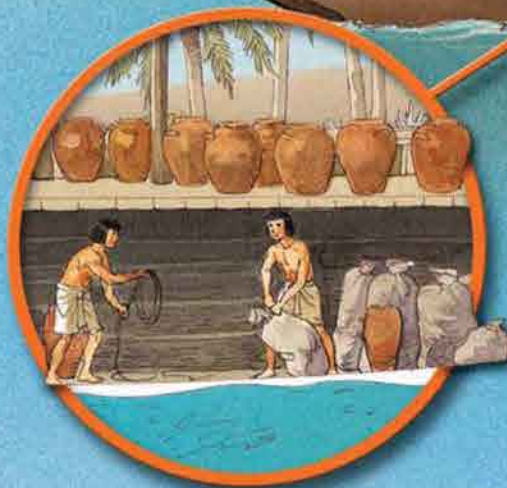


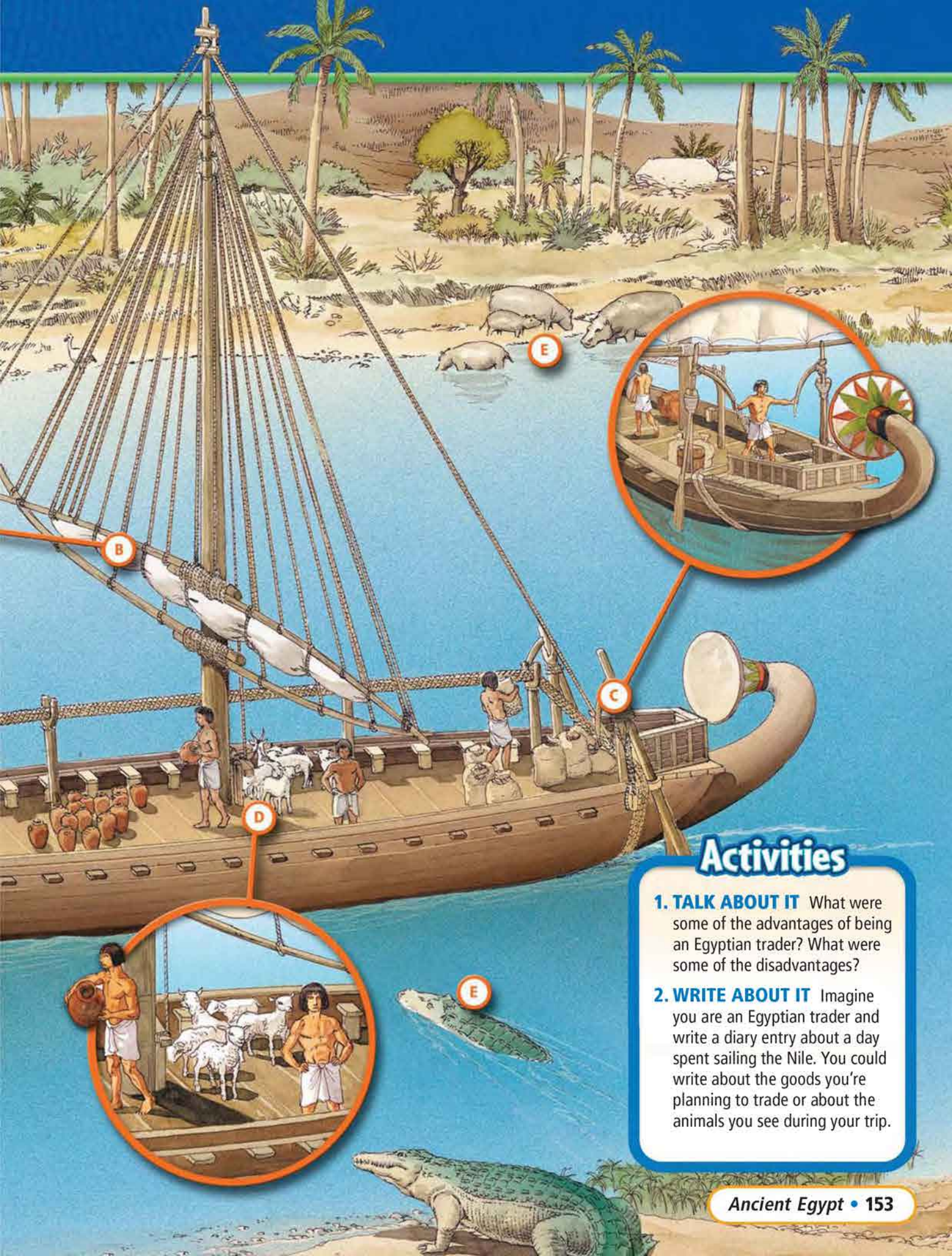
Life on the Nile River

Purpose: To learn about the life of Egyptian traders on the Nile River

If you were an Egyptian trader, you would sail the Nile River in a boat that looks much like the one shown here. Traders carried their goods in reed boats that they sailed up and down the Nile. As shown below, the simple boat held everything the traders needed for their trip on the river.

- A Hull** In the hull below the boat's deck, you store barrels of fruit and sacks of barley and wheat.
- B Sails** You raise your linen sail to catch the wind when you travel south on the Nile against the current. You lower the sail when you travel with the current north on the Nile.
- C Oars** The boat has a basket and oar at either end. Once the boat sets sail, you or another trader will stand in the basket and use the oar to steer.
- D On Deck** There is much activity on the boat's deck, as you store more goods and tie up the sheep and goats you plan to barter.
- E River Animals** A pair of ibises and some hippos feed as you load your boat. But you keep your eye on the crocodiles—the most dangerous animals on the Nile.





Activities

- 1. TALK ABOUT IT** What were some of the advantages of being an Egyptian trader? What were some of the disadvantages?
- 2. WRITE ABOUT IT** Imagine you are an Egyptian trader and write a diary entry about a day spent sailing the Nile. You could write about the goods you're planning to trade or about the animals you see during your trip.