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Facts to Know

Nile River	main river of Egypt
Upper Egypt	southern part of Egypt
Lower Egypt	northern part of Egypt
Mediterranean Sea	body of water that borders Egypt to the north
Red Sea	body of water that borders Egypt to the east
the Delta	triangle-shaped piece of land where Nile becomes many streams flowing into the Mediterranean

“Egypt was the gift of the Nile.” – ancient Greek Historian

Vocabulary

1. fertile	able to produce great amounts of vegetation
2. inundation	flood
3. embankment	a wall of land or stone used to prevent flooding
4. cataracts	large waterfalls
5. kam	Egyptian name for land; used to describe their dark-colored soil
6. mouth	the place where a river enters a sea
7. irrigate	to supply water to land for vegetation or crops

Comprehension Questions

1. Describe the physical landscape (topography) of Egypt and give its main features.

The land of Egypt is long and narrow. The Nile River runs through it with mountains on both sides. The Nile is 3,000 miles long, and in Egypt, vegetation only grows in the short distance between the banks of the river and the mountains. Egypt is bordered by the Mediterranean Sea to the north and the Red Sea to the east. It has a delta where the Nile empties into the Mediterranean.

2. How is the land of Egypt watered so that crops can be grown?

There is very little rain in Egypt so the land is watered through the snow that melts and runs down into the Nile. The Nile floods its banks and covers the land with mud. When the river recedes, the land is fertile for crops to be grown.

3. What is the climate of Egypt like?

Egypt has hot summer days and cool nights. The air is pure and dry with little humidity.

4. How did the Delta get its name?

The Delta received its name from the Greeks who saw in it the shape of their capital letter "D," which is made in the form of a triangle.

5. How did the shape of the land influence the government and communication in Egypt?

The long and narrow shape of Egypt made communication difficult. Therefore, small city-states developed to govern themselves. As people learned how to irrigate, people joined together to form a more organized government.

Activities

1. Locate on the map:

<i>Cities</i>	<i>Bodies of Water</i>	<i>Areas of Egypt</i>
Memphis	Mediterranean Sea	Nile Delta
Cairo	Nile River	Lower Egypt
	Red Sea	Upper Egypt
2. Give the meaning of the quote: "Egypt was the gift of the Nile."