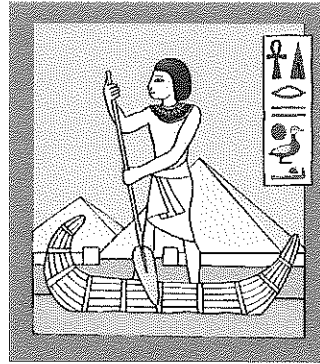


ANCIENT EGYPT

Early History & Geography

Ancient Egypt began in 3100 BCE when King Menes united the kingdoms of Upper and Lower Egypt. The landscape of Egypt helped shape how the empire developed:

- isolated and protected by deserts on each side
- the Nile River used as transportation and for farming (flooding and irrigation)



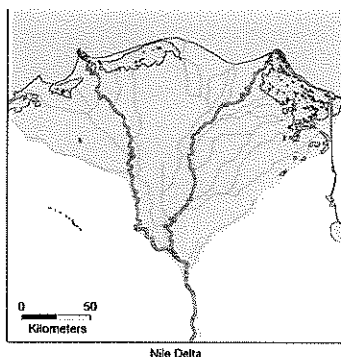
The Nile River:

The waters of the Nile River come from the convergence of the White Nile and the Blue Nile. The Blue Nile, fed by the monsoons in Ethiopia, lead to the flooding of the Nile. This usually happens in July and October and the receding waters leave behind rich alluvial soil which makes the Nile River Valley a fertile and productive region. Unlike the Euphrates and Tigris rivers which flooded and was violent, the Nile was fairly predictable and stable so the Egyptians could plan for planting and harvesting crops.

The Nile Delta and the Faiyum:

There were two other regions in Egypt that were extensively cultivated and settled. The area in which the Nile empties into the Mediterranean Sea is known as the **Nile Delta**. It is the largest area of fertile land in Egypt and was home to some of the major centers in Ancient Egyptian history. The second region, was called Faiyum. Lake Moeris, which lies at the end of a branch of the Nile, is at the center of the oasis known as the **Faiyum**. This was the third largest area of settlement in Egypt.

Nile Delta



Egypt Faiyum



The Deserts of Egypt:

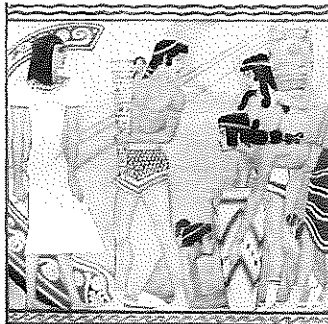
Egypt is sandwiched between two inhospitable deserts:

- 1) The Western Desert
- 2) The Eastern Desert

The deserts acted as a natural barrier from invaders. The significance of the deserts went beyond their acting as a buffer against outside influences. They were also important sources of minerals and building supplies, including copper, gold, tin, alabaster, limestone, amethyst, and natron, the drying agent used in the mummification process.

The Mediterranean Sea:

Another geographic feature that significantly shaped Egyptian history was the Mediterranean Sea. This was Egypt's major outlet for trade and extensive trade routes were established especially with the Greeks, Minoans and the Mycenaeans.



THE RISE OF THE NATION OF EGYPT

With the Unification of Egypt under King Menes in 3100 BCE, the history of Egypt begins. Egyptian history is generally divided into three eras, each characterized by its own accomplishments.

THE OLD KINGDOM:

- 2686 BCE- 2150 BCE
- The age of the Pyramids

THE MIDDLE KINGDOM:

- 2050 BCE- 1700 BCE
- Time of political and economic expansion

THE NEW KINGDOM:

- 1550 BCE- 1070 BCE
- the Golden Age of Egypt
- Last Pharaoh of Egypt: Cleopatra



MAP OF EGYPT

Insert in each square the numbers corresponding to the following places.

1. Syria 2. Nubia 3. Memphis 4. Crete 5. Byblos 6. Thebes 7. Libya
8. Palestine 9. Amarna 10. Red Sea 11. Nile River 12. Euphrates River

