

River Nile

The River Nile is the longest river in the world at around 6670km (4160 miles) in length. The ancient Egyptians lived and farmed along the Nile because it created a fertile valley across what is otherwise desert. They were able to grow crops in the fertile soil at the banks of the river.

In the Value box, write down why each of these uses of the River Nile was important. An example has been provided for you. Then compare how important each aspect was in ancient Egypt, with how important it is in Egypt now. For example, is the Nile still the main way Egyptian people get around or are they more likely to use other methods of transport? You might need to use the Internet or project books about Egypt to help you find all the information you will need to fill in the table.

Function	Value	Then	Now
Water Source			
Inundation (flood)			
Communication			
Transport	<i>The Nile was a natural highway for transporting goods, by boat and raft and that most of the major cities were located on the banks of the Nile.</i>	<i>Egyptians used this rather than roads as their main form of transport.</i>	
Natural Barrier			
Food Source			

River Nile Answers

Function	Value	Then	Now
Water Source	The Nile originates from Lake Victoria in Uganda.	The source of the Nile is the same today as it was in ancient Egypt.	The source of the Nile is the same today as it was in ancient Egypt.
Inundation (flood)	The Nile used to flood once every year between June and September.	The Egyptians called the inundation season 'Akhet'. The floods would destroy crops and wildlife and cause famines in Egypt.	The Aswan Dam, which was built in the 1960s, prevents the Nile from flooding. It is 111 metres tall and 3830 metres long.
Communication	As well as transporting goods, the Nile was also used to send communications between cities and regions along the Nile.	<p>The Nile was how the ancient Egyptians sent communications between different regions of its kingdom.</p> <p>The ancient Egyptians used hieroglyphs to tell stories about the fish in the Nile River.</p>	Communication is obviously much more advanced today and the Nile is no longer used as a way to communicate. Egyptians will use phones and emails like the rest of the world.

River Nile Answers

<p>Transport</p>	<p><i>The Nile was a natural highway for transporting goods, by boat and raft and that most of the major cities were located on the banks of the Nile.</i></p>	<p><i>Egyptians used this rather than roads as their main form of transport.</i></p>	<p>The Nile is still a major transportation route today and is used by cruise ships, barges and large vessels, all of which transport people and goods.</p>
<p>Natural Barrier</p>	<p>There are deserts to the east and west of the Nile, mountains to the south and the Mediterranean Sea to the north.</p>	<p>The ancient Egyptians were protected from surrounding areas by the natural barriers and this allowed them to develop a unique and distinctive culture.</p>	<p>The natural barriers are the same today as they were in ancient Egyptian times however the way in which they are used will have changed.</p>
<p>Food Source</p>	<p>The Nile is used to provide food for Egyptians and the main food source is fish.</p>	<p>Egyptians would live as close to the Nile as possible as it was their main water source. They would catch fish with spears and nets and birds which flew along the Nile with their nets. The rich soil also helped them to grow crops and food.</p>	<p>The Nile is still a vital water-source for Egypt and is used to irrigate the surrounding area which is then used to grow crops and food.</p>