

The Gift of the Nile: Part 1: Analyzing Documents

and Primary Sources

What role did Geography play in the everyday life of Ancient Egyptians?

Today in class, you will have the opportunity to look at different primary sources and documents on Ancient Egypt and analyze them. By analyzing these sources, you will come up with questions that will guide your research towards answering the focus question: What role did geography play in the everyday life of Ancient Egyptians?

Follow these steps in order to make sure you hand in the correct assignments to our Global 9 edmodo page.

Steps:

1. Log onto edmodo.com and on the home page, [Egypt Assignment #1](#). Type your response to the in the designated box to submit for a grade (3 points = 100%, 2 points = 67%, 1 point = 33%, 0 points= 0%).
 - a. -To me, it means the Nile allowed Egypt to exist in that area and allowed the people to survive there.
-That Egypt is the absolute gift of the Nile River. It is the best the Nile River has to offer because the Nile provides fertile soil to grow crops and water for crops. It also provided a way of transportation.
-What encouraged the author to write this and why? What about the Nile River caused him to see Egypt as the gift of the Nile?
2. Next as a class we will analyze our first document together. Click [here](#) to find a map of ancient Egypt. This is not a primary source but a map to get us thinking about how geography was important to Ancient Egyptians everyday life.
3. Now, on your own, explore this [map](#) and explain what the three different interactive features are on the map (Hint: click on the palm tree, red dot, and blue dot). Type your response in Egypt Assignment #2 on edmodo.
 - a. Three different geographic features in Ancient Egypt are the Desert, the Delta, and the Fertile Land. The desert was a barren place full of sand dunes, mountains, and cliffs. The desert was a dangerous place and therefore acted as a natural barrier between ancient Egypt and invading foreign armies. The Delta was where right before the Mediterranean sea, the Nile separated into several small branches, creating the marshy land know as the Delta.The Fertile Land was a narrow strip of fertile land suitable for growing crops. It was fertilized by the silt deposited by the receding flood waters every year.
4. Click on [Photograph #1](#) and answering the following questions in the space below (they do not have to be in complete sentences, you can respond in note or bullet format)

- a. OBSERVE: What do you see? What do you notice first? What people and objects are shown? What is the physical setting? What, if any words do you see? What other details can you see?
 - I see The Great Sphinx.
 - The first thing I notice is that it is the head of human on an animal
 - The objects in this picture are statue that has the head of a human and the body of a lion
 - Other details I see is that the statue appears to have been weathered and worn away over the years
 - b. REFLECT: Why do you think the photo was taken? What can you learn from the photograph? How does this photograph relate to your notes or the Geography of Ancient Egypt? What is missing from this photo?
 - To show one of the many historic structures of Ancient Egypt. Also, it's an unusual figure and something you don't see every day.
 - I can learn a lot about the Art and Architecture of Ancient Egypt.
 - The geography setting looks like it was out in the desert.
 - The Great Pyramid
 - c. QUESTION: What do you wonder about...who, what, where, when, why, how? Have at least 3 questions for this part
 - What did they use to build it?
 - How did they built it?
 - How long did it take to build?
 - Why did they build it
 - d. INVESTIGATE: What more do you want to know, and how can you find out?
 - How and where they got the materials from? I could find out by doing more research online.
5. Click on [Photograph #2](#) and answering the following questions in the space below (they do not have to be in complete sentences, you can respond in note or bullet format). (Note: Cameras were not invented in Ancient Egypt, however this is an actual picture of the geographic location and actual pyramids of Ancient Egypt therefore a primary source of the pyramids)
- a. OBSERVE: What do you see? What do you notice first? What people and objects are shown? What is the physical setting? What, if any words do you see? What other details can you see?
 - I see what looks like the Nile River with the Pyramids in the background.
 - The first thing I notice is the Pyramids in the background.
 - I see people on the banks of the Nile River (Black Land). I also see the Pyramids in the background.
 - The physical setting is near the Nile River. (Black Land)
 - I see the words on the bottom of the photograph that say "Distant View of the Pyramids with the Nile."
 - I see what appears to be some other structure in front of the pyramids, right off the banks off the Nile.
 - b. REFLECT: Why do you think the photo was taken? What can you learn from the photograph? How does this photograph relate to your notes or the Geography of Ancient Egypt? What is missing from this photo?
 - To show what the Nile River and what the banks of the Nile River look like. And what the Great Pyramids were like.
 - I can see where the black land actually was and what it looked like around the Nile River.
 - It shows the black land.
 - The Great Sphinx.
 - c. QUESTION: What do you wonder about...who, what, where, when, why, how? Have at least 3 questions for this part

- Did they plant the crops right after the flood?
- When did the river flow?
- How did they travel up the Nile, against the current?

d. INVESTIGATE: What more do you want to know, and how can you find out?

-Where was this specific picture taken? I could look on the website to see if it has any more details about this photo.

6. Click on [Photograph #3](#) and answering the following questions in the space below (they do not have to be in complete sentences, you can respond in note or bullet format) (Hint: In the lower right hand corner of the computer screen, you may need to set the zoom to 200% or 400% in order to get a better view of the picture, use the information given about the picture to help you analyze it)

a. OBSERVE: What do you see? What do you notice first? What people and objects are shown? What is the physical setting? What, if any words do you see? What other details can you see? (Notice: When I zoom in, I still can't really see it that well, so I answered it the best I could)

-I see what appears to be an Egyptian hunting.

-What I notice first is the Egyptian holding something in his hand.

-The physical setting appears to be near the Nile.

-I see what appears to be words at the bottom, but I can't make them out.

-I see what appears to be another Egyptian behind the man.

b. REFLECT: Why do you think the photo was taken? What can you learn from the photograph? How does this photograph relate to your notes or the Geography of Ancient Egypt? What is missing from this photo?

-The picture was created to show what Egyptian life was like.

-I can learn what Egyptian life was like.

-It shows how Egyptians used boats to travel on the Nile.

-The resolution is too low to be able to know.

c. QUESTION: What do you wonder about...who, what, where, when, why, how? Have at least 3 questions for this part.

-When was it created?

-What was it created with?

-Who created it?

d. INVESTIGATE: What more do you want to know, and how can you find out?

Were there other pieces like this created? I could look up Egyptian art online.

7. At the beginning of class tomorrow, we will discuss these documents and your responses. Please save this file and hand in as an attachment under Egypt Assignment #3.

a. To save the word document click file -> save as -> click on documents -> save as "Gift of the Nile part 1"

b. Go to edmodo and click on Egypt Assignment #3. To attach this as a word document click on the icon that looks like a paper and will say "file" when you put the mouse on it. Go to Documents and

select "Gift of the Nile part 1," click open. Next click send. There is no need to type in any response for this one because you are attaching your response as a file.

The Gift of the Nile: Part 2: Student Inquiry and

Research (25 points)

*What role did Geography play in the everyday
life of Ancient Egyptians?*

You have already identified some questions you have on the importance of geography on Ancient Egyptian life from analyzing your primary sources. Now it is time to do some research and discovery on your own!

Because it is your first time researching information on your own in Global 9, I have set up a format to make it easier for you. You will work on your research independently but you will then be responsible as a part of a group for creating a "Gift of the Nile" presentation that explains and answers our focus question:

What role did Geography play in the everyday life of Ancient Egyptians? Through the research that you find.

Steps:

1. Cite the helpful website links and one more source that you find on your own using [easybib](#) (free MLA style). We will do the first two together as a class.

Helpful Website Links

- **Ancient Egypt- [British Museum Website](#)**
- (Trustees of the British Museum)

Works Cited

Trustees of the British Museum. *The British Museum: Ancient Egypt*. 1999. Website. 24 October 2013.

- **Egyptians – [BBC Website](#)**
- (BBC)

Works Cited

BBC. *BBC - History: Egyptians*. 2013. Website. 24 October 2013.

- **Ancient Egypt for Kids- [Gift of the Nile](#)**
- (Martin)

Works Cited

Martin, Phillip. *Ancient Egypt for Kids: Gifts of the Nile*. 2013. Website. 24 10 2013.

- **Life Along the Nile – [Nile River](#)**
(ushistory.org)

Works Cited

ushistory.org. *Life along the Nile*. 2013. Website. 24 October 2013.

- You must find one more source on your own that is NOT Wikipedia

Discovering Ancient Egypt by Mark Millmore

Works Cited

Millmore, Mark. *Discovering Ancient Egypt*. 2013. Website. 24 October 2013.

2. Now you must use these websites to answer your primary source research questions.
 - a. Look for these **Key Research Terms**: red land, black land, flax, silt, pyramids, papyrus, reed, Hapi or Hapy, crops, fishing, and trade and make sure to include them in your presentation.
3. Fill out student checklist to make sure you did all your research correctly.

Research Questions

*Wherever you find your research (from the list above), copy and paste that citation next to the information and question it goes with below- We will do the first question together as an example.

1 . What are **unique features** of Ancient Egypt's Geography? (British Museum)

Generally, the Egyptians thought of Egypt as being divided into types of land. The "black land" was the fertile land on either side of the Nile. The "black land" was used for growing crops. The "red land" was the barren desert that protected Egypt on two sides. It acted as a natural barrier from invaders.

2 . How did ancient Egyptians use and **adapt** to the land around the Nile river? (British Museum)

They used the Nile's floods to their advantage. Every time the Nile flooded, it deposited silt in the soil, which made the soil great for growing crops. The "red land" acted as a natural barrier on either side of Egypt. It helped keep invaders out of Egypt.

3 . What was the **economy** based on? (Discovering Ancient Egypt)

The economy was based mainly on the trading of crop, an agricultural economy. It was also, however, based on the trading of metals, such as gold.

4 . How did geography connect to **religion** in Ancient Egypt? (British Museum)

The Egyptians saw the god and goddesses as the reason why the Nile flooded every year. They believed that the Nile was a gift from the gods.

5 . How did the Nile River provide **food** to Ancient Egyptians? (British Museum)

The Nile's yearly floods deposited silt into the soil every year which made the soil good for growing crops. Without the Nile or it's floods, Egyptian would not have been able to survive.

6. How did geography affect Ancient Egyptian **culture**? (ushistory.org)

Once the Egyptians learned to take advantages of the Nile's floods, and not having to worry about foreign attacks, the Egyptians concentrated on improving farming techniques. They also started thinking about other things, such as art, government, religion, and philosophy. The basics needed to create a civilization.

Student Checklist

 X I cited all my sources properly using easybib (free MLA style).

 X I found my own source and cited it that was not Wikipedia.

 X I researched all the questions and typed in some information for each.

 X I cited all the research I typed in right below the information.

Part 3: Presentation on PowerPoint

Part 4: Essay

Niagara Catholic p. 3

10/31/13

Ancient Egypt Essay

Ancient Egypt was one of the earliest civilizations that came about 5,000 years ago. Egypt had different geographic features that were used in Ancient Egyptian everyday life. The geography of Egypt connected and contributed to Ancient Egypt's economy and religion that helped it become such a successful civilization.

The main geographic feature in Egypt was the Nile River. Without the Nile River, Egypt could have never been a civilization. The Nile provided food from fishing and growing crops and, water for drinking, bathing, irrigation, and transportation to the Egyptians. It flooded annually depositing silt along the river banks. This fertile land called the "black land," was where the Egyptians grew their crops. Papyrus also grew along the river banks which Egyptians turned into paper to write and keep records on. Further away from the Nile was the desert or the "red land." The red land was a natural barrier against enemy invaders.

The geographic features of Ancient Egypt also contributed its economy and religion. The Egyptians were polytheistic which means they believed in many gods. Egyptians believed in the Nile god, Hapi whom they believed controlled the Nile flood every year. The Nile floods allowed the Egyptians to grow crops which was a major part of Egypt's economy. Another important factor of Egypt's economy was trade. Trade was very easy for Ancient Egyptians because they used the Nile as a form of transportation.

The geography of Ancient Egypt was very unique and allowed Egypt to become a very successful civilization. Egypt's geography contributed all aspects of Ancient Egyptians lives such as the Nile River being their source of food, water, and transportation and the desert offering natural protection. Learning to adapt to Egypt's geography shaped their religion and economy as well and will forever be remembered as a great civilization.