

# Summer 2 Week 8 Lesson 2

Can I compare life in Egypt?

# Fast five - Answers are on the next slide.

1. What language is most commonly spoken in Egypt?
2. Why might people live along the banks of the Amazon River?
3. What materials do tribes in the Amazon make their huts out of?
4. What popular city is on the coast of Brazil?
5. Which of these is the Brazilian flag?



# Fast five - Answers

1. What language is most commonly spoken in Egypt? **Arabic**
2. Why might people live along the banks of the Amazon River? **The river provides essential food and water. The land is fertile for crops.**
3. What materials do tribes in the Amazon make their huts out of? **Mud and plants**
4. What is the name of the largest city on the coast of Brazil? **Sao Paulo**
5. Which of these is the Brazilian flag?



# Life along the Nile

The River Nile is the longest river in the world. Whilst most associated with Egypt, the River Nile actually runs through 11 countries. The River Nile has a length of about 6,695 kilometres in length - about 300 kilometres longer than the Amazon river.

The River Nile flows into the Mediterranean Sea.



# Why might people choose to live close to the River Nile?

- Most Egyptians live near the River Nile as it provides water, food, transportation and it has excellent soil for growing crops for food.



# Why was the River Nile so important to ancient Egyptians?

- Ancient Egypt could not have existed without the River Nile. Since rainfall is almost non-existent in Egypt, the floods provided the only source of moisture to sustain crops.
- Every year, heavy summer rain in the Ethiopian highlands, sent a torrent of water that overflowed the banks of the Nile. When the floods went down it left thick rich mud (**black** silt) which was excellent soil to plant seeds in after it had been ploughed.
- The ancient Egyptians could only grow crops in the mud left behind when the Nile flooded, so they had fields all along the River Nile.

# Why was the River Nile so important to Ancient Egyptians?

- Reeds, called papyrus, grew alongside the Nile. The Egyptians made paper and boats from the reeds.
- The Nile also gave the ancient Egyptians food. They used spears and nets to catch fish. They would also use the nets to catch birds that flew close to the surface of the water.
- Another way the Nile helped the ancient Egyptians was in trade. The Nile was the quickest and easiest way to travel from place to place.

# Why might people choose to live near the River Nile now?

- The Nile no longer floods each year because in 1970 the Aswan High Dam was built. This huge dam controls the flow of the river to generate electricity, irrigate (water) farms and provide homes with drinking water.
- The river remains an invaluable source of life for Egyptians to this day. More than 95% of the country's population depend on its water and live within a few miles of the river banks.
- People who live there need it for everyday use like washing, as a water supply, keeping crops watered and other jobs.



It's not just important for humans – the river and its banks are home to lots of wonderful wildlife, too – including different kinds of fish and birds, as well as turtles, snakes, hippos and one of our planet's largest reptiles... the **Nile crocodile!**



# Life in the desert

Further away from the River Nile, there are dry, sandy deserts. More than 90% of Egypt consists of desert.

The two main deserts are:

- The Libyan Desert (also known as the Western Desert) in the west, a part of the Sahara desert
- The Arabian Desert (also called the Eastern Desert), which borders the Red Sea and the Gulf of Suez, in the east



# Life in the desert

The **Bedouin** or **Bedu** are a grouping of nomadic Arab people who have historically inhabited the desert regions. In Egypt, they mostly reside in the suburbs of the country's capital city, Cairo. Tribes and nomads in Egypt struggle because they have no land rights. They have lost control of much of their land as it was sold by the Egyptian government to hotel operators.



# Life in the desert

Life in this hot desert clusters around its oases, where water from deep underground emerges as springs at the surface. In these green pockets of the Sahara you'll find towns full of activity and agriculture.

Siwa's olive oil is exported from Egypt to markets all over Europe. Today, the oasis is home to more than 20,000 people – not bad when you consider the average rainfall received here in a whole year is only 10mm (1cm)!



# Life in the desert

Remote villages in Egypt look the same as they might have done hundreds, if not thousands, of years ago. Ox-drawn carts ferry water from stone wells and take crops and other produce to markets.



# Life in Cairo

In the cities it is very different. There are lots of busy roads full of noisy cars, buses and taxis. New buildings, subway stations, minarets and tall apartment blocks line each street.



**Activity: Create a leaflet explaining what life in Egypt is like. Remember to include both along the River Nile and the desert!**

**Red** - Use the information sentences to help you create your leaflet.

**Yellow** - Use the prompt questions to help you create your leaflet.

**Green** - Create a leaflet from the information you've learnt in this lesson.