

The Nile River: Basis for a Civilization

- ❖ The Valley of the Nile became the centre of one of the world's greatest civilizations.
- ❖ Early Egyptians settled along the Nile River more than 5000 years ago. They lived in small villages. These small villages eventually united and formed Upper and Lower Egypt.
- ❖ The delta area, which empties into the Mediterranean Sea, was known as Lower Egypt. The southern part of Egypt was known as Upper Egypt.
- ❖ Egypt was called the "gift of the Nile" because their civilization depended on the Nile River for survival. The Nile River travels for 1850 km from the high lands of central Africa to the Nile Delta before emptying into the Mediterranean Sea.
- ❖ Heavy rains and melting snow in the mountains send flood waters down the Blue and White Nile into the Nile River. Along the way the water tumbles through six waterfalls known as cataracts. The water moves with such force that it eventually floods its banks as it enters the Nile Delta. The flooding is known as "the inundation."

- ❖ The Nile floods its banks each year, leaving behind a rich, fertile soil called silt. This rich, black soil turns the desert along the river into land suitable for farming specific crops. (ie. corn and grains.)
- ❖ The Nile Valley was called the Black Land because of its black soil. The deserts were called the Red Land, as the soil was very dry.
- ❖ Fruits that Egyptians grew were grapes, dates, pomegranates and figs. Vegetables were onions, leeks, peas, spinach, carrots and lettuce.

Season of the Nile

- ❖ *Akhet*: Flooding period. From June to September the land along the Nile is covered in water. Farmers would work on other jobs as artisans.
- ❖ *Peret*: Sewing Season (growing season). Lasted from October through to February. Farmers would plant crops and use animals to flatten down seeds into the soil.
- ❖ *Shemu*: Harvest season. Lasted from March to June. Large animals stepped on the grain to separate it from its husks.
- ❖ ***The Nile River provided Egyptians water for drinking and washing, a source of irrigation for their crops, a source of food, and a source of transportation.***