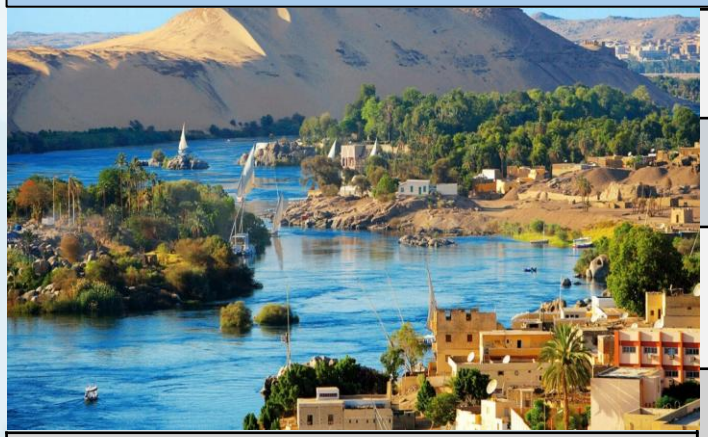
Why was the River Nile so important to Ancient Egypt?

Key knowledge



The River Nile is the longest river in Africa and made life in Ancient Egypt possible

- The River Nile was vital for water, food, farming and transport.
- Ancient Egyptians used irrigation to bring water from the Nile to their crops.
- Settlements were built along the Nile because the soil was fertile for growing food.
- Pharaohs ruled Egypt and made important decisions for the civilisation.
- The Nile's yearly flooding left behind fertile silt that helped agriculture thrive.

Geography Skills:

- To explore digital mapping applications such as Google Maps and OS online
- To know and confidently use the four points of a compass
- Study maps to make assumptions about the physical geography in different locations.
- Recognise some of the human and physical geographical similarities and differences of contrasting regions in the UK.

Key vocabulary

River Nile- The River Nile is the long river that Ancient Egyptians depended on because it provided water, food, transport and rich soil for farming.

Pharaoh- A pharaoh was the powerful leader of Ancient Egypt who made laws, organised the land and was believed to be chosen by the gods.

Irrigation- Irrigation is the way Egyptians moved water from the Nile to their fields using channels and ditches so their crops could grow in the hot desert.

Civilisation- A civilisation is a group of people living together in an organised way, with homes, jobs, beliefs, farming and rules that help their society run.

Floodplain- A floodplain is flat land beside a river that floods each year; when the water goes down, it leaves behind fertile soil that is perfect for farming.

Agriculture - Agriculture means farming the land (planting, growing and harvesting crops) which was essential for feeding the people of Ancient Egypt.

Historical Skills

- Compare and contrast using questions like "What's the same?" and "What's different?".
- Identify reasons for and the result of people's actions.
- Communicate understanding through drawings and pictures.