The River Nile

1. The River Nile is in Egypt.
2. Where the river Nile starts is not certain. Some people think that it originates in Burundi.

1. A system of canals that led from the Nile were also used to water fields in other areas. This is called irrigation.

1. The people of ancient Egypt depended on the Nile to survive.
2. The Nile is approximately 4132 miles long.
3. The River Nile is the longest river in the world.
4. The River Nile runs through Egypt. Most people live along and around the River Nile. This is because it is green and crops can be grown in the areas around the Nile whilst the rest of Egypt is desert.
5. The river starts in the country of Burundi and runs through Ethiopia, Uganda, Sudan and touches a few more before it reaches Egypt, where it flows into the Mediterranean Sea.
6. Since ancient Egyptian times, crocodiles have lived in the water, most measuring in at 4 metres long.
7. The water in the Nile comes from the White Nile and the Blue Nile.

Flooding

1. The River Nile would flood every year and leave behind a rich, black silt that fertilised the soil.

This was essential for growing food for everyone.

1. When the River Nile flooded, the farmers would lift the water from the canals using a tool called a shaduf (or shadoof).
2. A shaduf is a large pole balanced on a beam. At one end of the pole was a heavy weight and on the other end was a bucket.

3. The Shaduf (shadoof)

The ancient Egyptian farmer would pull the bucket down into the water, then the weight would pull the filled bucket back out again. He would then swing the bucket round and empty the bucket onto his crops.

Crops, Food and Building

1. Mud from around the River Nile would be used to make bricks for building.
2. The papyrus plants around the river were used to make papyrus which was the paper of the ancient Egyptians.
3. The ancient Egyptians also used these reeds to build the boats that they would use to transport people, goods and materials up and down the river.
4. Nile was the reason that the first farmers settled there around 5000BC.
5. Flax was grown for making linen to make clothes.
6. The Nile was also important for fishing. This was done in boats with nets.
7. The ancient Egyptians would also use the river to catch fish with spears and nets as well as catch birds that came to the water.
8. The Egyptians grew wheat and barley as well as fruits and vegetables like melons, figs, peas, garlic, lettuce and cucumbers.
9. It was very important to pay thanks to a God for their gifts so people would pay tribute to the God Hapi for bringing the flood to the land to allow them to grow their crops.
10. A lot of farmers would keep an amulet of Hapi or a statue as a sign of respect.

Transport and Trade

1. There was no such thing as money in ancient Egypt so people would trade by swapping things like pottery, food, jewellery and art etc.
2. Boats were used to travel up and down the Nile to trade throughout the country.

Egyptian Calendar

1. The Egyptian year was based on the happenings of the River Nile. It had 3 seasons, each one lasting 4 months:
2. AHKET - July – October, this was flooding season
3. PERET – November – February, the fields were planted in this season
4. SHEMU – March – June, the crops were harvested.
5. The River Nile runs through 11 different countries (or borders).
6. The mouth of the Nile is in Egypt, where it flows into the Mediterranean Sea.
7. The land nearest to the Nile was known as the Black Land (this name was given due to the black silt that was produced when the river flooded.