

# Egypt

## Geography

Egypt is located in the northeast region of Africa. The

Egyptian civilization developed about the same time as the

Mesopotamians and had a similar climate- dry with

very little rain. This area is often called the Gift of the Nile

because it is an oasis in the middle of the desert. The Nile River

was the life line of the people, providing them with water,

food and transportation. The Nile is the longest

river in the world and flows in a northern direction. The river is

shaped like a lotus flower with a blossom at the end. It splits

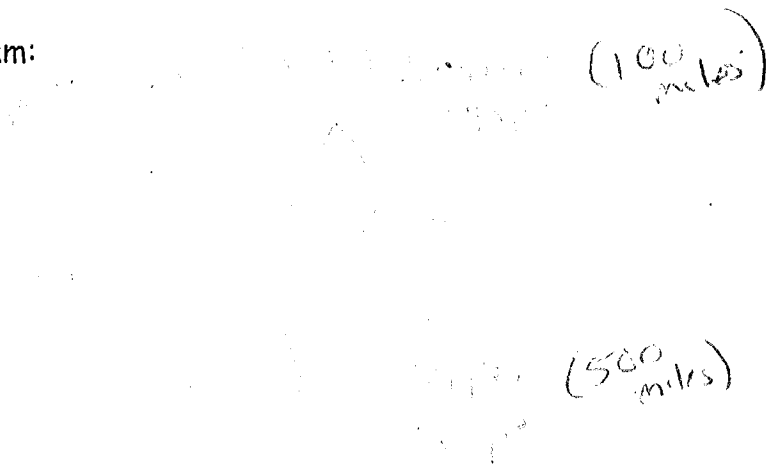
into several streams that empty into the Mediterranean Sea.

This area is called the delta. The land here was very

fertile and as a result, most of the population

lived in the delta region of Lower Egypt.

Diagram:



Every spring the Nile would flood leaving behind

rich dark soil called silt. The dark soil was ideal for

farming and the Egyptians praised the gods for

providing the annual flood. The Egyptians called this land the

Black Land and the surrounding desert the

Red Land. The Egyptians had the

advantage over the Mesopotamians because they knew when the

river would flood and they could plan accordingly. They worked

together and used irrigation techniques to control the Nile. Life

revolved around the Nile flood. There were three

seasons, the flood season, the ~~planting~~ planting season and the

harvest season. Since farmers could not farm during the

flood season, they would build monuments and temples for the

pharaoh. The farmers worked together on the farms and

shared the workload. Since they used cooperation and knew when

the Nile would flood, they could farm easier so their

cities developed faster and more elaborate than other ancient

civilizations.