

Nile Connections

Trace how a river shapes life in present-day Egypt.

6.1c "The physical environment influences human population distribution, land use, economic activities, and political connections."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details about the physical environment, then circle words that show an effect on settlement, land use, economic activity, or political connections.

A River Shapes Egypt

- ① Across northeastern Africa, the Nile River cuts through a dry desert landscape. Most of Egypt's people live close to the river or in the Nile Delta, where fresh water and fertile soil are available. Farther from the river, little rain falls, and large areas of desert have few permanent settlements. Farmers use river water to irrigate fields, growing crops such as wheat, rice, and vegetables. This concentrated land use shows how water can shape where people live and work.
- ② The river also supports economic activity beyond farming. Boats carry people and goods between river communities, and ports near the Mediterranean connect Egypt with trade routes to other countries. The Suez Canal, built across Egypt's narrow land bridge, links the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea. Ships using the canal can travel between Europe and Asia without sailing around Africa. Because this waterway is important for global trade, Egypt's location affects its political relationships with many nations.
- ③ People have modified the Nile environment as well. The Aswan High Dam stores water in Lake Nasser and helps provide irrigation water and hydroelectric power. The dam also reduces the danger of some floods downstream. However, it traps much of the silt that once spread onto fields during floods. Farmers may need fertilizers to replace nutrients, and the delta receives less new sediment. This example shows that people can change a physical environment, but their changes can create new choices and problems.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Why do most people in Egypt live close to the Nile River or in the Nile Delta?

2 How does the Nile affect land use in Egypt?

3 How does the Suez Canal create economic activity and political connections for Egypt?

4 Give one benefit and one challenge caused by the Aswan High Dam.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a present-day place in the Eastern Hemisphere other than Egypt or the Nile. Write three sentences explaining how one physical feature influences where people live, land use or economic activity, and a political connection.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details about the physical environment, then circle words that show an effect on settlement, land use, economic activity, or political connections. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why do most people in Egypt live close to the Nile River or in the Nile Delta?	Fresh water and fertile soil are available there.
2	How does the Nile affect land use in Egypt?	Farmers irrigate fields with river water and grow crops, including wheat, rice, and vegetables.
3	How does the Suez Canal create economic activity and political connections for Egypt?	It links the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea, allowing ships to travel between Europe and Asia without going around Africa. Its importance to global trade affects Egypt's relationships with many nations.
4	Give one benefit and one challenge caused by the Aswan High Dam.	Benefits include stored irrigation water, hydroelectric power, or reduced flood danger. A challenge is that the dam traps silt, so fields receive fewer nutrients and farmers may need fertilizer.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Singapore lies on a small island beside the Strait of Malacca, so land is limited and the city is densely settled. Much land is used for housing, industry, and port facilities, while food is imported. Its busy port connects Singapore politically and economically with countries that use the route.

Accept accurately supported responses that identify a physical feature and clearly explain its effects on people. For the open task, accept different Eastern Hemisphere locations if all three required effects are plausible and specific.