River of Change

How the Nile shaped choices in Egypt

6.P.2.3.C "Explain how the environment affects cultural patterns and historical events, providing opportunities and challenges for human development."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two ways the Nile affected people, and circle two choices people made in response. Draw an arrow from one underlined cause to a circled choice.

Living With the Nile

1 For thousands of years, the Nile River shaped life in Egypt. Each summer, rain far to the south sent water down the river. Before modern dams, the Nile often spilled over its banks. As the water pulled back, it left dark, rich soil. Farmers planted wheat and other crops in this soil. They planned their work around the flood season, waiting for the water to fall before planting. Many communities grew near the river because its water and soil made farming possible in a dry land.

2 The river could also bring trouble. If a flood was too low, fields might not get enough water. If it was too high, it could damage homes and crops. People dug canals to carry water to fields, but canals could not control every flood. In the twentieth century, Egypt's leaders chose a much larger response. Workers began building the Aswan High Dam in 1960, and it was completed in 1970. The dam held back river water so it could be released more steadily, and it produced electricity.

3 Behind the dam, a huge lake called Lake Nasser formed. Its water helped farms during dry times, but the rising lake covered many Nubian villages in southern Egypt. Thousands of Nubians had to move to new homes. Families worked to keep their language and traditions alive after leaving places where earlier generations had lived. The rising water also threatened the ancient temples at Abu Simbel. In the 1960s, workers cut the temples into large pieces and rebuilt them on higher ground. One plan to manage the river changed both daily life and historic places.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the Nile's yearly flood shape when farmers planted crops?

2. Why did people need a larger response to the river than canals alone?

3. How did the dam create both an opportunity and a challenge for people?

4. How did the new lake affect a historic place, and what did people do about it?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a town beside the ocean. In four sentences, explain how the ocean creates an opportunity and a challenge, describe one local tradition it shapes, and tell how the town responds to the challenge.

ANSWER KEY # River of Change

GRADE 6 · 6.P.2.3.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two ways the Nile affected people, and circle two choices people made in response. Draw an arrow from one underlined cause to a circled choice. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Nile's yearly flood shape when farmers planted crops?	**Farmers waited for the floodwater to fall, then planted crops in the rich soil it left behind.**
2	Why did people need a larger response to the river than canals alone?	**Canals carried water to fields, but they could not control every flood. Low floods could leave fields dry, while high floods could damage homes and crops.**
3	How did the dam create both an opportunity and a challenge for people?	**The dam stored water that helped farms during dry times and produced electricity. The lake behind it covered Nubian villages, forcing thousands of people to move.**
4	How did the new lake affect a historic place, and what did people do about it?	**The rising lake threatened the temples at Abu Simbel, so workers moved them in pieces and rebuilt them on higher ground.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In an imagined coastal town, rich fishing waters provide food and work. Families hold a fish market every Saturday, which becomes a local tradition. Strong storms sometimes flood low streets and damage boats. The town builds a shared boat shed on higher ground, protecting boats and helping the market continue after storms.

Accept other passage-based cause-and-effect explanations for the short answers. For Part 3, look for four sentences that connect an ocean opportunity and challenge to a tradition and a reasonable response.