Where the Nile Leads

Use geographic evidence to connect land, water, and human activity.

6.P.2.3 "Demonstrate a mastery of geographic concepts and the use of geographic tools to understand the impact of geography on the past and present. Answer geographic questions and conduct investigations by acquiring, organizing..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two ways the Nile helped people and circle two challenges created by the land or water. Number the valley, delta, and desert in the passage in the order you would investigate them while traveling north along the Nile, using the table to check their locations.

Life Along the Nile

1 The Nile River flows north through Egypt toward the Mediterranean Sea. In southern Egypt, its valley is a narrow strip of green land between dry deserts. Farther north, the river spreads into branches across a broad delta. A place's position along the river changes how people can farm, travel, and build communities.

2 For thousands of years, Nile floods left wet, rich soil beside the river. Ancient farmers grew crops on that land, but high floods could damage homes and fields. The deserts limited farming away from the water and made long trips harder. The table compares how people used three connected regions in the past and today.

LAND AND HUMAN ACTIVITY IN EGYPT

Region	Physical feature	Ancient use	Use today
Nile valley, southern Egypt	Narrow strip of fertile land	Farms beside the river	Farms watered by canals
Nile delta, northern Egypt	Flat land with river branches	Farms and river travel	Farms and cities
Western desert, west of the Nile	Dry land with scattered oases	Difficult land to cross	Roads connect some oases

3 Today, the Aswan High Dam helps control the river's flow, and canals bring water to fields. This makes farming less dependent on yearly floods, but farmers still need river water. Roads cross parts of the western desert, while cities and farms fill much of the delta. Land and water still guide where people live and travel.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why were ancient farms more common in the Nile valley than in the western desert? Use evidence from the passage and table.

2. How does the river's setting change from southern Egypt to northern Egypt? Explain one way the northern setting affects human activity.

3. How has controlling the Nile's flow changed one challenge for farmers? What need remains?

4. Which region would you investigate to learn how routes across dry land changed from ancient times to today? Support your choice with evidence.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a new town where a river runs between steep hills, then enters a flat plain. In four sentences, choose a place for the town, explain one opportunity and one challenge created by the land or water, and name one kind of geographic information you would collect to test your choice.

ANSWER KEY

Where the Nile Leads

GRADE 6 · 6.P.2.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two ways the Nile helped people and circle two challenges created by the land or water. Number the valley, delta, and desert in the passage in the order you would investigate them while traveling north along the Nile, using the table to check their locations. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why were ancient farms more common in the Nile valley than in the western desert? Use evidence from the passage and table.	**Floods left wet, rich soil beside the Nile, while the western desert was too dry for much farming.**
2	How does the river's setting change from southern Egypt to northern Egypt? Explain one way the northern setting affects human activity.	**The river runs through a narrow valley in the south and spreads into branches across a broad, flat delta in the north. The delta supports farms and cities today.**
3	How has controlling the Nile's flow changed one challenge for farmers? What need remains?	**The Aswan High Dam makes farming less dependent on yearly floods, which could damage fields. Farmers still need river water.**
4	Which region would you investigate to learn how routes across dry land changed from ancient times to today? Support your choice with evidence.	**The western desert. It was difficult to cross in ancient times, but roads now connect some oases.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would place the town at the edge of the flat plain, away from the riverbank. Nearby river water could supply the town. Heavy rain might flood low areas and damage roads. I would compare satellite images taken after storms to check which parts of the plain flood.

Accept other evidence-based comparisons and investigations that match the passage and table. For Part 3, the chosen site, opportunity, challenge, and geographic information should form a reasonable plan.