Following the Nile

Use river direction and coastal landmarks to locate ancient regions.

AWH.C.3.1 "Locate on a historical map of the Mediterranean region, ancient Nubia and Egypt, including Upper and Lower Egypt."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the first mention of each of these three regions: Lower Egypt, Upper Egypt, and Nubia. Underline the location clues you could use to find each one on a historical map.

Reading the Nile Valley

1. To locate ancient lands on a historical map, start with the Mediterranean Sea along the northern coast of Africa. Egypt lies on that coast, at the northeastern corner of Africa. The Nile River runs through Egypt toward the sea, flowing from south to north. Near the coast, the river spreads into several branches across a broad, low triangle of land called the Nile Delta. A map may show the Red Sea to the east of the Nile Valley. These waters and the river are useful landmarks, even when a map shows borders that changed over time.

2. The names Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt can sound backward if you think "upper" must mean north on a page. Ancient Egyptians named them for the river's elevation and flow, not for their position on a map. Upper Egypt lay upstream in the southern Nile Valley, where the land was higher. Lower Egypt lay downstream in the north, around the Nile Delta and the Mediterranean coast. When you trace the Nile from the Mediterranean toward its source, you move through Lower Egypt before Upper Egypt. A north arrow, not the word "upper," tells you which way is north.

3. South of Upper Egypt, follow the Nile into ancient Nubia. Nubia occupied parts of what are now southern Egypt and northern Sudan, so modern country borders do not neatly define it. On many historical maps, look for Nubia along the Nile beyond the southern Egyptian valley, not on the Mediterranean coast. River rapids called cataracts marked stretches of the Nile in this region, but they did not make a single permanent border. A useful north-to-south locator sequence is the Mediterranean coast, Lower Egypt at the delta, Upper Egypt farther upstream, and Nubia still farther south.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Where on a historical map would you look for Egypt in relation to the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea?

2. Where would you locate Lower Egypt in relation to the Mediterranean Sea and Upper Egypt?

3. If you trace the Nile south from its delta, where would you locate Upper Egypt in relation to Lower Egypt and Nubia?

4. Where would you look for Nubia on a historical map, and why would a modern country border be an unreliable guide?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Draw a locator sketch that someone could use to label a historical map of the Mediterranean region. Add a north arrow and label the Mediterranean Sea, the Nile, Egypt, Lower Egypt, Upper Egypt, and Nubia in their correct positions.

Following the Nile

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the first mention of each of these three regions: Lower Egypt, Upper Egypt, and Nubia. Underline the location clues you could use to find each one on a historical map. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Where on a historical map would you look for Egypt in relation to the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea?	**Look on the northeastern coast of Africa, beside the Mediterranean Sea and west of the Red Sea.**
2	Where would you locate Lower Egypt in relation to the Mediterranean Sea and Upper Egypt?	**Lower Egypt is near the Mediterranean Sea, around the Nile Delta, and north of Upper Egypt.**
3	If you trace the Nile south from its delta, where would you locate Upper Egypt in relation to Lower Egypt and Nubia?	**Upper Egypt is south of Lower Egypt and north of Nubia, along the upstream Nile Valley.**
4	Where would you look for Nubia on a historical map, and why would a modern country border be an unreliable guide?	**Look along the Nile south of Upper Egypt. Nubia included land in what is now southern Egypt and northern Sudan, so a modern border does not define the ancient region.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The sketch has a north arrow pointing up. The Mediterranean Sea is at the top, with the Nile Delta and Lower Egypt just below it. Upper Egypt lies farther south along the Nile, and Nubia lies south of Upper Egypt. The Egypt label includes Lower and Upper Egypt. The Nile runs from Nubia through both parts of Egypt to the sea.

Accept simple sketches without precise borders or scale. Check that Lower Egypt is near the Mediterranean, Upper Egypt is farther south along the Nile, and Nubia is south of Upper Egypt.