

River, Desert, Trade

Read how land and water shaped work and trade in ancient Egypt.

3.4.b “connecting the geography of ancient Egypt and its economy;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each geography feature, such as a river or desert, and underline the words that tell how people used it to farm, make goods, move goods, or trade.

Land Shapes Work

- ① Ancient Egypt lay beside the Nile River, but dry deserts bordered much of the land. Each year, the Nile flooded and left rich, dark soil on its banks. Farmers used river water to grow wheat, barley, flax, and vegetables. Because crops grew well near the river, many people built homes and farms there. Towns also formed nearby.
- ② The river was also a highway for Egypt. Boats carried grain, cloth, and other goods between farms, towns, and cities. This travel was easier than crossing hot, sandy desert land. People traded extra crops for items they needed. The Nile helped connect workers who made goods with people who wanted to buy or trade for them.
- ③ Beyond the river valley, deserts had useful resources. Miners found gold, which craftspeople made into jewelry. Workers cut valuable rocks, such as granite, for statues and temple walls. Desert routes were hard to travel, so the Nile was important for moving many heavy goods. Egypt's land gave people different materials to use, make, and trade.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the Nile's yearly flooding help farmers grow crops?

2 How did the Nile help people trade goods?

3 Name one resource from the desert and tell how Egyptians used it.

4 Why did many people build homes and farms near the Nile instead of in the desert?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine that your family lives in ancient Egypt. Write exactly three sentences explaining where your family would live, what work or goods you would make, and how geography would help your family trade.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle each geography feature, such as a river or desert, and underline the words that tell how people used it to farm, make goods, move goods, or trade. 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 flooding help farmers grow crops?	The flood left rich soil on the riverbanks, and farmers used river water to grow crops.
2	How did the Nile help people trade goods?	Boats carried goods such as grain and cloth between farms, towns, and cities.
3	Name one resource from the desert and tell how Egyptians used it.	Gold was made into jewelry, or granite was used for statues and temple walls.
4	Why did many people build homes and farms near the Nile instead of in the desert?	The Nile provided water and rich soil for crops. The desert was dry and hard to cross.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

My family would live near the Nile River. We would grow barley in its rich soil and carry it by boat to a town. The river would give us water and an easy way to trade.

Accept answers that correctly connect a geographic feature to an economic activity, such as farming, making jewelry, moving goods, or trading. In the open response, look for a location, a type of work or goods, and a clear connection between geography and trade.