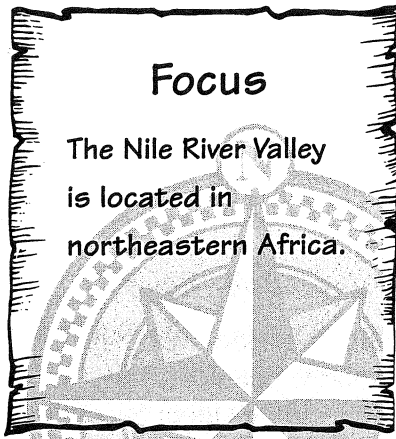


# The Nile River Valley

## Brief #1



Many of the world's first civilizations began along the banks of rivers. Some of the world's first civilizations were the following:

- Babylonia
- Assyria
- Phoenicia
- The Shang Dynasty

Babylon, Assyria, and Phoenicia emerged in the Fertile Crescent, an area between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in the Middle East. And the Shang Dynasty developed in the Huang River Valley in China. The Ancient Egyptian civilization began in the Nile River Valley about five thousand years ago.



### The Nile River

The Nile River is about four thousand miles long. It is considered the longest river in the world. The source or start of the river is in Ethiopia. The mouth or end of the river is the Mediterranean Sea. The Nile flows from south to north. The Nile River has a series of cataracts.

**A cataract is another name for a waterfall.**

The Nile River is located in a part of the world that does not get a lot of rain. Much of the river flows through the Sahara Desert. But a few times every year, the area receives heavy rains. These rains make the Nile overflow. The water rises up over the river banks and floods the surrounding area. After the rains subsided, or let up, the ancient Egyptians would plant seeds and grow crops in the moist, fertile soil.

The ancient Egyptians grew many different kinds of crops in the Nile River Valley. They grew vegetables, wheat and papyrus. **Papyrus is a kind of plant that was used to make paper.**

The ancient Egyptians figured out a way to irrigate their crops. They dug irrigation channels that directed the water from the Nile River to where it was needed.

It is unlikely that any civilization would have existed here if it were not for the Nile River.

### Vocabulary

1. cataract
2. papyrus