

Mapping the Lost Nile

In this article, students will learn about the discovery of a lost branch of the Nile River near the pyramids in Egypt and its significance in understanding ancient Egyptian history.

Grades: 6-8		Subject(s): SS
Focus Standard(s)	D2.His.1.6-8; D2.His.14.6-8 D2.Geo.1.6-8; D2.Geo.4.6-8	
Learning Objective(s)	Students will be able to explain how the ancient Egyptians used the Nile River for construction and transportation. They will also analyze the impact of environmental changes on ancient civilizations.	
Materials/Resources	Mapping the Lost Nile Accompanying worksheet	
Vocabulary	transportation: ways to travel, such as by car, bike, or train; drought: period of time with little or no rain; pharaohs: kings and queens of ancient Egypt; ancient: very old; parallel: side-by-side; proximity: nearness	
Essential Question	How did the Nile River and its lost branch influence the construction and location of ancient Egyptian pyramids?	
Anticipatory Set	Lead a discussion with students using the provided discussion prompts. What do you think it would have been like to live in ancient Egypt near the pyramids and the Nile River? Why do you think the pyramids were built near the Nile River?	
Mini-Lesson	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Begin by explaining the role of rivers in early civilizations (e.g., agriculture, transportation, trade). Highlight how the Nile was essential to ancient Egyptian life. 2. Ask students to think about the following question, "If the Nile River was so important to Ancient Egyptians, why were the pyramids built so far away?" (Invite a few students to share their thoughts.) 	
Guided Practice	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Invite students to take a look at the map of the Nile River in the Slide Show. Point out where the pyramids are (multi-colored dots) in relation to the modern branch of the Nile. 2. Return to the article and read the first paragraph aloud to students. Ask students, "What have experts recently discovered about the surrounding area of the Nile River?" [a branch of the Nile used to run near the pyramids, but it dried up years ago] 3. Pass out the accompanying worksheet. Review the directions with students, ensuring they understand how to use the article to answer questions. 	
Independent Practice	Students may read the article with a partner, small group, or independently, then complete the accompanying worksheet.	
Closure/Assessment	Invite students to reflect on how technology has helped scientists and experts study the past.	
Differentiation	Adjust lexile® levels as needed; answer questions as a whole group; use accessibility features or read-to-me feature as needed; print copies of article	

Name: _____

Date: _____

Article: *Mapping the Lost Nile*

Directions: Read and respond.

1. What did the ancient Egyptians use the Nile River for?

2. What made transportation of people and goods easier for ancient Egyptians?

3. What happened after the Ahramat branch dried up?

4. What does this article tell you about ancient civilizations and the importance of natural resources?

5. Draw a map of Egypt. Include the modern day location of the Nile River, the Ahramat branch, and the pyramids. Include a map key to help explain your drawing.

Article: *Mapping the Lost Nile*

Directions: Read and respond.

1. What did the ancient Egyptians use the Nile River for?

The Nile River was mainly used for transportation of materials and goods, especially those needed to build the great pyramids.

2. What made transportation of people and goods easier for ancient Egyptians?

The Nile River, along with its branches such as the Ahramat branch, made traveling easier for ancient Egyptians.

3. What happened after the Ahramat branch dried up?

After the Ahramat branch dried up, the pyramids were a lot farther away from the Nile River.

4. What does this article tell you about ancient civilizations and the importance of natural resources?

Ancient civilizations, such as in Ancient Egypt, relied on rivers such as the Nile for water and as a means of transporting people and goods.

5. Draw a map of Egypt. Include the modern day location of the Nile River, the Ahramat branch, and the pyramids. Include a map key to help explain your drawing. (See map from Slide Show for reference.)