

The River Nile

Farming

The River Nile provided the water that was needed to make crops grow in a hot and dry country. The Nile flooded every year leaving a thick mud called silt behind that was perfect for growing crops. The ancient Egyptians were also some of the first people to use an irrigation system. Channels were created in the fields and a *shaduf* was used to lift water from the Nile to the channels. Water could then be taken to every part of the field it was needed.



Fishing

Wealthy Egyptians could afford to eat meat and poultry but less well-off people relied on the River Nile for fish to eat. Most fishermen used a papyrus boat. They would either spear the fish with a pole or use a fishing line with a bone or bronze hooks on the end. Another way was to use two boats and drag a net between the two. More fish could be caught this way.

Washing

The River Nile was used for daily chores like laundry and washing. Rich people would employ someone to take their laundry to the river to wash. They would also have slaves to bring water back to their houses. They had bathrooms where river water was poured over them like a shower. Ordinary Egyptians washed their laundry themselves (although it was the men who did the laundry, not the women as you might expect). They also just went into the river to wash themselves.



Leisure

The Nile was not only used for work and chores. Many people used the river for leisure activities. This was more the case for important people who had lots of time to spare. They would go hunting around the Nile or swimming.

Name: _____ Date: _____



Read the information on Fact Sheet B and then answer the questions:

1. What is the name of the mud that covers the fields? _____
2. What do you think a *shaduf* is? _____

3. What were the ancient Egyptians' fishing boats made from? _____

4. What kind of hooks did Egyptian fishermen use? _____

5. Name two ways an Egyptian could catch fish: _____

6. How did richer Egyptians use the river water to wash? _____

7. Why do you think men did the laundry and not women? _____

8. Why do you think only important people had time to enjoy leisure activities on the Nile? _____



Name: _____ Date: _____

River Nile Fact File

How did the River Nile help ancient Egyptian farmers?

How did ancient Egyptians use the River Nile for food?

How was the River Nile used in daily life?



What role did the River Nile play in people's deaths and funerals?

How was the River Nile used for leisure?