



The Nile is the longest river in the world. It flows from south to north through Africa, beginning south of the Equator and ending at the Nile Delta in Egypt.

The Nile begins as two rivers, the Blue Nile and the White Nile. The Blue Nile provides three quarter's of the Nile's water, but the White Nile is much longer.

At its southern end, the Nile is surrounded by grassland and rainforest. This changes as it flows north. In Sudan and Egypt, the Nile runs through a thin strip of vegetation with desert on either side.

The Nile has been used for thousands of years to water the land beside it so that people can grow food and live there. The Ancient Egyptian civilisation grew up in this strip of land.

The Nile provides a home for a wide variety of fish, as well as crocodiles, turtles and snakes including cobras. It has also been used by humans to transport goods for over five thousand years. Boats used their sails when heading south with the wind and their oars when heading north with the current.



1. Where does the Nile start?
2. What would you see if you looked down from a hot-air balloon at the Nile in Sudan or Egypt?
3. Why do you think the Ancient Egyptians built their civilisation beside the Nile?
4. Why might it be unwise to swim in the Nile?
5. If you were in a boat heading towards the Nile Delta, would you use oars or sails? Explain why.