

Nile River



Figure 1: Nile River

Introduction

The Nile is the longest river in the world. It flows through northeastern Africa for about 4,132 miles (6,650 kilometers). The great civilization of ancient Egypt developed on its banks.

The most distant sources of the Nile are rivers that begin in Burundi and Rwanda. Those rivers flow into Lake Victoria. From Lake Victoria the Nile flows through Uganda, South Sudan, and Sudan. For about 500 miles (800 kilometers) in South Sudan and Sudan the river is called the White Nile.

At the city of Khartoum, Sudan, the White Nile is joined by the Blue Nile. Farther north it is joined by the Atbara River. Both the Blue Nile and the Atbara begin in the highlands of Ethiopia. The Nile continues to flow north across the deserts of Sudan and Egypt. North of Cairo, Egypt, the Nile enters the region called the delta. There it splits into two branches that flow into the Mediterranean Sea.

Plants and Animals

Tropical rainforests grow along the southern Nile. They include banana, ebony, rubber, and bamboo trees. Savanna grasslands run along the Blue Nile. The desert north of Khartoum has few plants.

Fish found in the Nile include Nile perch, catfish, eels, lungfish, mudfish, and tiger fish. Nile perch can grow to 300 pounds (140 kilograms). Nile crocodiles, soft-shelled turtles, and snakes are common reptiles.

Economy

Ancient Egyptians who lived along the Nile were among the first people to farm. They used the river to water their crops through methods called irrigation. Today dams store Nile floodwaters for irrigation. They also produce electricity. The most important dam is the Aswan High Dam in Egypt. Crops grown along the Nile include beans, corn, cotton, millet, rice, wheat, and sugarcane. The Nile is also a main waterway for moving people and goods.

Cite (MLF Format)

"Nile River." *Britannica School*, Encyclopædia Britannica, 5 Aug. 2019. school.eb.com/levels/middle/article/Nile-River/346183. Accessed 22 Sep. 2019.

Cite (APA Format)

Nile River. (2019). In *Encyclopædia Britannica*. Retrieved from <https://school.eb.com/levels/middle/article/Nile-River/346183>