

Lesson 4

READ THIS STORY #1, Basic

The Nile River

The Nile River is the longest river in the world. It flows through Africa for more than 4,000 miles.

Without the Nile River, Egypt would be a barren desert. That's why people say "Egypt is a gift of the river."

Every summer, torrential rains in other parts of Africa make the Nile river rise and flood the land. Egyptians developed managerial skills to handle the extra water. They built dikes to protect villages and dug canals and large catch basins.

As floods recede, the river drops a layer of silt onto the land. This rich black material is beneficial because it makes the land more fertile. That's how Egypt has become a rich agricultural country.

But recently, Egypt built one of the largest dams in the world to store and control the distribution of the essential water of the Nile. It no longer floods the land, and it no longer drops a layer of silt onto the farmland. Maybe that's why the crops are not as large as they used to be.