

Egypt

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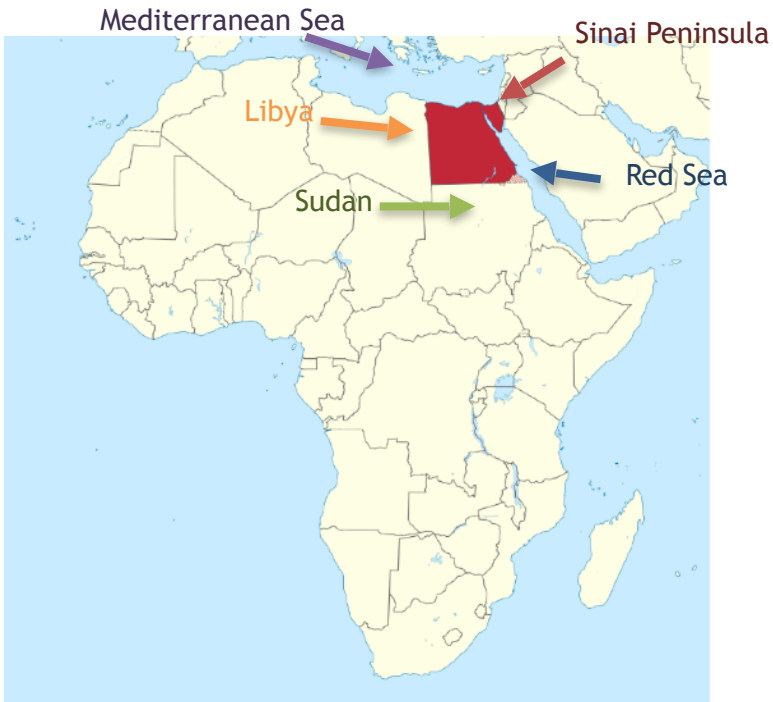
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Geography

Location

Egypt is in the northeast corner of Africa. It is one of fifty-four countries on the continent of Africa. The **Mediterranean Sea** is to the north, Libya is to the west, and Sudan is to the south. The **Red Sea** is to the east. The **Sinai Peninsula** is a part of Egypt and is the only land bridge linking Africa to Asia.



Geography

Features



View of Egypt from a plane

The Nile River, one of the world's longest river, runs through Egypt from the south to the north. The Nile River **Delta** is located on the Mediterranean coast, just before the river empties into the sea. Egypt is within the **Sahara Desert** which covers most of north Africa and is the largest dry desert in the world.

Geography

Climate

There are hot, dry summers and mild winters. The winter months are November through April; the summer months are May through October. There are higher temperatures inland while the coastal regions tend to be a little cooler. It is not uncommon for temperatures to reach one hundred degrees Fahrenheit in the summer. The average rainfall is between three and seven inches per year. The coastal regions get more rain than the desert regions.



Even as the sun sets in the winter, it can still be 70 degrees Fahrenheit outside.

Geography

Major Cities

The capital is Cairo which is located on the Nile River. The population is 94,666,993. The five largest cities are Cairo, Alexandria, Giza, Port Said, and Suez.



History

Drawn by the **fertile land** and natural resources provided by the Nile River, people have lived in Egypt for thousands of years. The first **kingdom** formed 5000 years ago and the last one ended around 2,500 years ago.



History

The Egyptian kingdoms were ruled by a **Pharaoh**, who was believed to be a god, and who had total control of the kingdom. The Pyramids were created as **tombs** for the pharaohs. These buildings were also a symbol of their power. The largest, the Great Pyramid of Giza, is one of the **Seven Wonders of the World**.



Gold mask of a pharaoh



The Great Pyramid of Giza and the Sphinx

History

Egypt was taken over by a series of **empires** over the next two thousand years. The last empire to rule Egypt was Great Britain who gave Egypt its independence in 1952. Egypt is now a **Republic** with a president as the leader.



Egypt's flag

Culture

Most people speak Arabic, but English and French are spoken too. The official religion is Islam, however other religions are present. Men and women often wear loose clothing because of the heat. Some women wear a **burka** or a **hijab**. Egyptian men often wear clothes similar to what American males wear. Some men wear more traditional clothing such as a **galabia**.



Culture

Many cities have large outdoor markets where locals and tourists interact. A famous market in Cairo is Khan el-Kahlili. Vendors sell spices, clothing, jewelry and a variety of trinkets.



Portion of Khan el-Kahlili in Cairo, Egypt

Comprehension Questions

- 1) What are the differences between the coastal and inland regions of Egypt (temperature, rain, environment)?
- 2) Why were the Great Pyramids of Giza built?
- 3) What empire controlled Egypt right before it gained its independence? When did Egypt become its own country?

Glossary

Mediterranean Sea: A body of water connected to the Atlantic Ocean. It is between southern Europe and northern Africa.

Red Sea: A body of water connected to the Indian Ocean. It is between Africa and the Middle East.

Sinai Peninsula: a land bridge connecting Africa to Asia. It is a part of Egypt.

Delta: The area of a river just before it connects to a larger body of water such as an ocean or lake.

Sahara Desert: The largest dry desert. It is in northern Africa.

Fertile Land: Land that is capable of growing food.

Kingdom: A country or territory ruled by a king or queen.

Pharaoh: A ruler of ancient Egypt

Tomb: A large room used for burying the dead. It can be underground or aboveground.

Seven Wonders of the World: Ancient man-made structures around the world. They are The Great Pyramid of Giza, Hanging Gardens of Babylon, Statue of Zeus at Olympia, Temple of Artemis at Ephesus, Mausoleum at Halicarnassus, Colossus of Rhodes, and the Lighthouse of Alexandria.

Empire: A group of many peoples and cultures that are ruled by one government. Ancient Rome and Great Britain were empires.

Republic: A country that is ruled by an elected group of people. The United States is a type of republic.

Hijab: A head scarf worn in public; the scarf completely covers the hair, but not the face.

Burka: A dress-like piece of clothing that covers the body from head to toe; the eyes are covered by see-through cloth.

Galabia: A loose gown or robe worn by some men in northern Africa.

Works Referenced

All photos labeled for reuse

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Common Core State Standards

- *RI.3.4 - Craft and Structure:* determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 3 topic or subject area.
- *RI.3.10 - Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity:* by the end of the year, read and comprehend informational texts, including history/ social studies, science, and technical texts, at the high end of the grades 2-3 text complexity band independently and proficiently.
- *L.3.4 - Vocabulary Acquisition and Use:* determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning word and phrases based on grade 3 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

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