

Geography and History Activity

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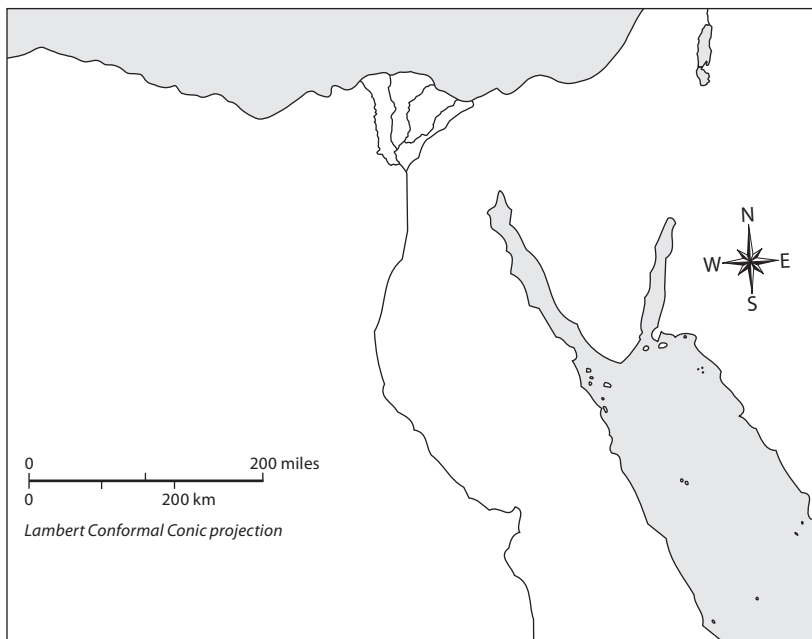
Ancient Egypt and Kush

Lesson 1 *The Nile River*

Understanding Location: Ancient Egypt

Geography helped the ancient Egyptian civilization succeed. Egypt is located in a desert region with a hot and dry climate. Ancient Egyptians settled in a narrow strip of fertile land called the Nile River Valley. The valley was surrounded on both sides by large deserts. Life in the Nile River Valley had its challenges. Flooding of the Nile River was followed by periods of drought, or lack of rain. Yet the Nile River and nearby deserts also provided protection that helped the Egyptians survive.

The river and deserts provided natural defenses for the Egyptians. The Nile River has a marshy delta. As a result, Egyptians could not build a port at the mouth of the Nile. This made it difficult for invaders to reach Egyptian settlements along the river. In addition, the rough waters, or cataracts, in the southern part of the river made travel and invasion difficult. The deserts that surrounded the Nile River Valley were hot, dry, and sandy. They made invasion over land nearly impossible. With these natural defenses, the ancient Egyptians did not have to build fortifications for their settlements. In addition, ancient Egyptians could travel and trade along the Nile River. Friendly relations among the villages helped create a sense of unity. Protected from enemies, the Egyptians could focus on developing trade and culture instead of defending themselves.



Geography and History Activity *Cont.*



Ancient Egypt and Kush

Directions: Answer the following questions.

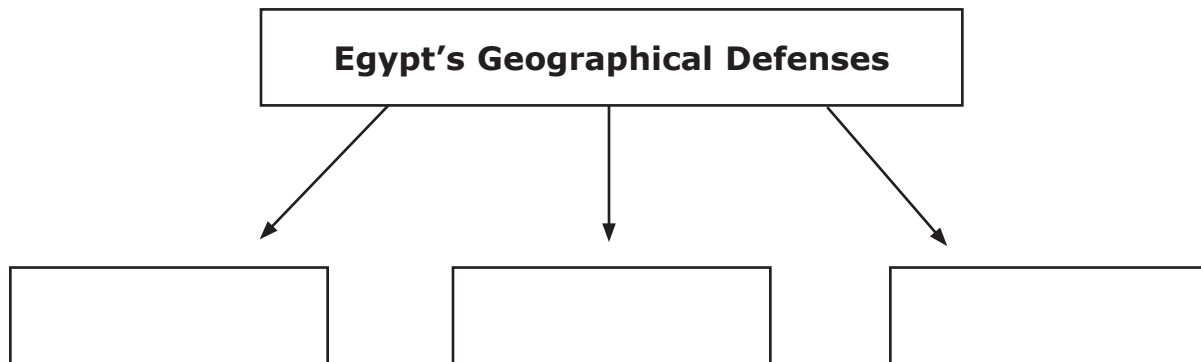
Understanding the Concept

1. Labeling Label the following geographical features on the outline map: Nile River, Western Desert, Eastern Desert, Arabian Desert, Mediterranean Sea, Red Sea, Nile Delta.

2. Locating Use geographical terms to describe the locations of the deserts surrounding the Nile River valley.

3. Explaining Look at the map of the Nile River Valley. What geographical features made it a good location for early Egyptian settlers? Explain.

4. Identifying What defenses did Egypt's geography provide the ancient Egyptians? Fill in the boxes.



Geography and History Activity *Cont.*



Ancient Egypt and Kush

Applying the Concept

5. Analyzing Why was the location of the Nile River Valley important to the development of ancient Egyptian civilization?

6. Speculating How might Egyptian civilization have developed differently if Egypt had not been surrounded by deserts or had a marshy delta?

7. Making Connections Geographical location is important to the survival of a people or place. What geographical features make your community a good place to live?
