• How did the geography of the Nile influence the lives of the people that lived there? The Nile provided them with fresh water and fertile land; cataracts made trade up and down the Nile dangerous.

• Why do you think the Egypt is called the “Gift of the Nile?” Because without the Nile the Egyptian civilization would not exist.

• People chose to live around the Nile River because it gave them plenty of resources—fresh water, fertile soil, fish, papyrus, etc.

• Egyptian civilization started along the banks of the Nile around 3300 BC. The Nile provided the people with a source of fresh water and fertile land in which to grow crops.

• The Nile is really 2 rivers, the White and Blue Nile, that meet in Sudan and travels through 9 countries before flowing into the Mediterranean Sea.

• The Nile is the longest river in the world measuring roughly 4,000 miles long (or 4187 miles).

• The Nile River flows in a northern direction. It starts at Lake Victoria. There are many mountains in the central part of Africa which makes in flow in a northern direction. This is why Lower Egypt is located near the top of Egypt and Upper Egypt is located more in the middle.

• The Nile River is not the only river to do this. Other rivers such as the Indus River, Snake River, and the Yukon River also flow this way.

• The Nile River floods usually in the month of June. This stopped in 1970 when the Aswan Dam was built.

• The floods brought silt to the land giving farmers fertile soil in which to grow crops.

• This fertile land is known as black land”. The mineral rich soil comes from the melting snow in the mountains. This area covers only roughly 5 miles of land on either side of the Nile River.

• The “Red Land” is the desert part of the country. No crops can grow here.

• The god of the Nile is Khnum. Pharaoh Zoser had a dream and gave the Nile god a portion of their harvest and a temple so that the river would
flood. This is why Egyptians believe the river flooded on a regular basis. Gods were believed to be responsible for all events that took place on earth.

• The floods at first caused problems. Crops, houses and lives were often destroyed. These were believed to be signs from the gods.

• Egyptians eventually created a Nilometer to measure the level of the Nile. They also created a calendar to keep track of the days between floods. They learned that the flood season lasted about four months from May to September.

• Egyptian life was split into 3 seasons: flooding (Inundation), planting (Emergence), and harvesting season.

• The Nile also gave the Egyptians reeds called Papyrus. Papyrus was used to make paper, build boats, and parts of houses. Houses were later made out of mudbricks.

• Animals that lived around the Nile included fish, ducks, crocodiles, hippos, giraffes, ostriches and geese.

• The Nile eventually became a super highway. Boats were used to travel from one place to another on the Nile River. Resources such as wood could be easily transported into Egypt.

• Egypt received little rain.

• The temperature was hot and dry all year long. Egyptians often relied on the Nile for relief from the heat. You just had to watch out for the crocodiles.