

Ancient Egyptians

Learning Objective:

To investigate the geographical features of the River Nile.

What do you already know about the River Nile?

Think, pair, share your ideas.



BACK

NEXT

What ideas did you come up with?

What we know about the River Nile:



BACK

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The River Nile runs through Africa and is the longest river in the world at around 6695 km (4184 miles) in length. It has two main tributaries, the White Nile and the Blue Nile, which meet to form one river in Khartoum, Sudan. It then flows north to Egypt and into the Mediterranean Sea. The point where the river runs into the sea is called the mouth of the river. The Nile runs through nine countries altogether: Uganda, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Dominican Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi and, of course, Egypt.



BACK

NEXT

mouth

tributary

tributary



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What is a tributary?

A tributary is a river or stream that flows into the main or 'parent' river. The White Nile and the Blue Nile are the tributaries of the Nile. The White Nile is longer than the Blue Nile but it only contributes around 15% of the water in the Nile because lots of the water is lost along the way. The Blue Nile contributes around 85% of the flow of the Nile.

Did you know...?

Around 300 million cubic metres of water are discharged from the Nile every day.



The Nile at Khartoum where the White Nile and Blue Nile meet

BACK

NEXT

Where does the Nile begin?

The point a river begins is known as the source. Sources of rivers are usually in areas of high altitude like mountains or hills. The water then runs down these high areas until they reach the sea. Some people say the source of the Nile is Lake Victoria which is the biggest lake in Africa.



The Kagera River, central Africa

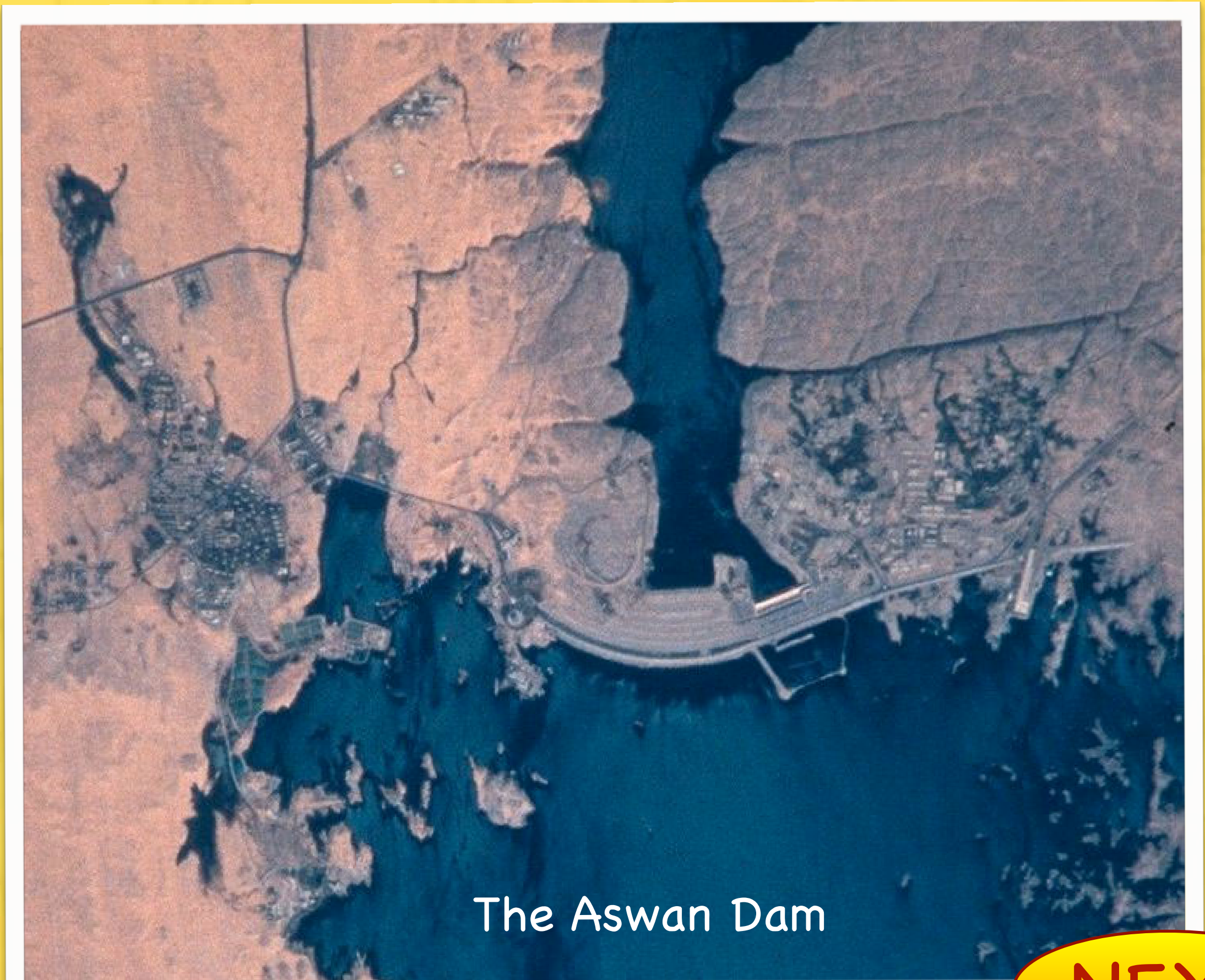
However, there are lots of feeder rivers to Lake Victoria. The real source of the Nile is widely regarded as being the Kagera River in Burundi, although there is still some argument about where the Nile truly begins.

BACK

NEXT

Up until 1970, the River Nile used to flood every year. It covered the land with a rich, black mud that made the land very fertile. This was great for growing crops but sometimes the water level was too high and it washed the crops away. Other times, there were droughts so no crops could grow.

Today, the River Nile no longer floods because of the Aswan Dam. This allows the flow of water to be controlled so that water can be stored for times of drought and held back so that the water doesn't flood the land.



The Aswan Dam

BACK

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How well were you listening?! See if you can answer these questions about the Nile...



BACK

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What sea does the mouth of the Nile flow into?

How many countries altogether does the Nile run through?

What are the names of the two tributaries?

What is the name for the point where a river begins?

BACK

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What sea does the mouth of the Nile flow into?

The Mediterranean Sea

How many countries altogether does the Nile run through?

Nine countries

What are the names of the two tributaries?

The White Nile and the Blue Nile

What is the name for the point where a river begins?

The source

BACK

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What do you think the River Nile
is used for?

Discuss your ideas.



BACK

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The ancient Egyptians depended on the River Nile for their way of life.
Which of these uses still apply today?

Ancient Egyptian Use	Is it still used for this today?	
	YES	NO
<u>Farming</u> : the River Nile provided water and rich mud so that crops could grow	YES	NO
<u>Washing</u> : people would use the water to wash themselves in and do their laundry in the river	YES	NO
<u>Fishing</u> : fishermen would go out on papyrus boats to catch fish to eat	YES	NO
<u>Funerals</u> : people often transported mummies to their tombs on the other side of the river by boat	YES	NO
<u>Trading</u> : the River Nile allowed people to travel easily to different places for trade	YES	NO

BACK