

Ancient Egypt

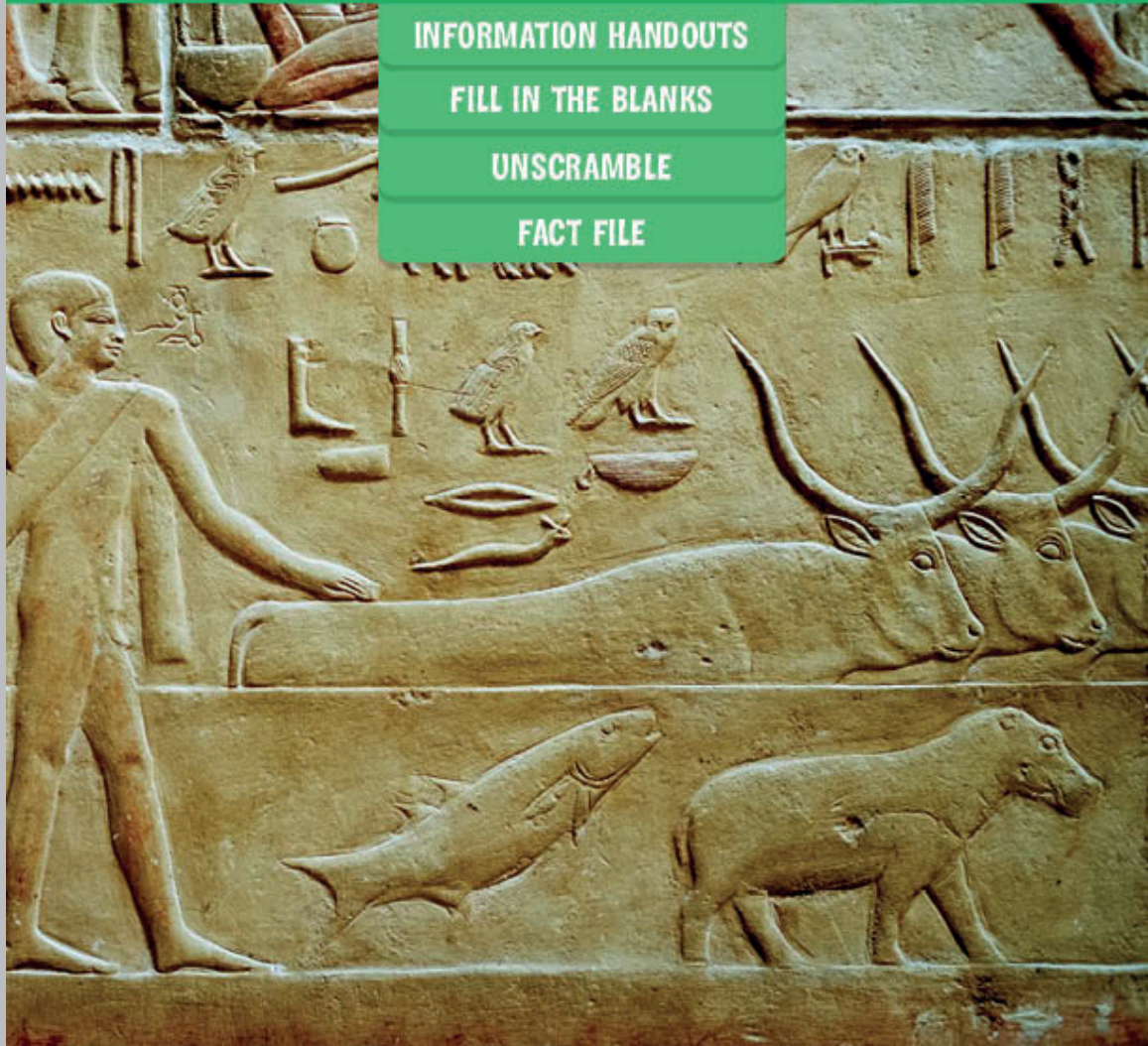
FARMING

INFORMATION HANDOUTS

FILL IN THE BLANKS

UNSCRAMBLE

FACT FILE



PRIMARY
TOPIC
SHOP

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ANCIENT EGYPT FARMING



Rich farm land on the bank of the Nile River.

The Ancient Egyptian civilization was made possible by rich land for farming along the Nile river. Not only did they grow crops for food, but they grew flax to make clothing. The papyrus that grew on the banks of the Nile was used to make many items including shoes, paper and even boats.

CROPS

Farmers grew grains, vegetables and fruits. Wheat, barley, corn and flax were common grain crops. Vegetables included onions, leeks, cabbages, beans, cucumbers, garlic, beans, lettuce, lentils, radishes and turnips. Some examples of fruits grown by ancient Egyptians are grapes, figs, plums and melons.



Did you know?

Bananas, citrus fruits and mangos originated in Asia and were unknown in ancient Egypt.

ANIMALS

Some animals were raised for food but only rich Egyptians ate meat. Animals were mainly raised as work animals and for their milk and hides.

Farm animals included cattle, goats, pigs, ducks, cows and geese.

TOOLS

Egyptians made tools from wood, stone and sometimes copper.

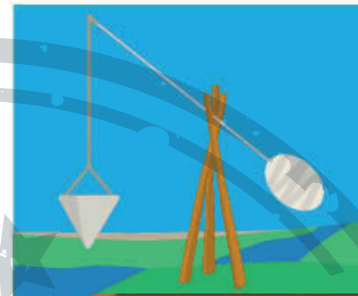
A sickle with a wood blade was used to harvest corn and wheat.

A plough was used to break up the soil so seeds could be planted. There were ploughs that were pulled by hand and ploughs pulled by oxen or donkeys.

A wooden hoe was used to break up chunks of soil left by the plough.

A winnowing fork was used to separate corn and grain from the stalk.

ANCIENT EGYPT | FARMING



The Shaduf could be used to move water from the Nile into irrigation channels.

WATER

Egyptians used a combination of irrigation, tools and dams to supply water to their crops. To irrigate the fields they dug or dredged channels of water. Mud brick was used to build dams to stop flood water from receding and create reservoirs.

Ancient Egyptians invented a tool called the Shaduf. It had a horizontal pole mounted on a see-saw with a bucket hanging from one end and a weight on the other end. This let farmers easily fill the bucket with water and swing it around to be emptied in the field or into a canal.

FARMING SEASONS

The Nile flooded every year from June to September. Ancient Egyptian farmers planned their crops around the flood. There were three farming seasons; Akhet, Penet and Shemu.

Akhet	Penet	Shemu
The Inundation Season	The Growing Season	The Harvest Season
June to September	October to February	March to May
Snow melt and rains in Ethiopia caused the flooding of the Nile. During Akhet farmers would do repairs, make tools, look after animals and some would work for the pharaoh on building projects.	When the flood waters receded black silt was left behind, enriching the soil. This is the time when farmers would plough the fields and plant seeds. Goats and other animals walked on the fields to push the seeds into the soil.	The water level of the Nile was low at this time of year and the weather was hot and dry. The crops would be harvested before the next flood. Surplus grain was stored or exported.

AFTER THE HARVEST

After the harvest the work was not done. Ancient Egyptians made everything they needed. Bread was made from wheat and corn, beer and bread from the barley and clothes from flax. Meat and vegetables were dried and preserved with salt. Milk was made into cheese and yoghurt. Oil was made from sesame seeds and linseed. Surplus grain was stored or exported. The papyrus that grew on the banks of the Nile was used to make many items including shoes, paper and even boats.

FILL IN THE BLANKS

- 1 The Inundation season was called _____.
- 2 Shemu, the _____ season was March to May.
- 3 A _____ with a wood blade was used to harvest corn and wheat.
A _____ was used to break up the soil so seeds could be planted.
A wooden _____ was used to break up soil left by the plough.
A _____ fork was used to separate corn and grain from the stalk.
- 4 Egyptians invented the _____ which could be used to move water from the Nile into irrigation channels.
- 5 Meat and vegetables were dried and preserved with _____.
- 6 Snow melt and rains in _____ caused cause the flooding of the Nile.
- 7 The _____ that grew on the banks of the Nile was used to make many items including shoes, paper and even boats
- 8 Goats walked on the fields to push the _____ into the soil.
- 9 Ancient Egyptian farmers planned their crops around the _____.

UNSCRAMBLE

- 1 Clothing was made from XLAF
- 2 Cheese was made from KLIM
- 3 Shoes were made from SPURYAP
- 4 Oil was made from DENILES
- 5 Bread was made from WATHE
- 6 Beer was made from LAYBRE
- 7 Ancient Egyptians grew these vegetables:
 - SNIONO
 - HASSIDER
 - TILLENS
 - CLUETET
 - BAGESCAB
 - CLARIG

SEASON FACT FILE

Name of Season:

When is this season?

Draw a Picture:

What happens during this season?

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FILL IN THE BLANKS

- The Inundation season was called *Akhet*.
- Shemu, the *harvest* season was from March to May.
- A *sickle* with a wood blade was used to harvest corn and wheat.
A *plough* was used to break up the soil so seeds could be planted.
A wooden *hoe* was used to break up chunks of soil.
A *winnowir* was used to separate the grain from the chaff.
- Egypt's irrigation system was called the *Nile*.
- Meat and vegetables were used for food.
- Snow melt and rains in *Ethiopia* caused cause the Nile to flood.
- The *papyrus* that grew on the banks of the Nile was used to make many items including baskets, shoes, paper and even boats.
- Goats walked on the fields to push the *seeds* into the soil.
- Ancient Egyptian farmers planned their crops around the *flood*.

UNSCRAMBLE

- Onion
- Wheat
- Radish
- Lentils
- Lettuce
- Cabbage
- Garlic

- XLAF
- KLIM
- SPURYAP
- DENILES
- WATHE
- LAYBRE
- SNIONO
- IASSIDER
- TILLENS
- CLUETET
- BAGESCAB
- CLARIG

includes Answer sheets