

Geography and Archaeology

30 January 2012

How does geography affect how people live?

How does geography affect access to archaeological remains?

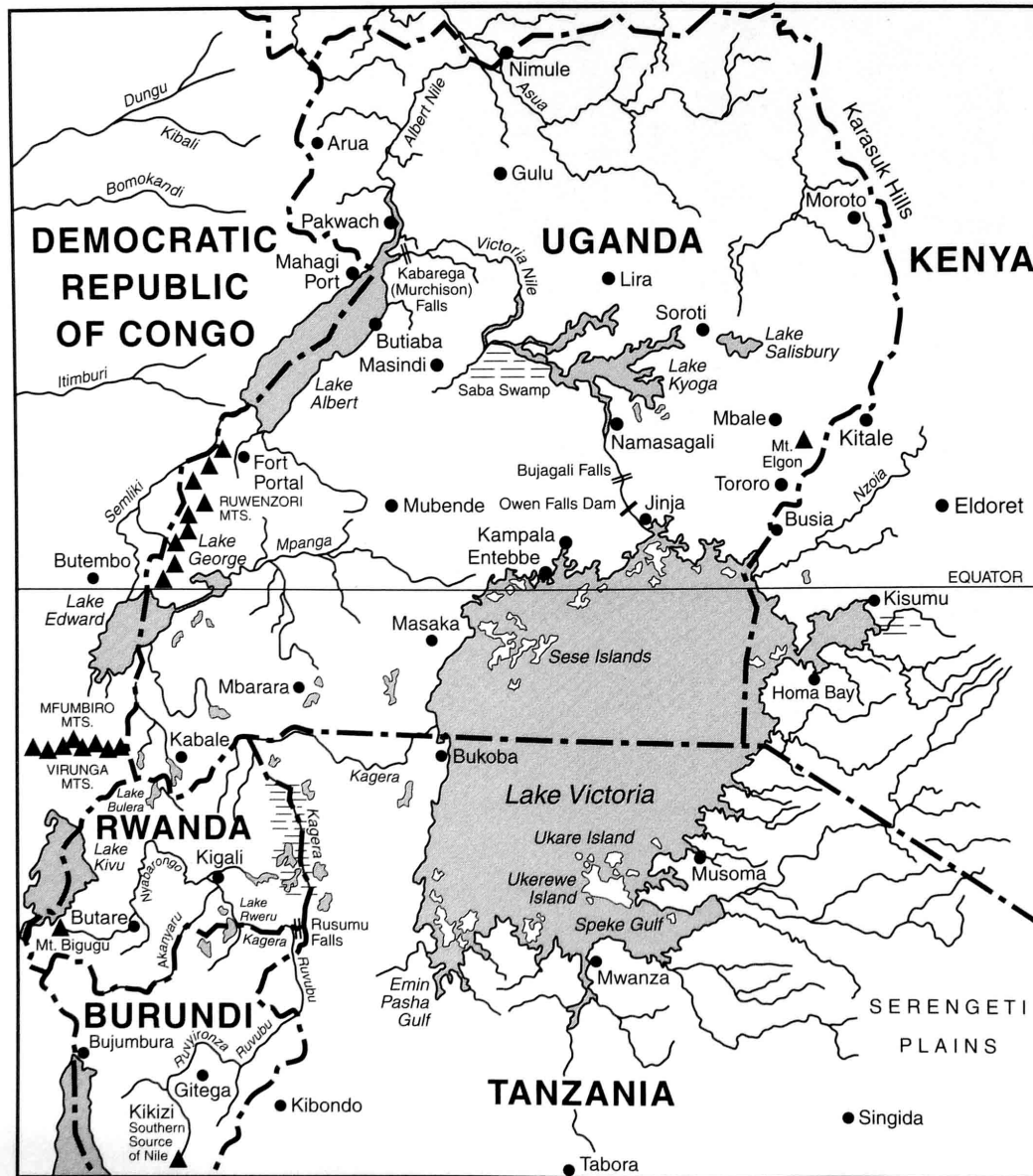






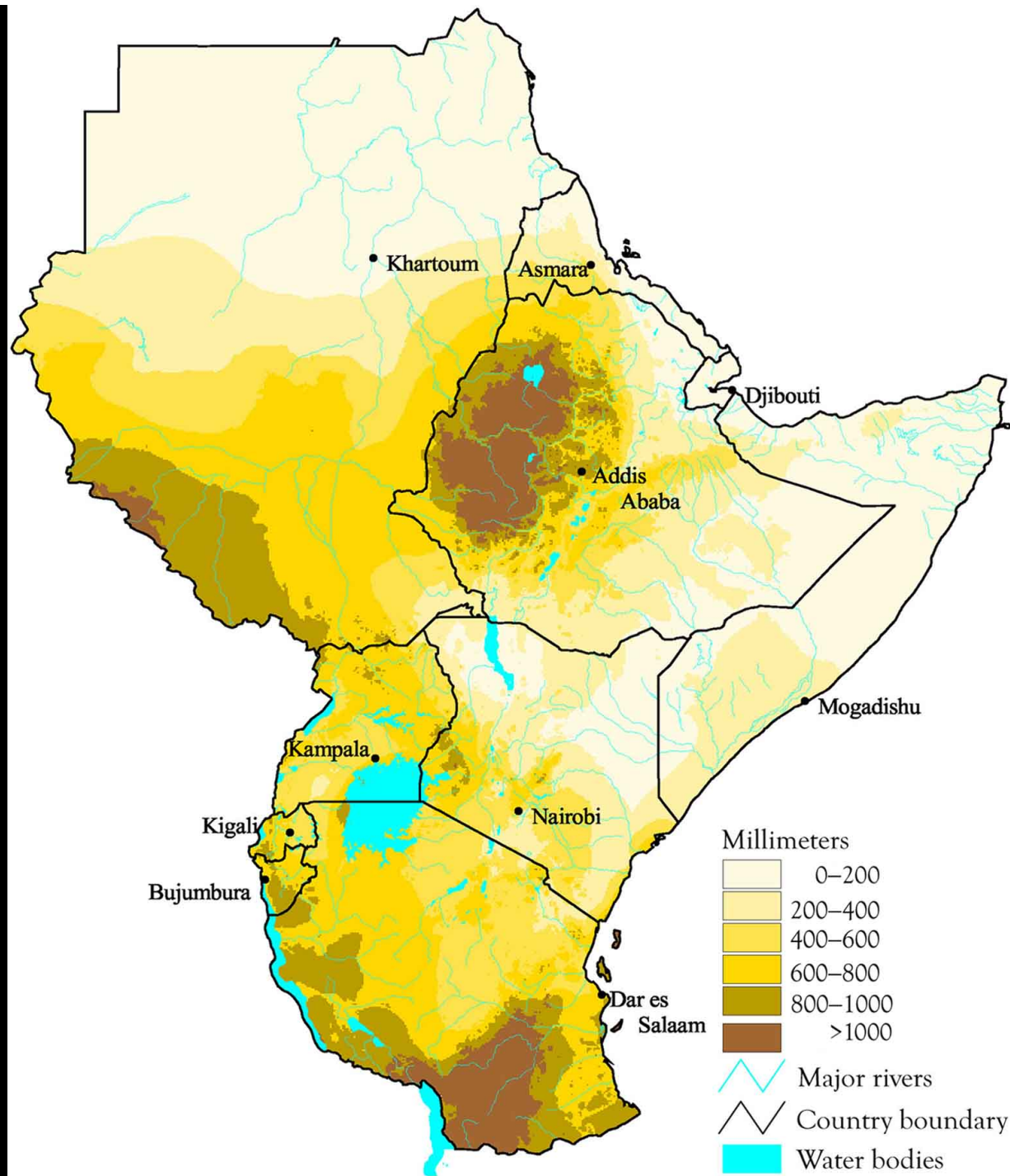


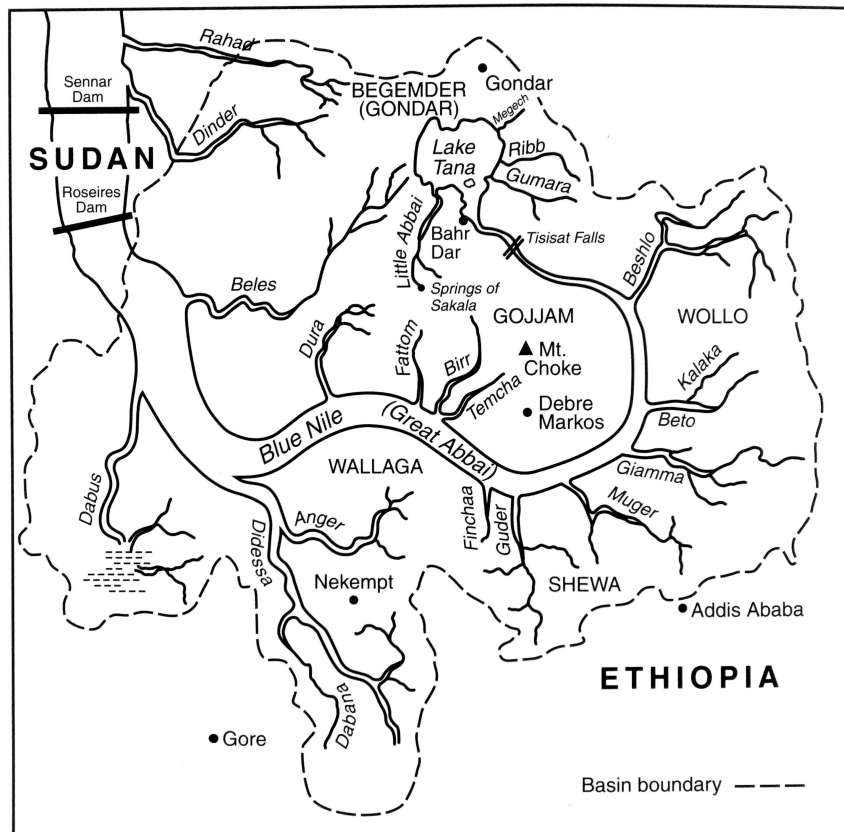






The White Nile and the Sudd





The Blue Nile

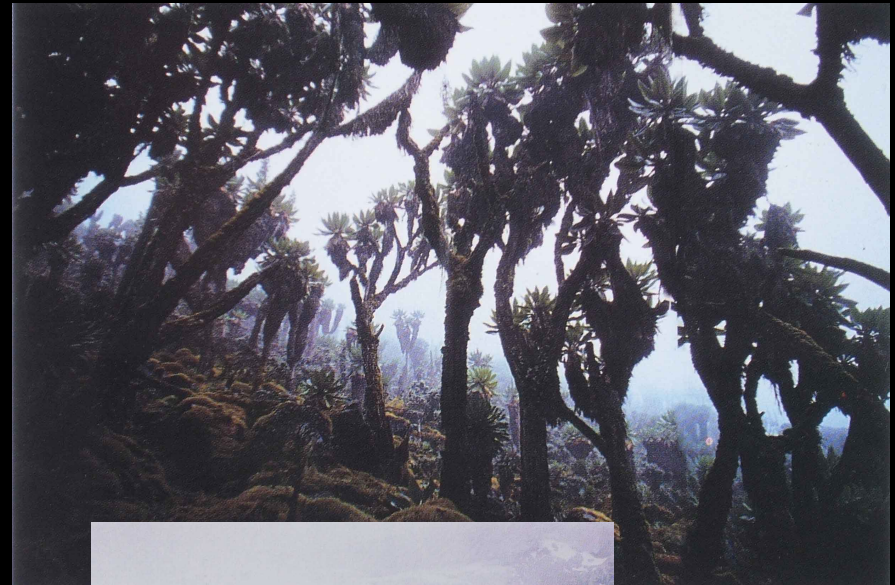






Image © 2011 GeoEye

©2009 Google

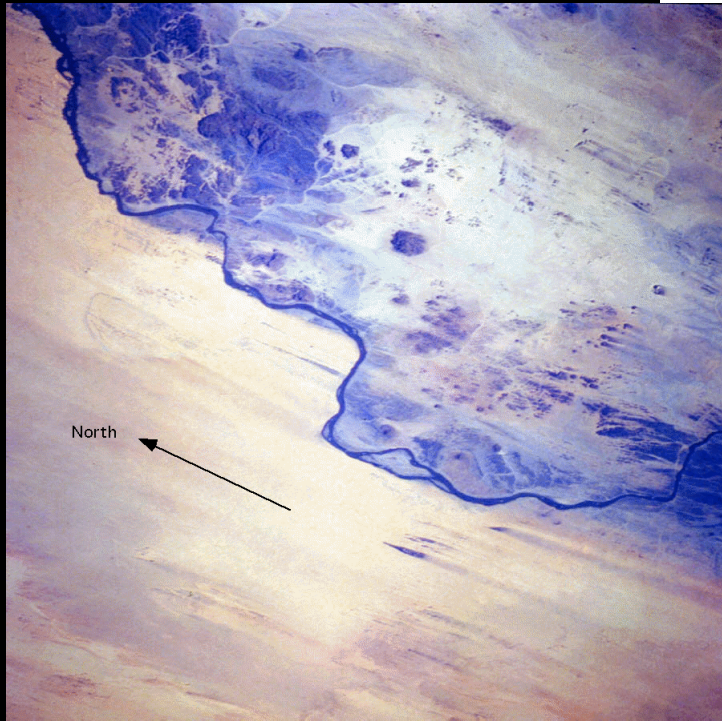
Imagery Date: Feb 9, 2011

15°36'04.15" N 32°32'20.36" E elev 0 ft

Eye alt 42865 ft

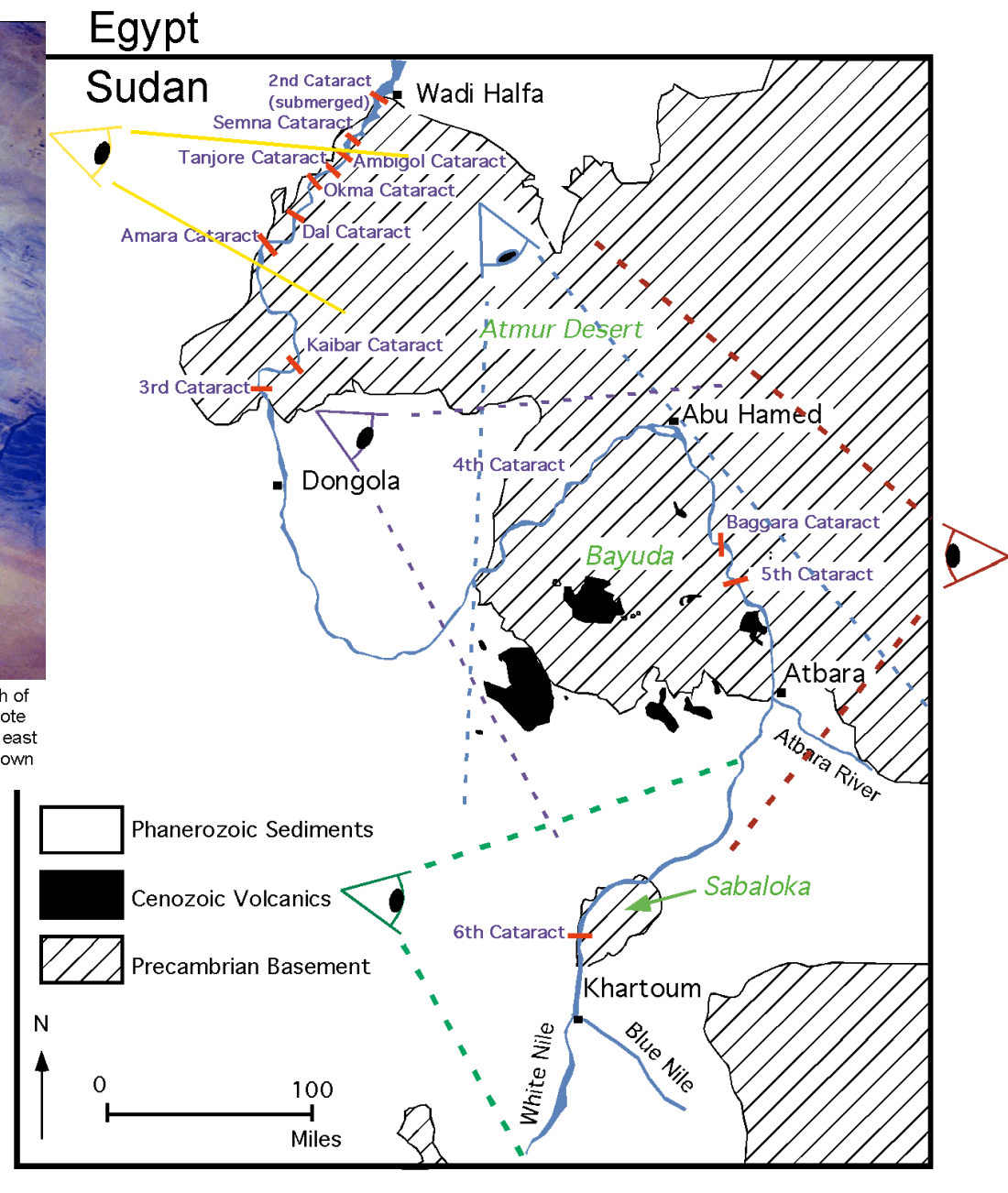
The Nile in Nubia



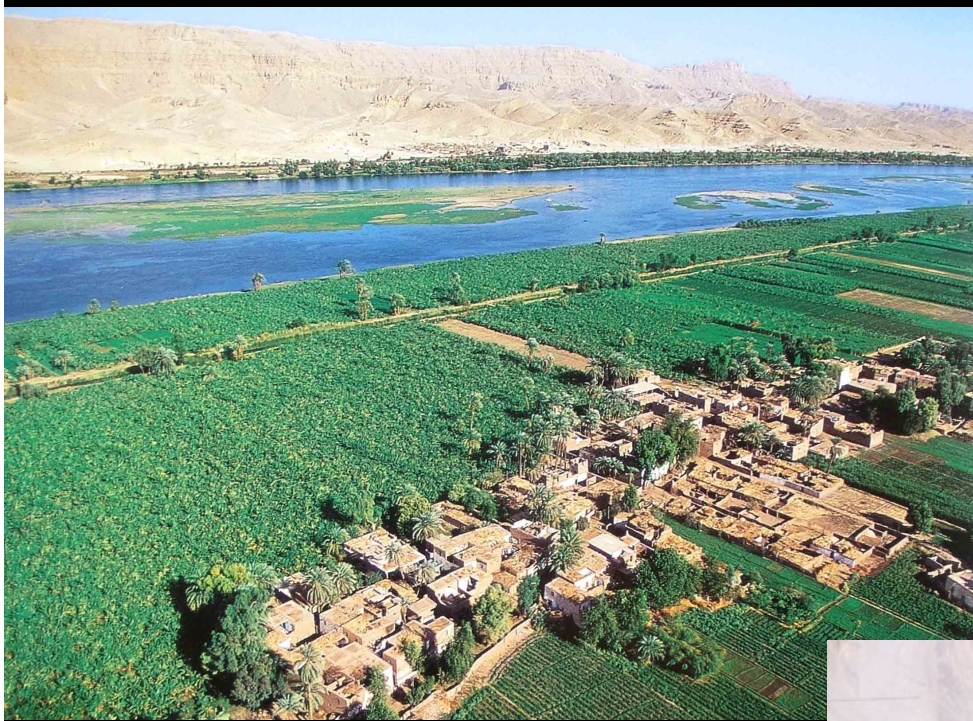


Space Shuttle Hand-held photograph (5TS080-709-026) showing the stretch of the Nile from south of Amara cataract and the beginning of Lake Nasser. Note the west bank is covered with sand drifts, blown in from the north, while the east bank has much less sand cover. This is because the Nile captures sand blown into it from the north.

Cataracts in the Nile





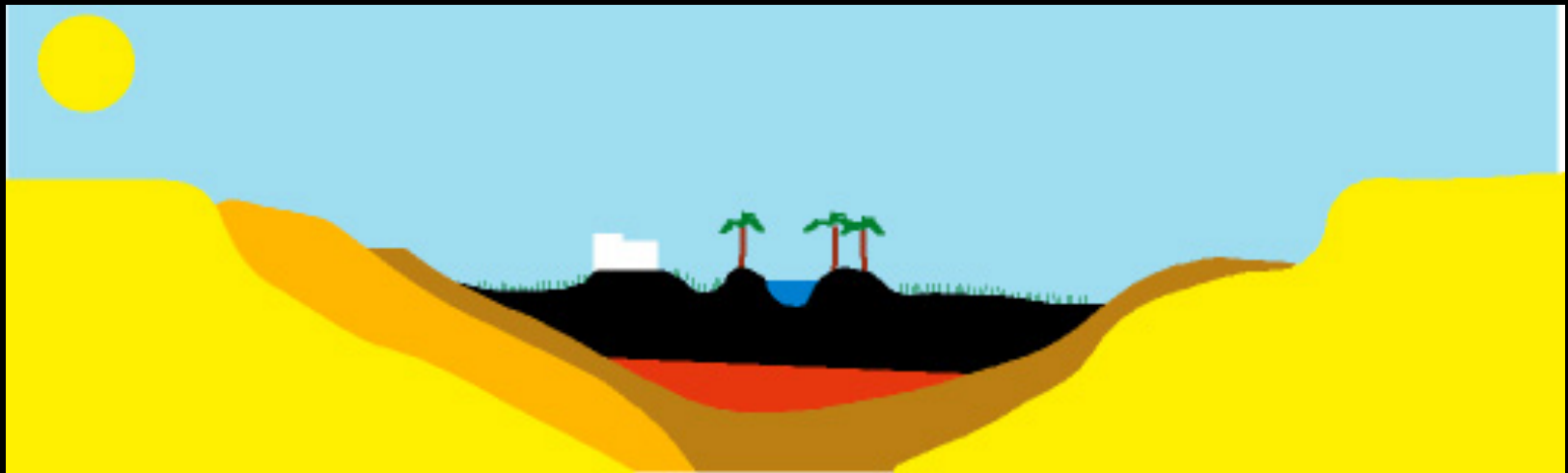


“The Gift of the Nile”
Inundation and agriculture





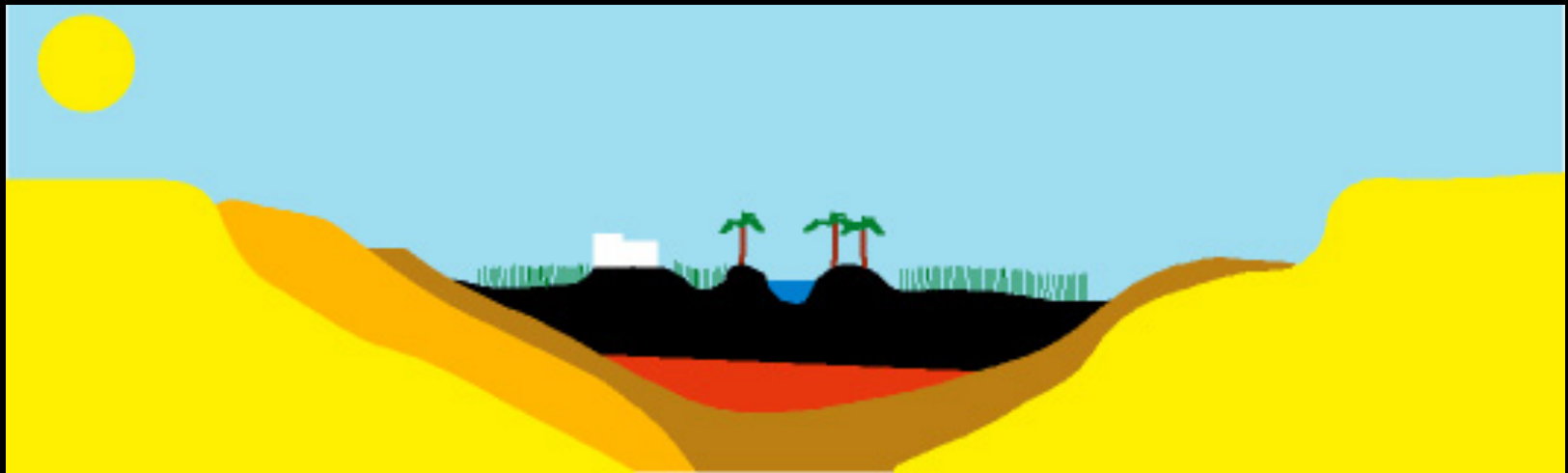




JANUARY



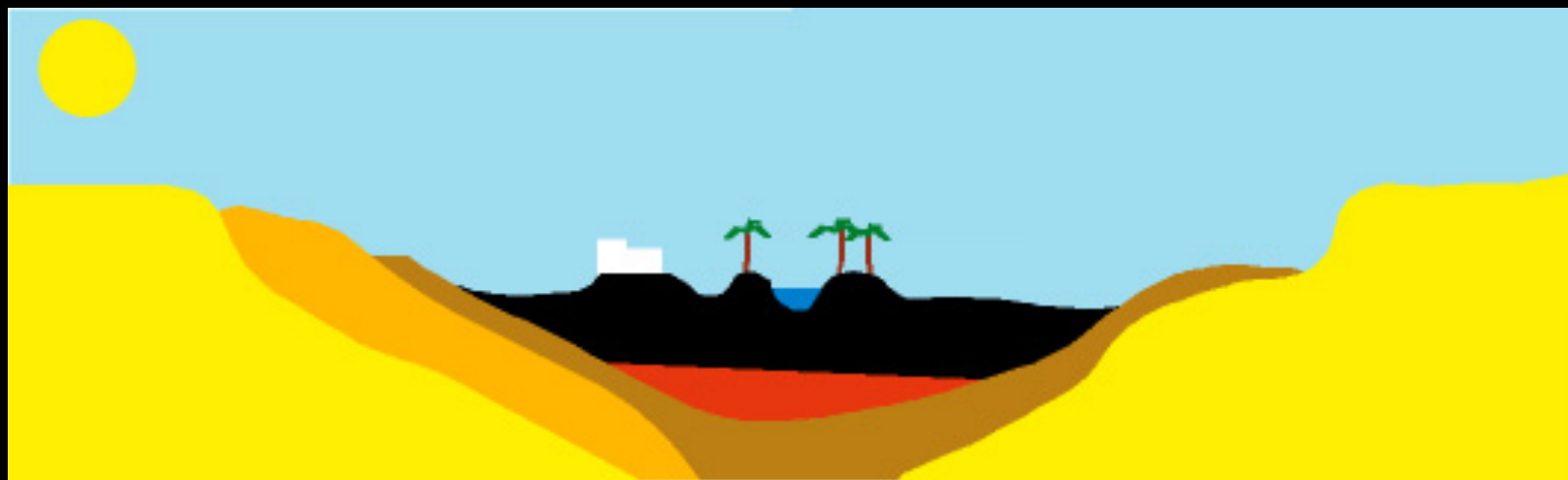
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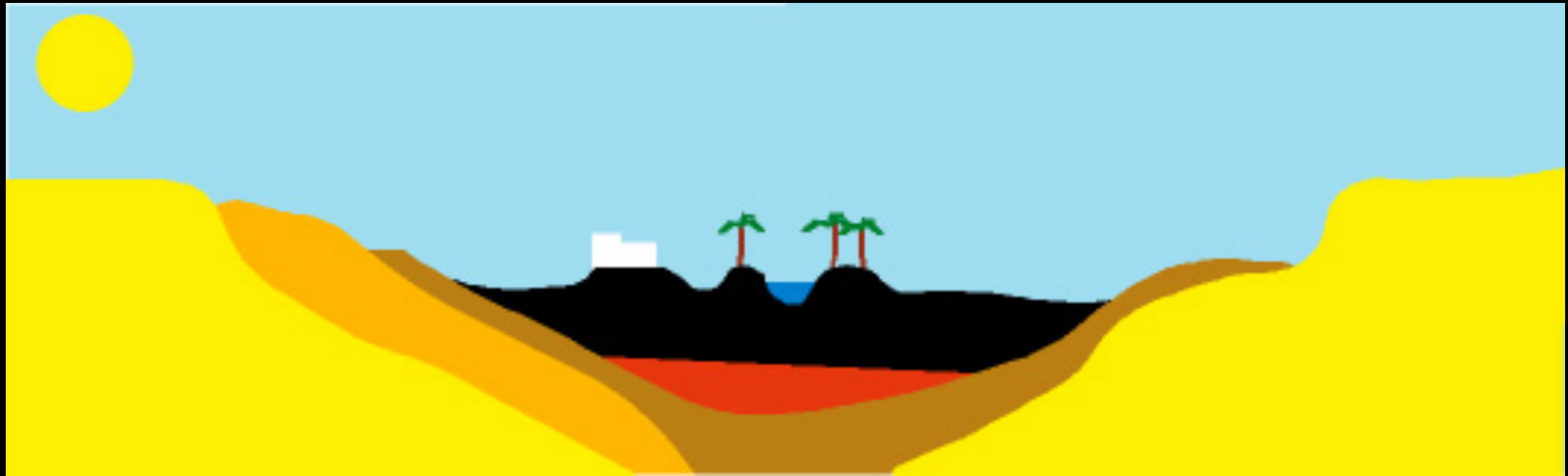
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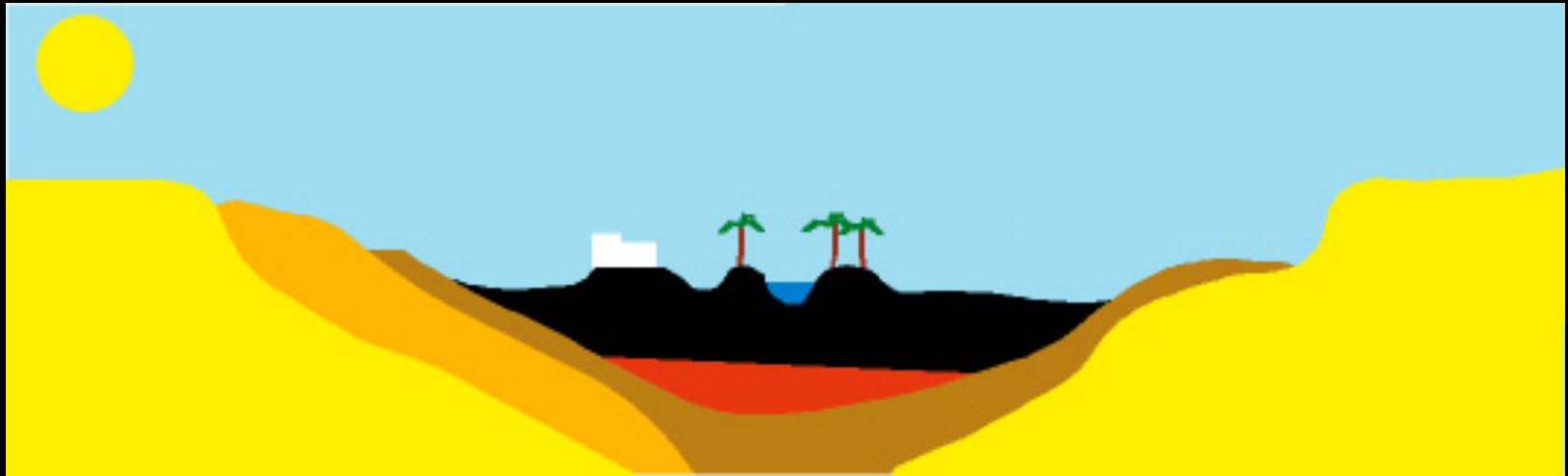
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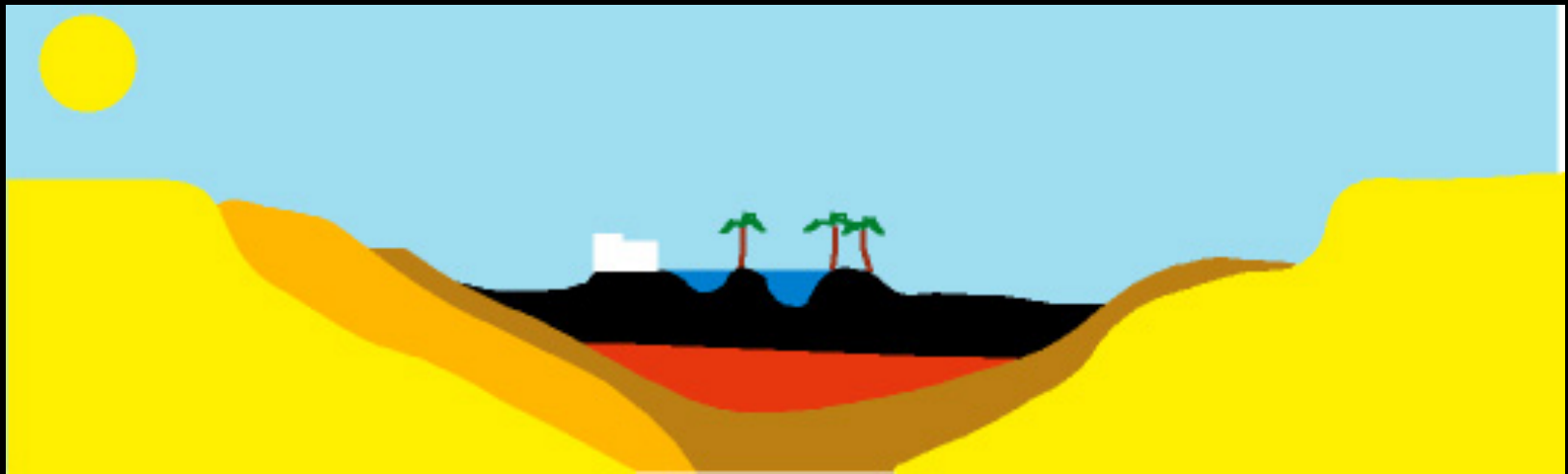
MAY



JUNE



JULY



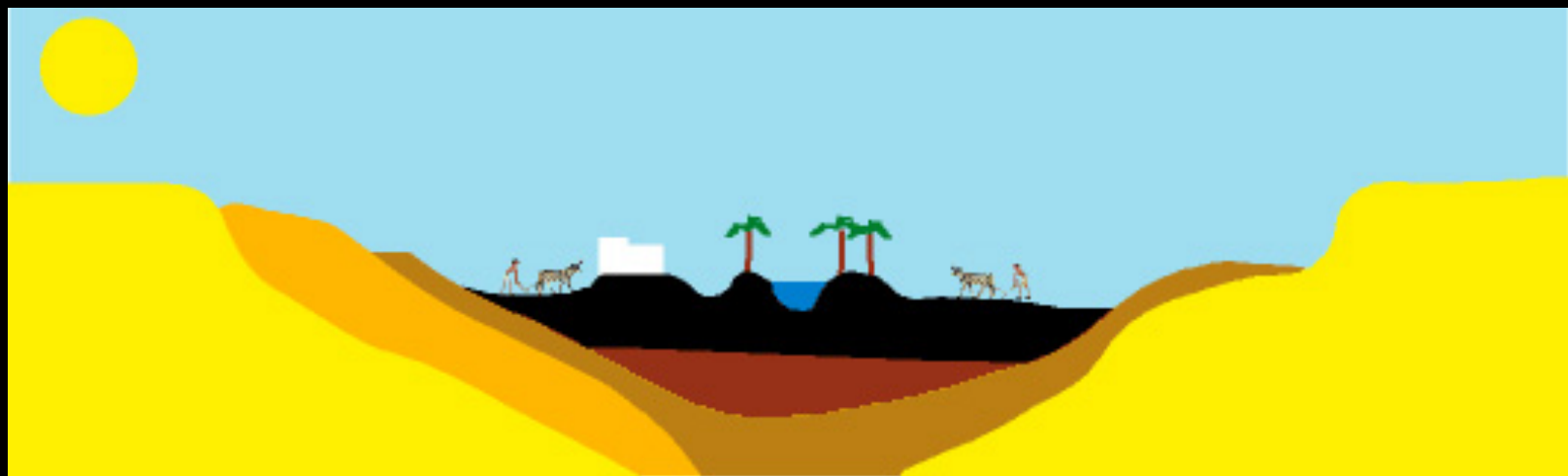
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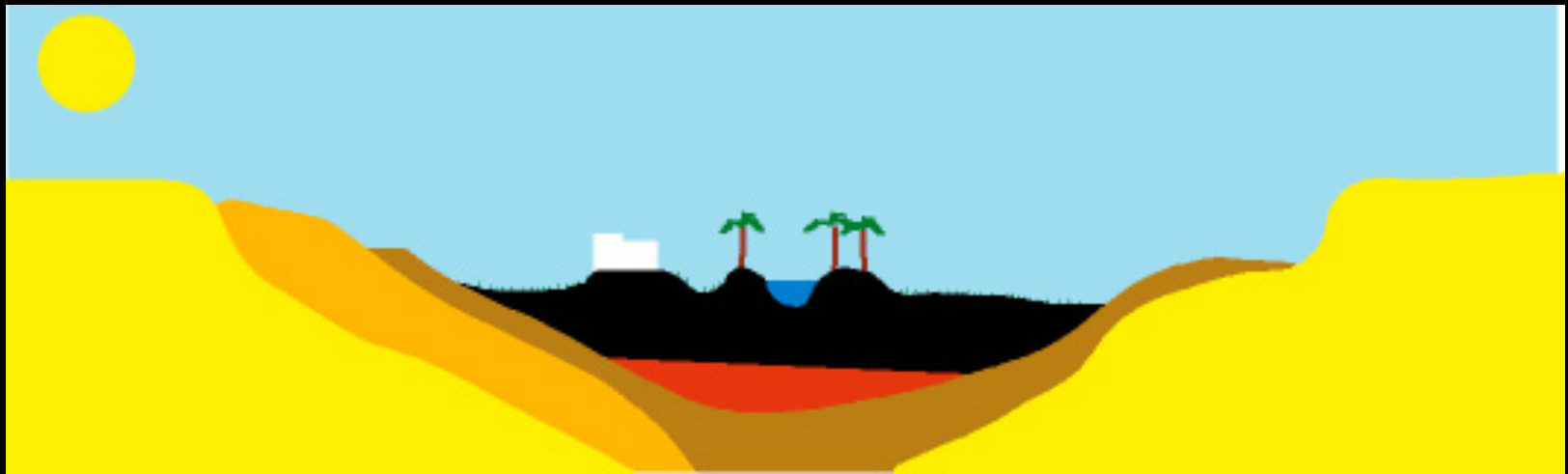
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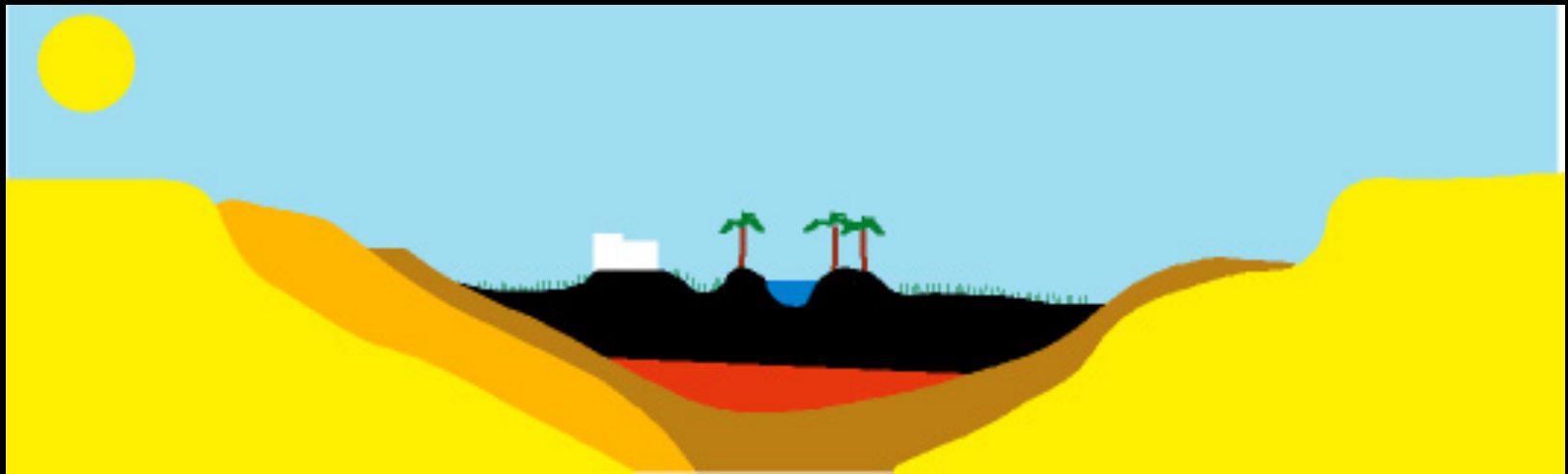
OCTOBER



NOVEMBER

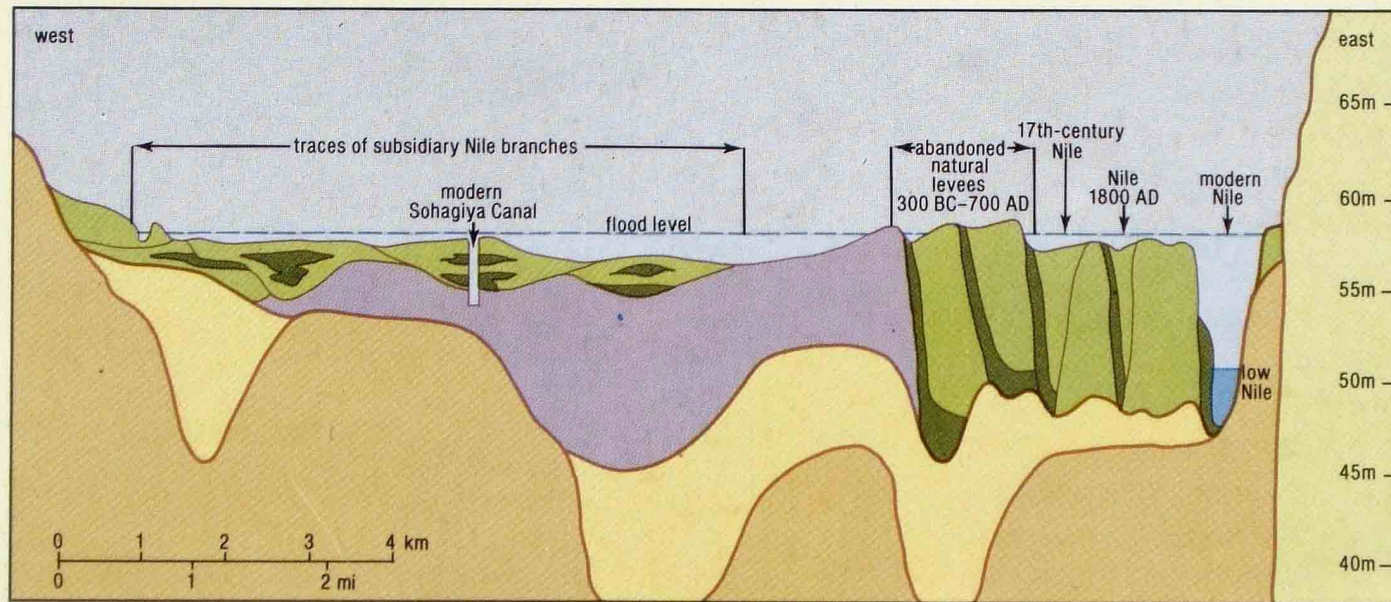


DECEMBER



JANUARY

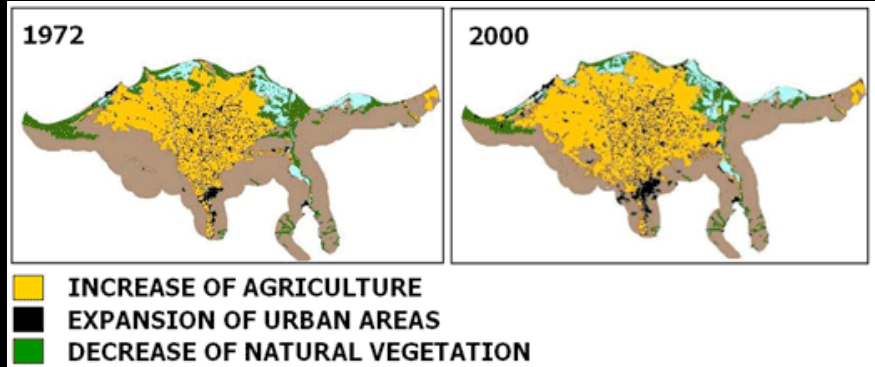
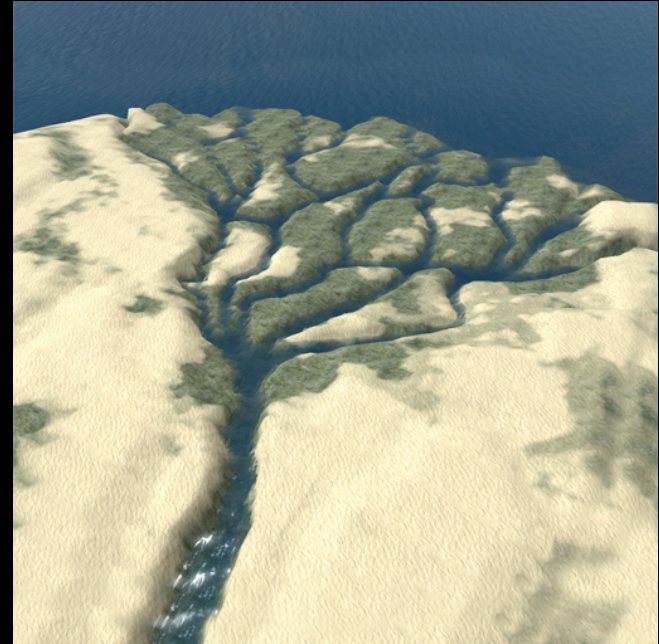




Generalized cross section through the Nile valley between Sohag and Asyut (after Butzer). In historical times the main river has migrated eastward leaving traces of its earlier raised banks. The vertical scale is greatly exaggerated.

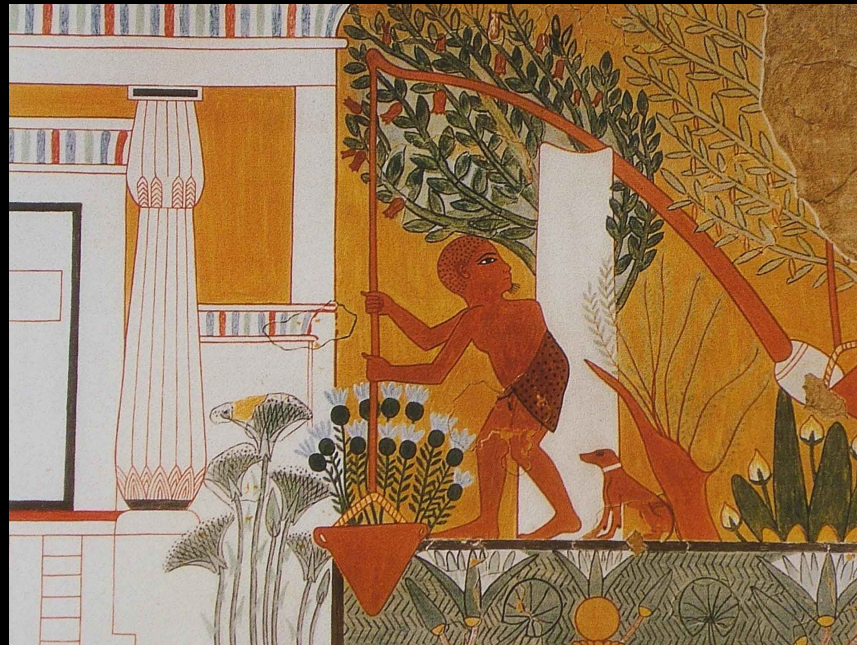
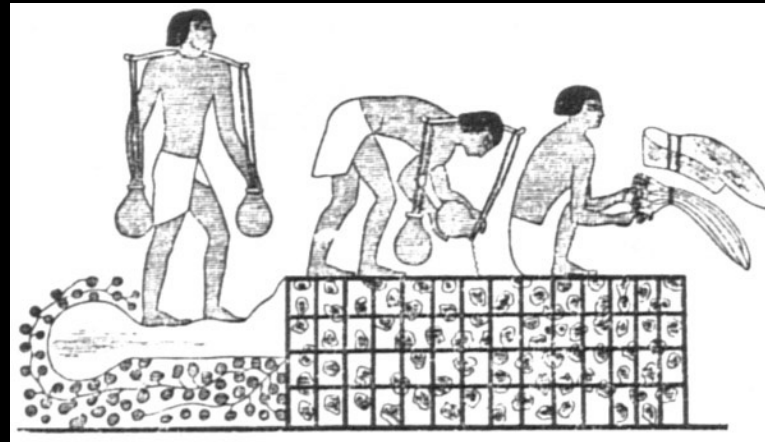


Nile Delta Agriculture

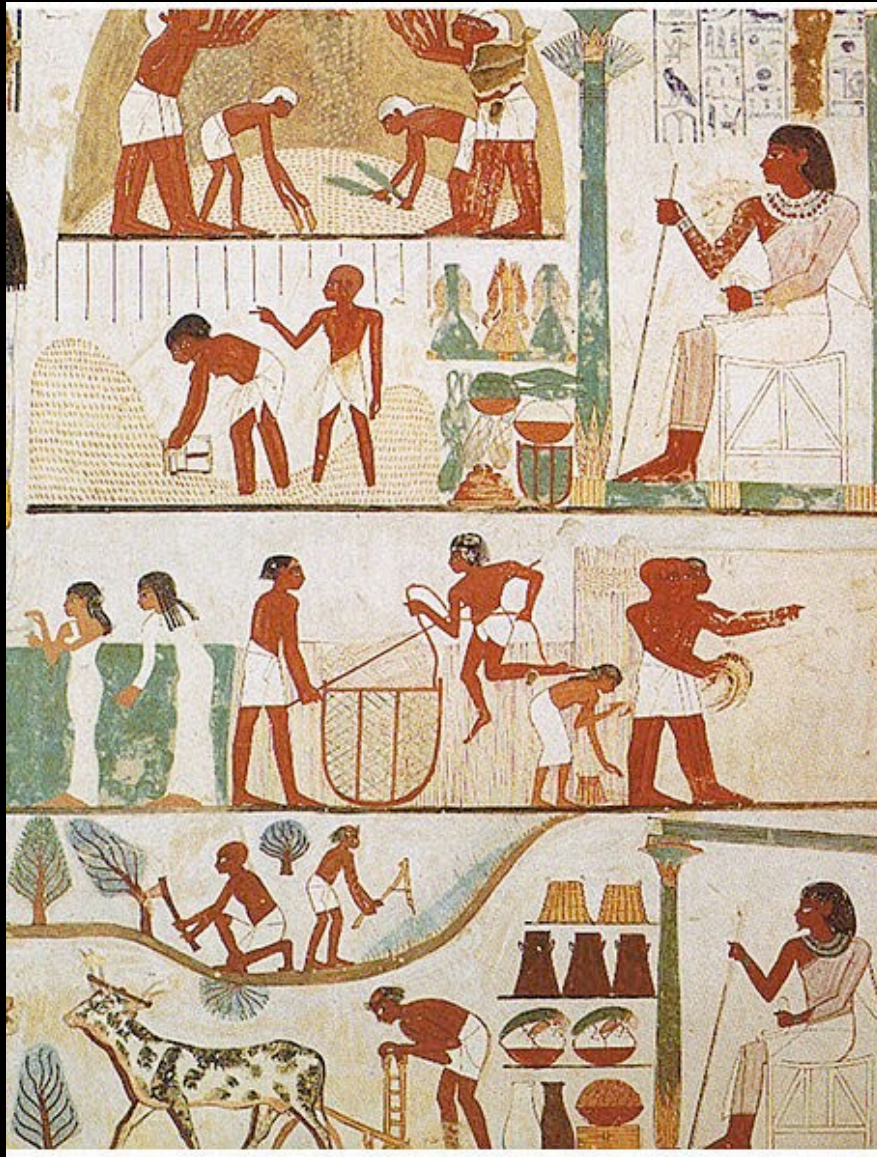




Raising water without the flood: water carriers and the shaduf

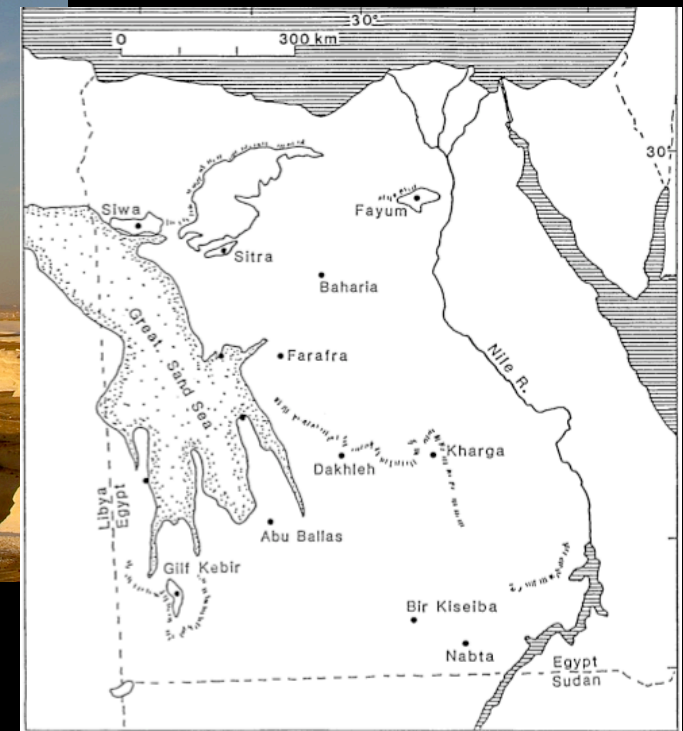


Food and agriculture in Egypt





Deserts: barriers and resources





Western Desert Oases

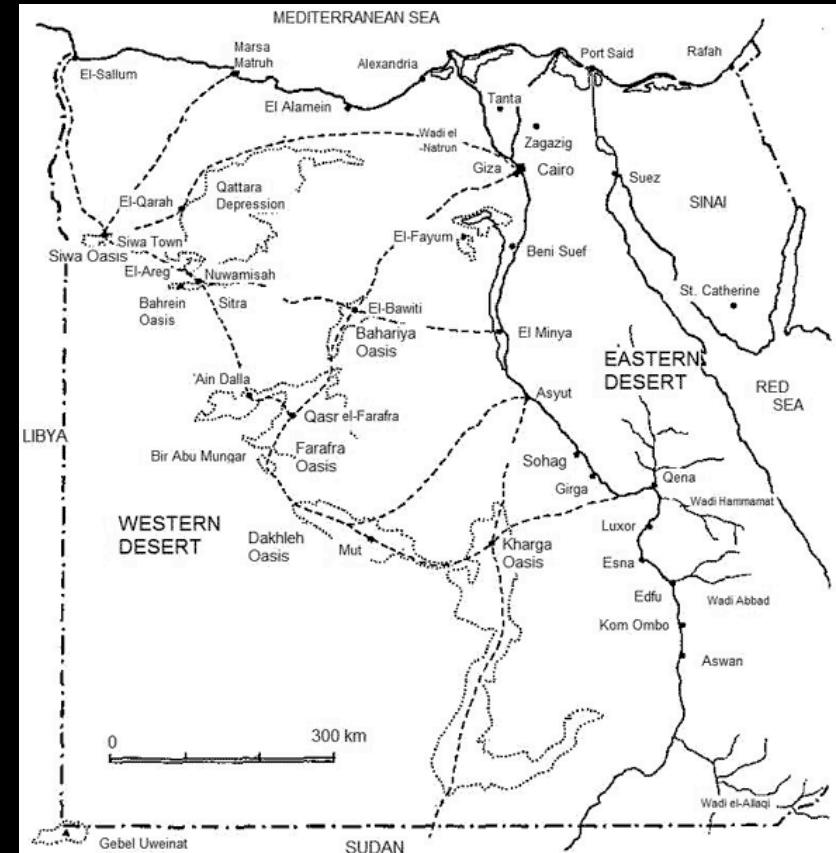
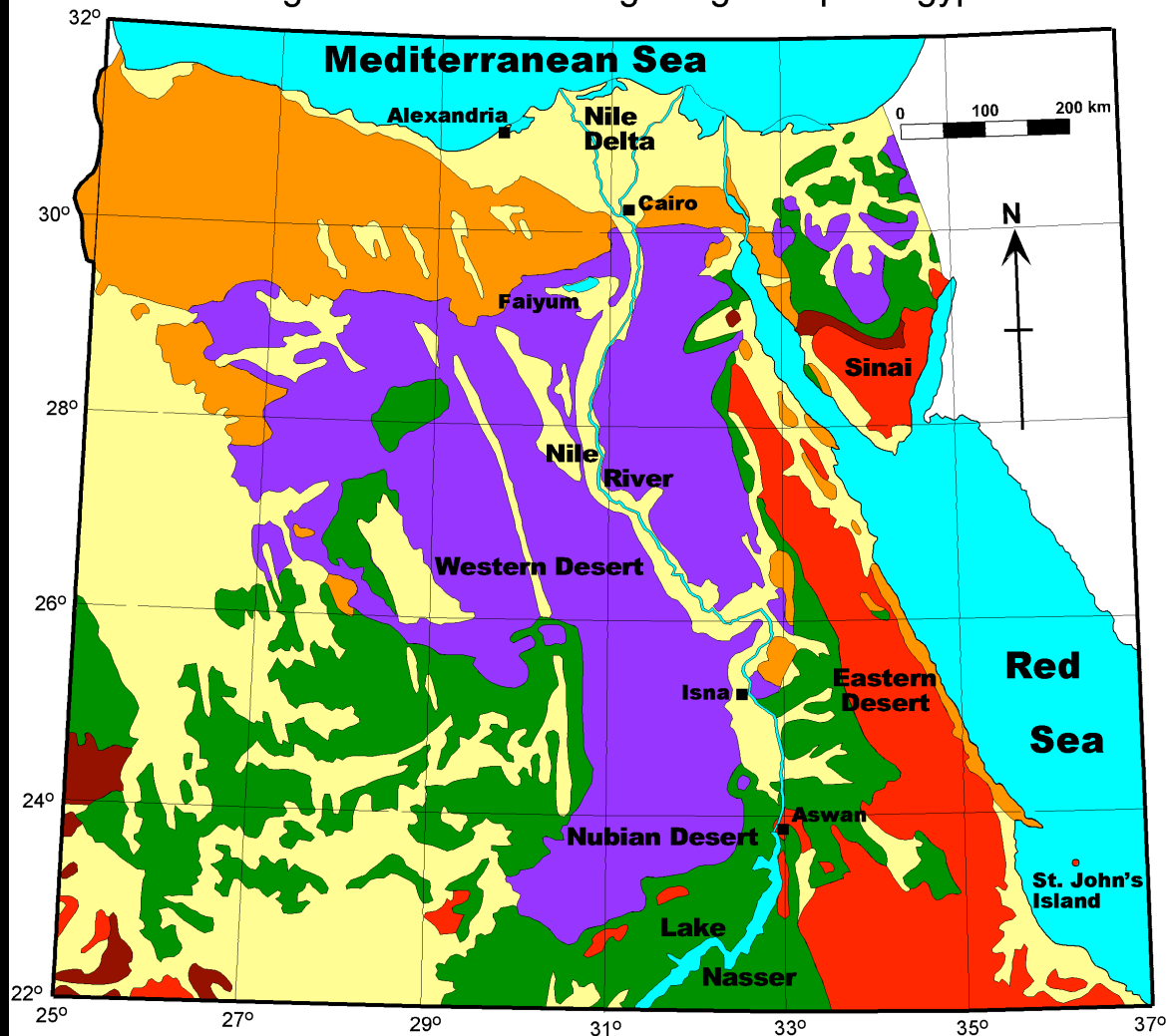


Figure 1: Generalized geologic map of Egypt



CENOZOIC

QUATERNARY

TERTIARY

Neogene

Paleogene

MESOZOIC

PALEOZOIC

PRECAMBRIAN

- Thick deposits of unconsolidated sediments: mainly sand dunes in the Western Desert; floodplain sand, silt and clay in the Nile Valley; and wadi sand and gravel in the Eastern Desert and Sinai
- Mainly sandstone and conglomerate
- Mainly limestone
- Mainly sandstone of Upper Cretaceous age
- Mainly sandstone and shale
- Igneous and metamorphic rocks ('crystalline basement')

Geology, geography,
and building
materials



Stone quarries in the Nile Valley





Sandstone monuments in the south,
limestone in the north



Gharb Aswān



Based on survey
and mapping by
Bloxam, Heldal,
Kelany and
Storemyr;
Klemm & Klemm;
and Harrell

QuarryScapes
2006



Mud brick architecture



Egypt: wood-poor, imports important



Egyptian acacia, palm
and sycamore. Lebanese
cedar.



Resource extraction outside the Nile Valley

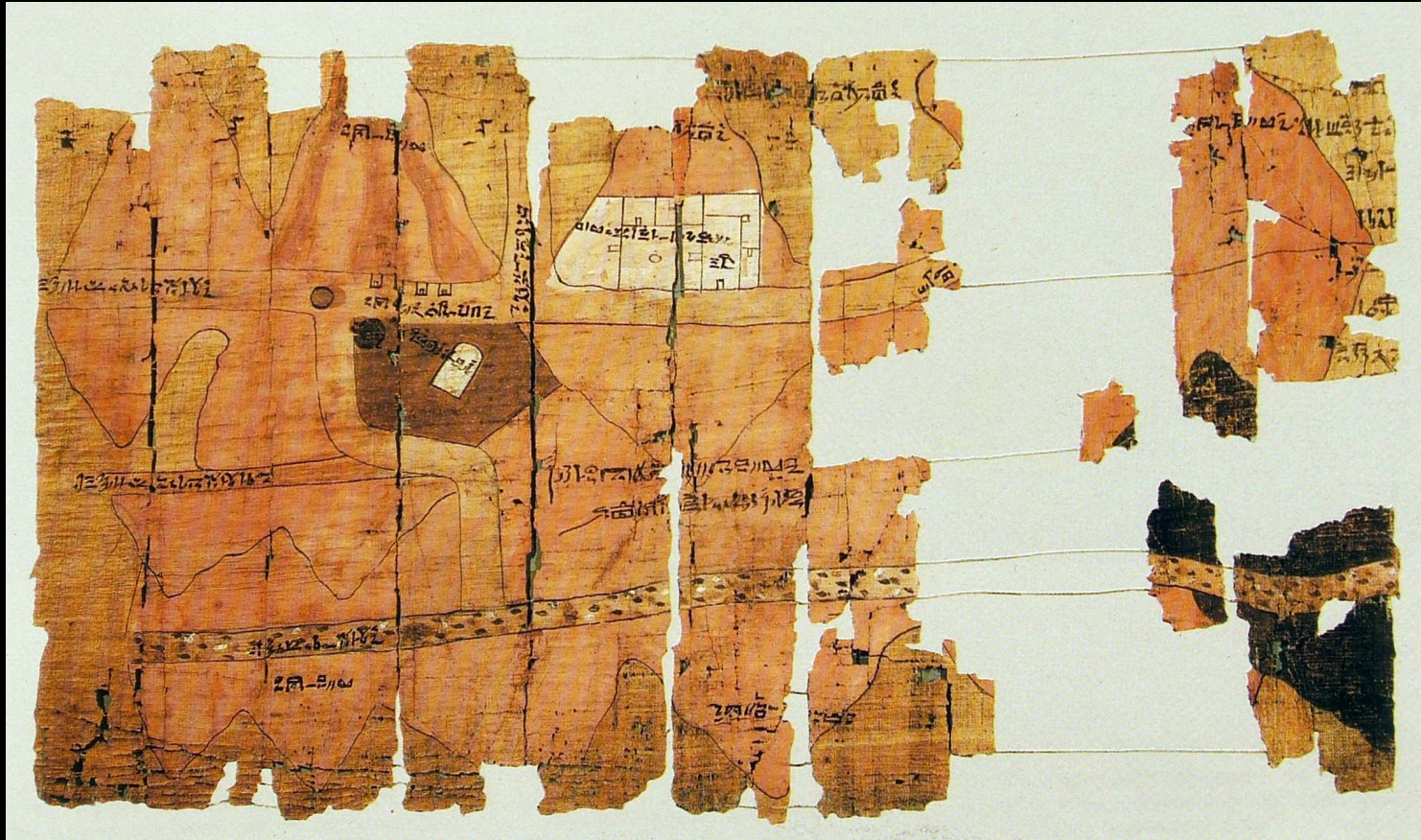


Sinai turquoise and copper mines



Eastern desert gold, stone

What did the Egyptians think of their own geography?

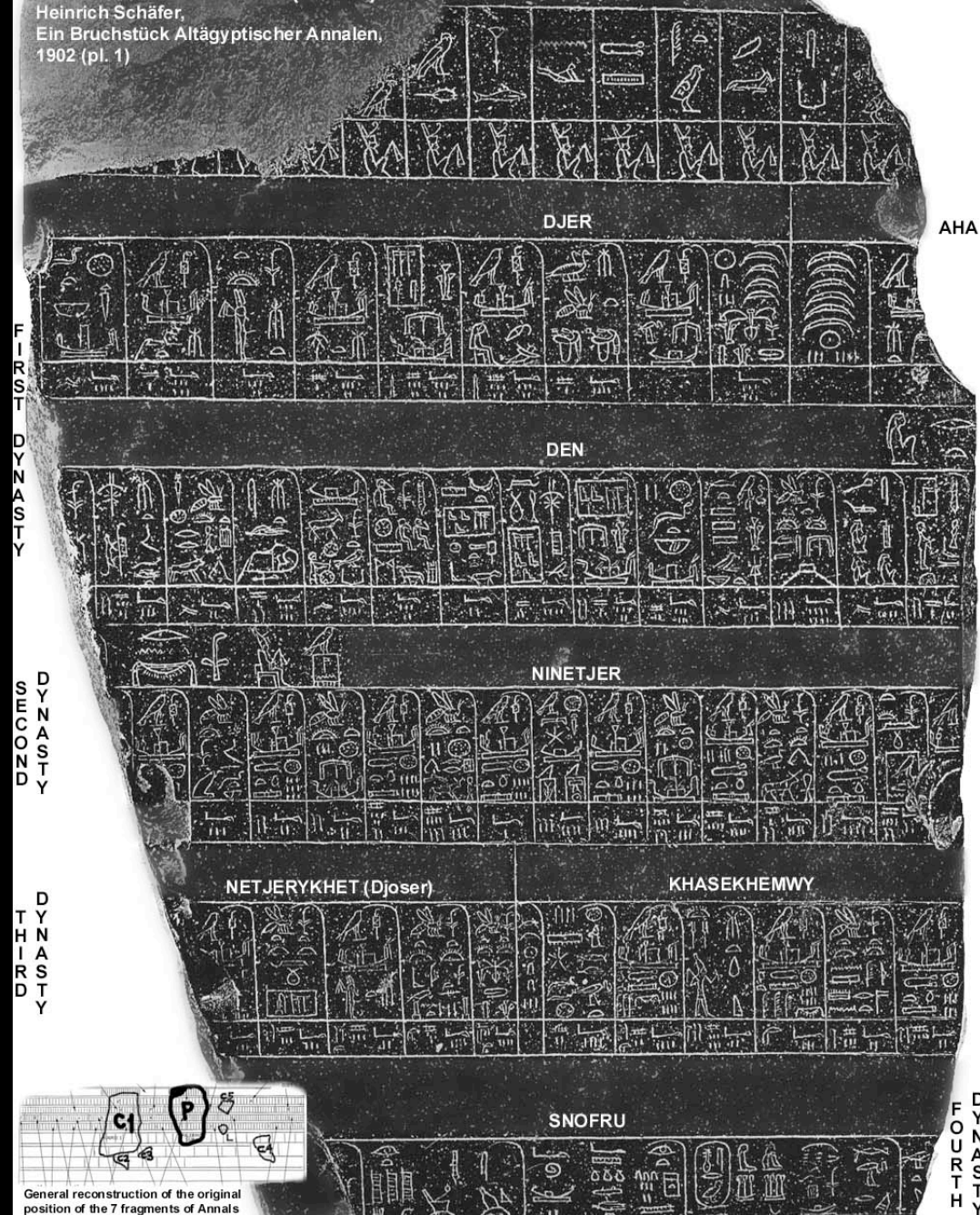


Turin Papyrus Map

PALERMO STONE (recto)

Heinrich Schäfer,
Ein Bruchstück Altägyptischer Annalen,
1902 (pl. 1)

LATE PREDYNASTIC KINGS



Recording of Nile
flood heights