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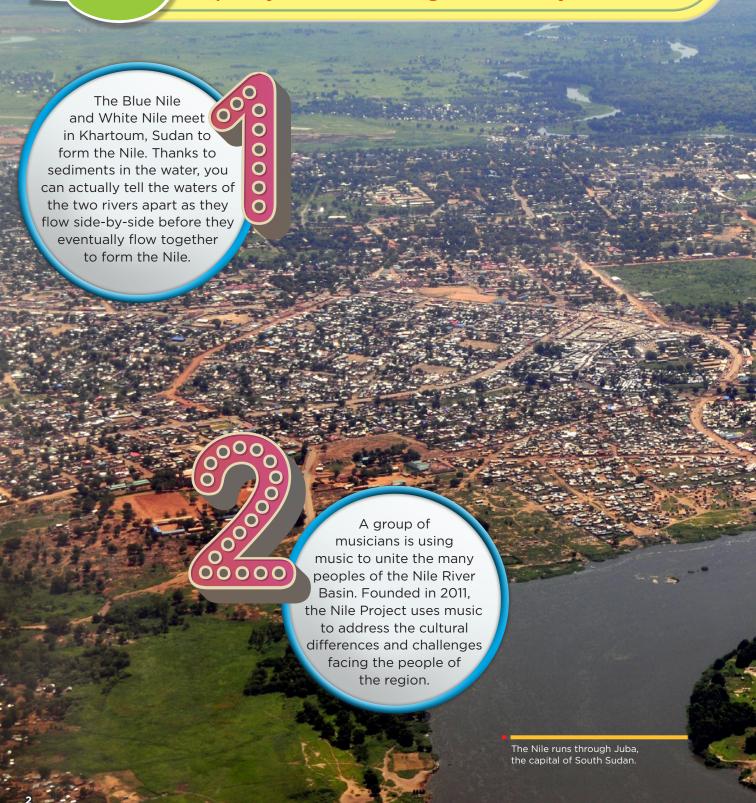
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When many people think of the **NILE**, they immediately think of Egypt. And yes, the Nile is vital to the people of Egypt, but the Nile River Basin affects **10 OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES**. Here are five facts to help expand your understanding of this river system.











THERE IS MUCH LIFE ALONG THE NILE.

The river flows through different **ecosystems** from lush rainforests to barren deserts. It supports a diversity of people and wildlife along its path.

The ancient Egyptians thrived on the banks of the Nile. Wall paintings in their tombs show the ancient Egyptians hunting, fishing, and farming. Lions, cheetahs, antelope, hippos, butterflies, fish, birds and many other species of wildlife show up in this ancient artwork. Some animals such as crocodiles, frogs, hippos, jackals, and falcons were revered as gods. In some tombs, favorite pets were mummified and buried with the dead.

But the Nile River has changed since the time of the ancient Egyptians. Millions of people now use the river to survive. Pollution, dams, draining of wetlands, and diverting water for crops impact the Nile and the wildlife that depend upon its waters. Though many animals seen by the ancient Egyptians still exist along the Nile today, some species are scarce.

An **ECOSYSTEM**

is a community of living and nonliving things that function together within an area. **ABOVE** A hippopotamus spends much of the day submerged in water to keep cool.

BELOW An adult Nile tilapia can reach up to two feet in length.

OPPOSITE PAGE TOP A baby crocodile suns itself on a log.

OPPOSITE PAGE CENTER African wildcats are about the size of a housecat, but have longer hind legs.

OPPOSITE PAGE BOTTOM Weaver birds build some of the most elaborate nests in the bird kingdom.



EHILLE EHILLES

The ancient Egyptians honored the crocodile god, Sobek. Some people kept crocodiles as pets, which were mummified and buried with their owners.







FISH

Nile tilapia, Nile perch, and electric catfish are just three of the many species of fish that live in the Nile. The female tilapia carries her eggs in her mouth until the young fry hatch and can swim on their own. When a Nile perch swims by, the fry swim back into their mother's mouth, safe from the predatory perch. Electric catfish of the Nile were once used to treat nervous diseases. Larger electric catfish can produce a shock between 350 and 400 volts.

CROCODILES AND HIPPOS

Construction of the Aswan High Dam in the 1960s drowned some of the Nile River delta's wetlands. Home to Nile crocodiles, these creatures disappeared from their native habitat. The crocodiles still live farther upriver, where they bask on river banks and prey on mammals that come to the river to drink.

Hippopotamuses also live in the river. They swim or walk across shallow river bottoms during the day. With their eyes, ears, and nose on the top of their head, only part of their body is above water. At night, these massive beasts walk ashore and feed on grasses.

WILDCATS

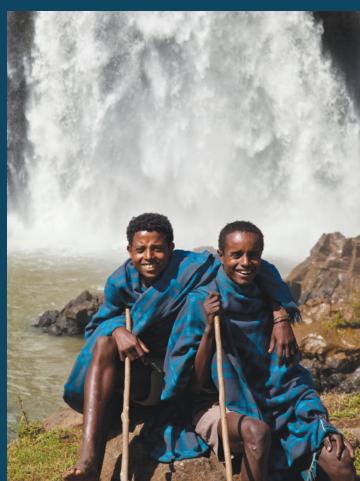
Besides the hippos, swamp or African wildcats also live along the Nile. About the size of a house cat, these wildcats eat small mammals such as mice and rats, but will also eat poisonous snakes, frogs, and fish. The ancient Egyptians mummified cats and placed them in tombs of the pharaohs.

BIRDS

In Sudan, the Sudd, also known as the Bahr al Jabal, is a vast wetland formed by the White Nile. It attracts many species of wildlife, including hundreds of species of migrating birds. It is also a valuable grazing location for livestock, such as cattle. Although threatened by canals and oil drilling, protection of the Sudd and other ecosystems along the river is needed to keep the Nile wild.

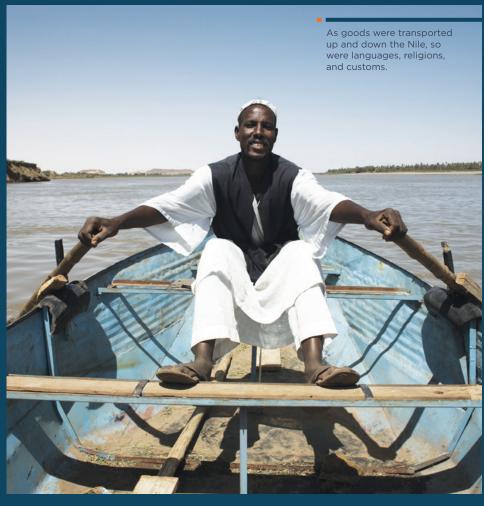
DAMIAN FAGAN is a writer and naturalist living in the Pacific Northwest. When not writing, he enjoys hiking to look at wildflowers and wildlife.

















LIFE ALONG THE NILE

by Richard A. Lobban, Jr.

AT 4,132 MILES, the Nile is the world's longest river. Some sections were widely known in very ancient times; others, not until 150 years ago. The people living along the Nile's banks represent incredible cultural diversity, as the river has served as a corridor into interior Africa. Moreover, its rapids, known better as cataracts, served as boundaries of empires. Foreign conquerors used the Nile to take control of Egypt and to enter Nubia (present-day Sudan). Over time, the river has proven itself a bridge between sub-Saharan and North Africa. Egyptian products were transported south, while Nubian products such as ivory, gold, and animal skins traveled north. As a result of this exchange, languages, religions, and peoples often intermingled and sometimes blended together. Yet, the river, especially the cataracts, also served to keep people apart.

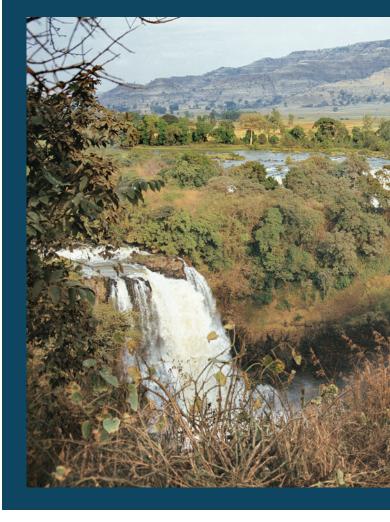
IN THE PATH OF THE NILE

Although many consider Lake Tana and Lake Victoria to be the sources of the Nile, both are actually fed by several rivers. The longest river flowing into Lake Victoria is the Akagera, which was traced by Burckhard Waldecker in 1934. A tributary of the Akagera, the Luvironza, originates on Mt. Kikizi in Burundi. Until recently, this was considered the most distant source of waters that fed the Nile. Mt. Kikizi may be the source farthest from the mouth of the Nile on a map, but another source of the Akagera, deep in the Nyungwe rainforest of Rwanda, could be the watercourse that is actually the longest. This is because the river winds back and forth. In 2006, British explorer Neil McGrigor and his "Ascend the Nile" team made their way from the mouth of the Akagera to its longest tributary, the Rukarara in the Nyungwe forest. This discovery added 60 miles (107 km) to the longest-known length of the Nile.

The Nile flows north through Egypt into the Mediterranean Sea. Because of this flow, when we look at a map of Africa, the Nile appears to run backward. Two rivers join to make the Nile: the White Nile flows out of Burundi, while the Blue Nile flows from northern Ethiopia. In the country of Sudan, the two rivers meet to form the Nile River. From Sudan, the Nile flows north to the Mediterranean Sea. At its tip, the Nile splits in two and forms the Nile Delta — the Damietta flows east, while the Rosetta flows west. These two branches were named for towns located at their mouths. The Nile Delta is a 120-mile region filled with shallow lakes and swamps. The Nile and its tributaries are home to many wild animals, such as crocodiles, hippopotamuses, elephants, and giraffes.

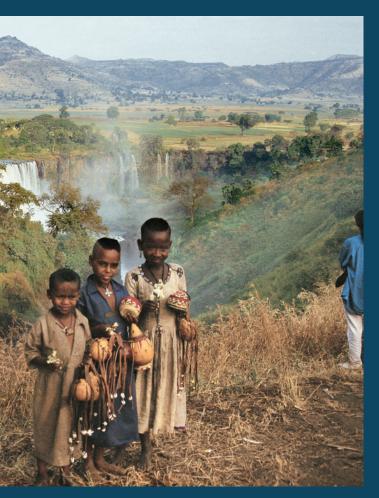
TAMING THE WATERS

Through the millennia, the Nile's majestic might has tempted many people to tame it for human advantage. The Nile today is forever changed from its ancient beginnings. Egyptians have built dams along the river,



including the Aswan High Dam. The Nile's water is channeled into canals and used to irrigate crops, and its dams are used to generate hydroelectric power. Farmers grow wheat, cotton, and rice in the delta's soil. People fish for catfish and perch in the Nile's waters. However, there is a lot of competition for the Nile's waters. Although most people associate the Nile with Egypt, the Nile Basin is immense. It occupies an area equal to about one-tenth of the African continent, and its waters actually flow through 11 countries: Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. Clearly, the Nile is vitally important not only to the survival of Egypt, but also to the survival of the ten other countries through which it flows. \checkmark

RICHARD A. LOBBAN, JR. is an adjunct professor of African Studies at the U.S. Naval War College.



The Fertile

As the Nile River flows through Egypt, it is mostly confined to one or two channels that snake through the Nile River Valley. Just north of Cairo, the Nile begins to divide, fanning out over a wide area. As the waters flow more slowly, soil that the river has carried from the distant south begins to settle. Over a long period of time, this soil has built up a triangular geographical feature called a "delta," because it resembles the three-sided letter of the Greek alphabet named delta and written Δ . The geography of the Nile Delta is very different from that of the Nile Valley. In ancient times, the river flowed through the Delta to the sea in several large channels, only two of which remain today. Parts of this region of Egypt did not fully drain after the annual flood, creating, as a result, permanent pockets of swampland and lakes. With its wide expanses of moist, fertile soil, the Delta contains twice the agricultural land found in the entire length of the narrow Nile Valley.

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by Noreen Doyle



WHO'S GOT THE POWER?

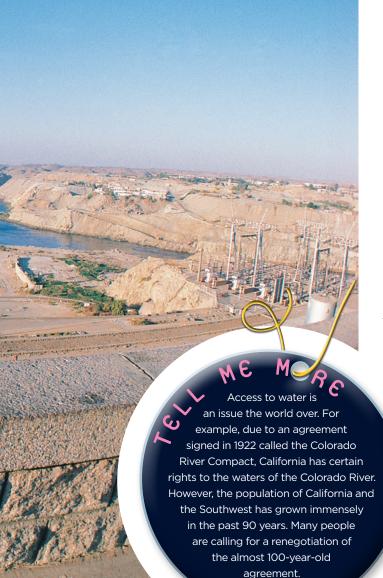
BELOW Two young men look north up the Nile River from the Aswan High Dam in Egypt. You can see the power station on the right.

INSET A farmer opens a small water canal on the Nile in Upper Egypt. This irrigation system allows him to water his farmland. by lodd luell









THE NILE HAS BEEN THE LIFEBLOOD of Egypt

throughout history and fueled the growth of one of mankind's great early civilizations. More than 99 percent of Egypt's 85 million citizens live within a few miles of the Nile and are dependent upon its waters as a source of fresh drinking water and to irrigate crops.

However, as the world's longest river, the Nile is not only vital to Egypt but also to 10 other countries. Portions of its 4,132 miles wind through Uganda, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, South Sudan, Eritrea, Tanzania, Rwanda, Kenya, Burundi as well as Ethiopia. Eleven countries share the Nile, yet according to the 1959 Nile Waters agreement, Egypt holds claim to two-thirds of the river's water (55.5 billion cubic meters of the total 84 billion cubic meters per year). In fact, 98 percent of fresh water used in Egypt originates outside its own borders in some of these upstream countries.

Egypt and Ethiopia's populations are growing rapidly. Ethiopia hopes to develop the water resources of the Blue Nile River to sustain its own population of 95 million. The Blue Nile originates in the highlands of Ethiopia around Lake Tana. It is one of the two major tributaries along with the White Nile, which it joins near Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, to create the Nile River.

In arid East Africa, water has long equaled power. Ethiopia plans to make this statement literal by building a dam on the Blue Nile to produce hydroelectric power. On April 2, 2011, the foundation stone of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam was laid. At a cost of \$4.7 billion, the completed dam will be 1.1 miles long and expected to produce 6,000 megawatts of electricity. When it's completed in 2017, the dam will be the largest hydroelectric dam in Africa and eighth largest in the world.

Hydroelectric power is one of the cheapest and cleanest sources of electricity. Ethiopia believes it has a claim to use the river, a natural and renewable resource. The dam will provide stable and reliable power to its citizens.

Dr. Jennifer Veilleux, water advisor with The Nile Project (NileProject.org) maintains that this will have a significant impact on a

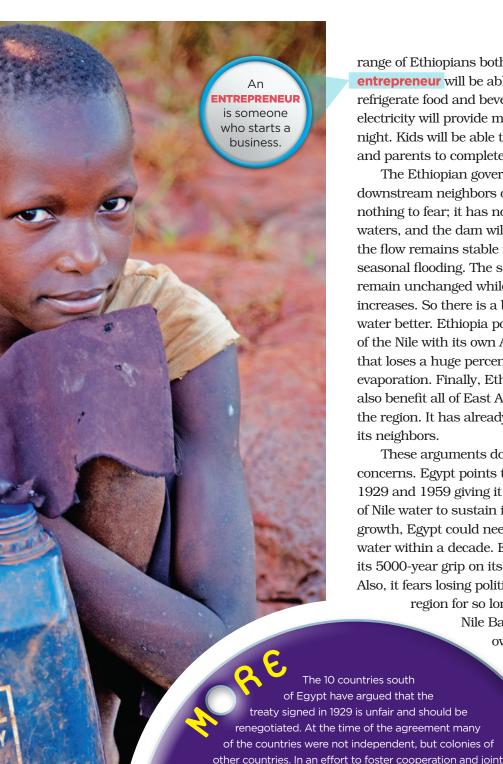




TOP PAGE A boy crosses a branch of the Nile in Sudan.

BOTTOM Construction is under way on the controversial Grand Renaissance Dam in Ethiopia.

RIGHT A young girl uses an old canister to collect water from the Nile.



range of Ethiopians both economically and socially. An entrepreneur will be able to establish an industry or refrigerate food and beverages to attract tourism. "And electricity will provide many more people with lighting at night. Kids will be able to stay up later to do homework, and parents to complete housework," Dr. Veilleux says.

The Ethiopian government asserts that its downstream neighbors of Sudan and Egypt have nothing to fear; it has no intention of withholding Nile waters, and the dam will actually monitor and ensure the flow remains stable to better regulate against seasonal flooding. The supply of water will probably remain unchanged while population in the area increases. So there is a basic need to use and manage water better. Ethiopia points to Egypt's current misuse of the Nile with its own Aswan Dam in southern Egypt that loses a huge percentage of the river's fresh water to evaporation. Finally, Ethiopia believes this new dam will also benefit all of East Africa by providing electricity to the region. It has already signed contracts with many of its neighbors.

These arguments do not, however, alleviate Egypt's concerns. Egypt points to the previous treaties from 1929 and 1959 giving it legal right to its current volume of Nile water to sustain its citizens. With high population growth, Egypt could need as much as 20 percent more water within a decade. Egypt has a real fear of losing its 5000-year grip on its only real source of fresh water. Also, it fears losing political control that it's held over the region for so long, which could result in other

economic development, nine of the 10 countries that border the

Nile (Eritrea did not participate and at that time South Sudan was part of Sudan) joined together to establish the Nile Basin Initiative

(NBI) in the late 1990s. In the past decade, NBI has worked hard to

hammer out a new agreement that will respect the needs of all 11

states. In addition, with the help of the World Bank and the United

Nations Development Program, NBI has supported joint hydropower

and irrigation projects. In May 2009, the water ministers of the

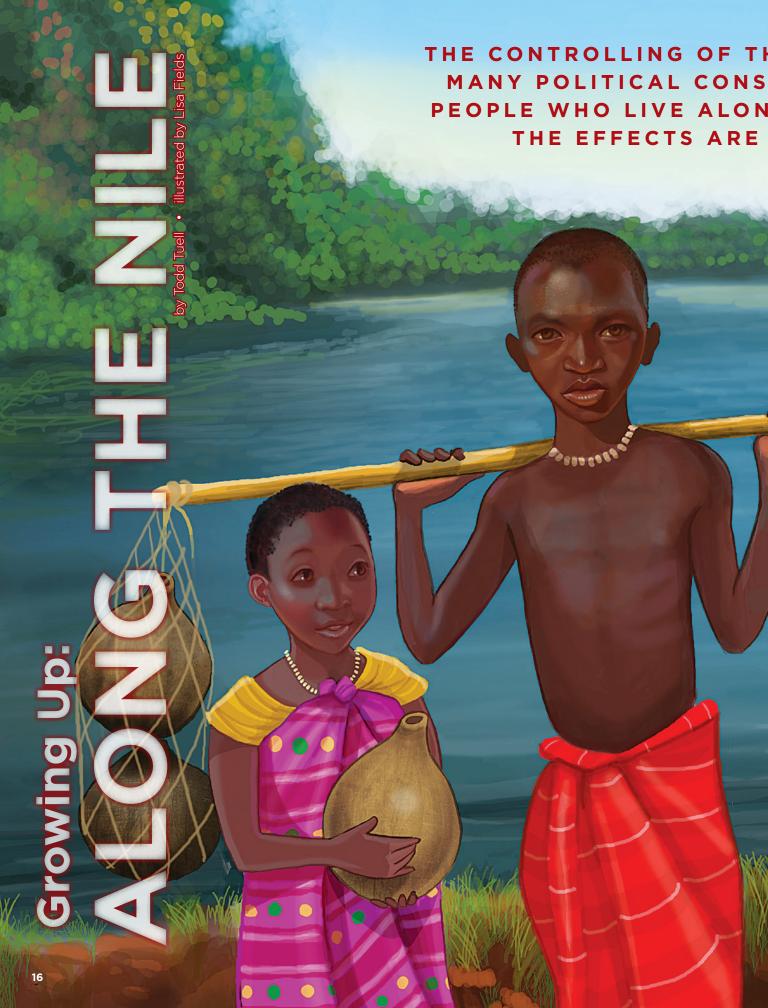
10 member countries gathered in the Democratic Republic of Congo to sign a new agreement. Egypt, the most powerful

country in the basin, refused to do so. More meetings are scheduled. Water is the earth's most precious resource and learning to share will

continue to be a challenge.

Nile Basin countries beginning their own dam projects. Egypt has tried to influence world powers to support its claim and even used veiled threats of military action against Ethiopia.

> The need for water and mutual cooperation will become ever more pressing as more of the countries in the Nile River Basin develop their economies and their populations grow. \forall



TE NILE'S WATERS HAVE EQUENCES. FOR MANY G THE NILE, HOWEVER, MORE PERSONAL.



ABDI IS A TWELVE-YEAR-OLD BOY who lives near

the Blue Nile River in the Benishangul-Gumuz state in Ethiopia, on the border of Sudan. He and his family are members of an ethnic minority in Ethiopia called the Gumuz. Some studies estimate as many as 20,000 Gumuz people will be relocated from their homes because of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam.

The majority of Gumuz people are part of a subsistence economy. They don't have jobs that pay them money. They live from what they hunt, grow, and catch in the river.

Gumuz children like Abdi and his seven-yearold sister, Adiba, grow up quickly. Most children do not receive a formal education. If they do, it is just a year or two for the boys, but typically there is no schooling for girls. Instead, they are expected to help feed the family. They begin their day by fetching fresh water for their family of six. They will do this at least three times per day. For larger families, it can be as many as six times each day.

The river provides this family with most of its needs. Abdi fishes the river with his father. One catfish can be big enough to feed 15 people, according to Dr. Jennifer Veilleux, water advisor with The Nile Project. Everyone helps with the crops. Farming in the Gumuz region is much different than you find here in America. It's called flood recession farming. It depends on the seasonal flooding of the Nile to bring rich topsoil to the floodplains where locals plant crops, like ground nuts and yams, as the floodwaters recede.

When Adiba was just 5 years old, she was responsible for taking care of her younger siblings. Now she can be found with her brother panning for gold in the Blue Nile. This is the only means of making money for the family. A local will collect gold from all the families and travel to jewelers in larger towns like Asossa or Bahir Dar on Lake Tana where he sells it. The money goes for buying clothing, salt, netting for fishing, and other necessities including school fees.

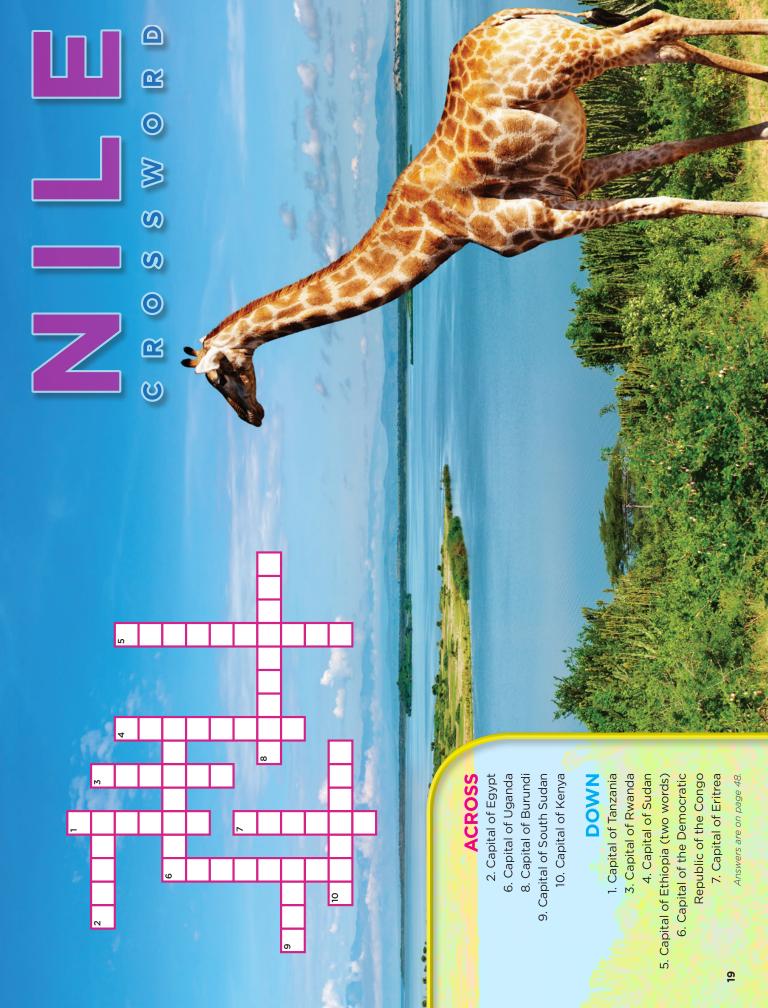
The day is long. The children go straight to bed, not simply because they are exhausted. In most settlements there is no electricity available for them to watch television or turn on a light to read.

Dr. Veilleux points out that relocation will have an immediate and significant impact on the Gumuz people. With changes to the main channel of the river, gold panning may not be possible, she says. Damming of the Blue Nile will surely impact the ecosystem of the fish in the river as well. Nobody knows for sure what fish will be able to flourish in the reservoir. Finally, by controlling the flow of the water, the Gumuz form of agriculture, in the past so dependent upon the floods, will need to change. Without flooding, they will need to use an irrigation system requiring different crops. That will constitute a big change to the typical Gumuz diets.

It is hard for the Gumuz to visualize how their lives will change. Many have never seen a dam or even electric lighting. Abdi and Abida's parents, however, choose to look at these changes with optimism. There is a very high infant death rate in this area. Rather than being dependent on roaming doctors and nurses to travel from town to town, they will be moved to a larger settlement with access to a clinic. They will have an improved and more accessible supply of clean drinking water. What many Gumuz parents are most adamant about is the opportunity for their children to receive more education.

For thousands of years, the Gumuz have lived in a mostly closed society. The lives of these people cannot be ignored in this battle over a river they've always known as their own. \bigcirc

^{*} Abdi and Abida are based on typical Gumuz children as observed by Dr. Jennifer Veilleux.



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THE LONGEST RIVER IN THE WORLD runs through

the political borders of 11 East African countries, consisting of 437 million citizens. Today the Nile ecosystem and its inhabitants are facing a variety of challenges including population growth, climate change, and ecosystem degradation and are consequently increasingly pressed to satisfy their booming water, food, energy, and employment needs.

So how do you bring all these people together? The Nile Project was born out of a conversation in **ETHNOMUSICOLOGIST** San Francisco between Egyptian s someone who studies ethnomusicologist Mina Girgis the music of different and Ethiopian-American singer Meklit Hadero. Realizing that there are few avenues for Nile Basin citizens to connect beyond their state borders, they founded an organization that would use music, education, and innovation programs to address the Nile Basin's cultural and environmental challenges.

When asked about her participation in the 2013 Nile Gathering, singer Alsarah said, "We came in as separate musicians but we're now creating a little orchestra with a new sound, a Nile sound." In developing this new Nile sound, the Nile Project is creating a community of engaged Nile citizens working

to address the region's most pressing issues.

Below is a list of the musicians who participated in the 2014 Nile Gathering:

ALSARAH

cultures.

/ SUDAN / VOCALS, LYRICIST 12



Alsarah is a singer, songwriter, and ethnomusicologist. Born in the capital city of Khartoum, she spent four years at Wesleyan University studying music with

a concentration in ethnomusicology.

Residing in Brooklyn, New York, she performs music from different parts of the Middle East and East Africa.

DAFAALLA EL HAJ

/ SUDAN/ OUD, PERCUSSION,

BANIMBO, ZOMBARA 2

Dafaalla El Haj is a multi-instrumentalist and performer. He has spent many years experimenting and supervising techniques of restoration and reconstruction of traditional instruments. He teaches and researches in various schools and institutes throughout Sudan.

DAWIT SEYOUM

/ ETHIOPIA / BASS KRAR, KRAR

Dawit Seyoum is a well-known bass krar player, skilled in a wide variety of formations and styles. He also plays the traditional krar and flute called washint. Dawit is a regular member of Ethiocolor, a top Ethiopian cultural band based in Addis Ababa.

DINA EL WEDIDI

/ EGYPT / VOCALS, LYRICIST 4



Dina el Wedidi started composing songs when she was a young university student in Cairo. She has worked as a singer and actress with the El Warsha Theatre Troupe, exploring Egyptian folklore and performing in a variety of venues including a prison in Cairo.



ENDRIS HASSEN

/ ETHIOPIA / MASENKO 3

Endris Hassen is one of the most sought after masenko players in Ethiopia. He is a member of Ethiocolor, the resident band at Addis Ababa's Fendika Azmari Bet. He also performs at the legendary Hager Fikir National Theater.

JORGA MESFIN

/ ETHIOPIA / SAXOPHONE 10

Jorga Mesfin is a self-taught musician and has been a professional performer since the age of 17. He is the founder of the Ethiojazz group Wudasse, and composed the score to Haile Gerima's epic Ethiopian movie *Teza*. Jorga teaches saxophone and piano at various schools throughout Addis Ababa.

The Nile Project's mission is "to inspire, educate, and empower Nile citizens to work together towards fostering the sustainability of the river's ecosystem."

JACKLINE KASIVA MUTUA

/ KENYA / PERCUSSIONIST, LYRICIST

Jackline Kasiva Mutua is a drummer and percussionist who learned traditional drums from her grandmother. Her performance style is influenced by afrobeat, zouk, samba, reggae, and soul.

LAWRENCE OKELLO

/ UGANDA / PERCUSSION, ADUNGU, AMADINDA 8

Lawrence Okello is a professional percussionist and multi-instrumentalist. He is a member

of the Ndere Troupe and is

the musical director of the Sosolya music and dance troupe in Uganda.

2

MEKLIT HADERO

/ US & ETHIOPIA / VOCALS

Meklit Hadero is an acclaimed singer with influences ranging from jazz and soul to hip-hop, art-rock, and folk music. She was named a TED Global Fellow in 2009 and has served group "devoted to as an artist in residence at New spreading ideas.'

York University, the De Young Museum, and the Red Poppy Art House. Meklit is the co-founder of The Nile Project.

MICHAEL BAZIBU

/ UGANDA / ENDONGO, ADUNGU, ENDINGIDI, PERCUSSION 5

Michael Bazibu is a multi-instrumentalist and performer based in Kampala. He is one of the lead musicians of the Ndere Troupe and has performed across Africa and the world.

NADER EL SHAER

/ EGYPT / KAWALA, NEY 11

Nader El Shaer is a self-taught musician. He started playing the accordion as a child, switching to the ney as a teenager before discovering the kawala. Nader is a master of magam, the modal musical tradition of the Middle East, but also listens to and plays music from India, Turkey, and East Asia.

NILEPROJEC

SELAMNESH ZEMENE

/ ETHIOPIA / VOCALS 6

TED is

a non-profit

Selamnesh Zemene comes from a long line of Azmaris, the keepers of a special musical tradition in Ethiopia. She has worked on her own albums and videos in addition to collaborating with local and international artists.

SOPHIE NZAYISENGA / RWANDA / INANGA, VOCALS 7

Sophie Nzavisenga is the first female player of the inanga, a large, tough, zither instrument with between eight and 16 strings. She has developed the role of the inanga in traditional Rwandan music, as well as in international formations in Malawi, the UK, and Turkey.

STEVEN SOGO

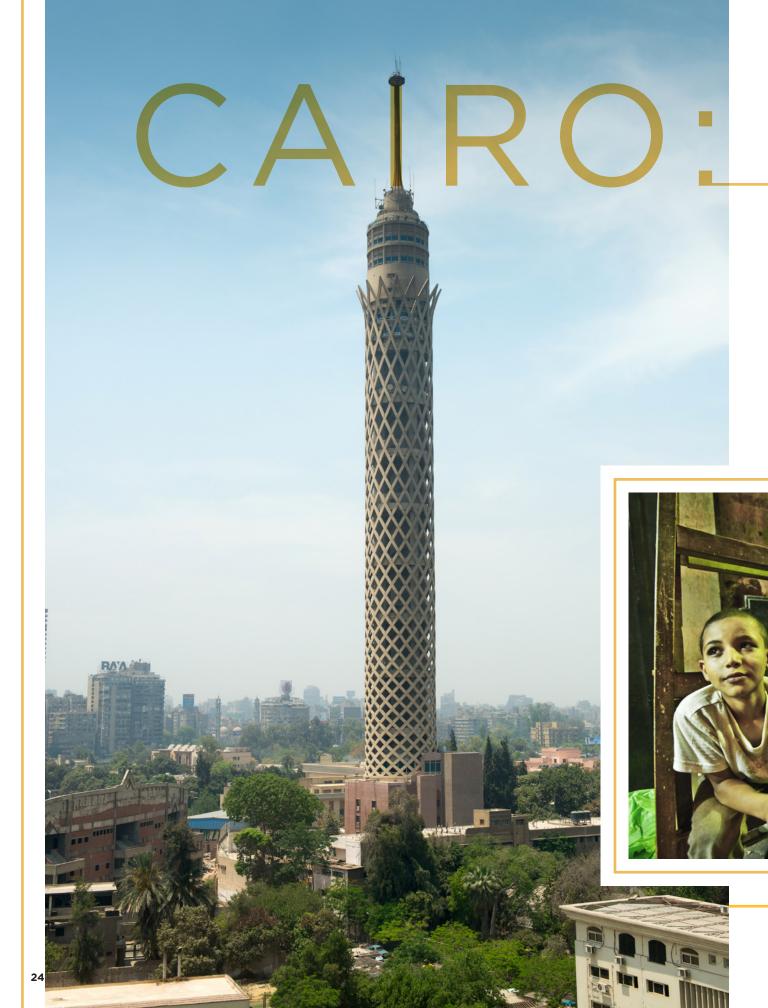
/ BURUNDI / IKEMBE, GUITAR, BASS, VOCALS 9

Steven Sogo started to play the guitar and to sing at an early age. He was an active member at the Kamenge Youth Center where he worked with different bands before forming his own, Hope Street. He is a

> leading bass player in Burundi and was recently selected by the World Bank Institute to be Burundi's music ambassador. 🕌



Projects debut album, Aswan, please see the website at www.nileproject.org/



The Gateway to the NILE DELTA

IT HAS BEEN CALLED

"the metropolis of the universe," "the mother of the world," and a city that "surpasses anything one can imagine." It is Cairo, one of the world's largest cities. Located on the banks of the Nile River in northeastern Egypt, it is home to almost 18 million people.

Cairo is located just a few miles south of where the ancient city of Memphis once stood. Memphis was the birthplace of ancient Egyptian civilization. It was home to the pharaohs, the site of the first pyramids, and was one of the largest and most important cities in the ancient world. The pharaohs



LEFT At 613 feet high, the Cairo Tower is the tallest structure in Egypt.

ABOVE Cairo's market district is popular with Egyptians and tourists alike.

ruled Egypt until 525 B.C. when the Persians invaded the country and built a fort in modern-day Cairo. It was a very desirable location because of its direct access to the Nile River. The city was later ruled by the Greeks, Romans, and Muslims.

Today, Cairo is the political and communication capital of Egypt. It is home to almost one-fourth of the country's population. Many rural people flocked to Cairo, the country's center of industry, in search of jobs after World War II. Overcrowding became a major problem, and Cairo is one of the most densely populated cities in the world.

The entire city can be seen from the top of its tallest building, the Cairo Tower. The Christian quarter of the city, Old Cairo, is visible to the south. It is home to the ruins of an ancient Roman fort as well as to numerous Christian churches. Some churches are more than 1,000 years old — older than the Islamic mosques (Muslim places of worship) that Cairo is famous for. Christianity was Cairo's dominant religion during Roman times, but Christians now represent only about 10 percent of the population. Islam was introduced to Cairo in the 10^{th} century, but it did not become the dominant religion until the 13^{th} century.

Many of Cairo's Muslims live in the heart of the city in Islamic Cairo. Its skyline is dominated by mosques and their minarets, slim towers of various shapes and sizes. A crier calls Muslims to prayer five times a day from atop the minarets. Prayer time is the quietest time in Kan El Khalili, the ancient marketplace that once served 14th century camel caravans of foreign traders. It is one of the busiest shopping areas in the city, and merchants and shoppers are practiced in the art of bargaining. The marketplace is just one of the more than 500 historic sites in Islamic Cairo, many of which have

been neglected, vandalized, looted, or illegally razed by corrupt developers. Fortunately, the Citadel, a medieval Islamic fort built in the $12^{\rm th}$ century to protect the city from invaders, has been well-preserved. During Ramadan, a month in which Muslims fast during daylight hours, a cannon is fired from the fort each day to mark the end of the day's fasting.

The Citadel is a popular tourist attraction, and tourism is very important to Cairo's economy. Tourists flock to the Egyptian Museum to see the more than 100,000 relics from ancient Egypt as

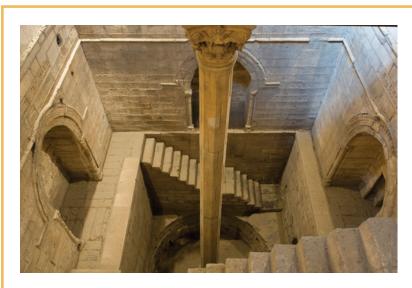
well as numerous treasures from King Tutankhamen's tomb. An often overlooked but interesting place to visit in Cairo is the Nilometer which was built in A.D. 715. Nilometers have been used to measure Nile River water levels since the time of the pharaohs. Measurements were used to predict the year's harvest, and farmers were taxed based on these estimates.

RIGHT In ancient Egypt, the Nilometer column was used to measure the depth of the Nile as a predictor for harvests.

BELOW A boat glides along the Nile.

Although Cairo is a fascinating city to visit, tourism has suffered greatly in recent years. Egypt has been gripped by a violent political revolution, and images of protests and demonstrations have been broadcast throughout the world. Those in Cairo who rely on tourism for their livelihood are suffering greatly, and they can only hope that the magic of Cairo will once again lure foreign tourists to their incredible city.

CHRISTINE GRAF is a frequent contributor to FACES.





Where TWO NILES Meet

by Madeline Harrison

From atop the White Nile Bridge in Khartoum, Sudan, you can watch as the wide and lazy White Nile merges with the narrow and rapid Blue Nile. Due to the different sediments in the water, you can even tell the two rivers apart as they flow side by side until they eventually blend to become the Nile River.

Khartoum's name is believed to be derived from the Arabic word *khartum*, which means "elephant trunk." That seems likely, as the rivers resemble just that as they snake together. The site where they join is called Al Mogran and is a popular spot for many types of migratory birds.

Khartoum is actually three cities in one. The oldest section is Khartoum Proper. It sits on a strip of land where the two Niles merge. It is connected to the other sections by a series of several bridges. To the north is Khartoum North (also called Bahri) and to the west is Omdurman. The three sections and their surrounding areas make up one of the most populated metropolitan areas in Africa, and the world. An estimated 5.2 million people live in this region.

Today, Khartoum is developing rapidly due in large part to income generated by Sudan's oil industry. Many modern hotels and skyscrapers have created a unique skyline. Once predominantly Arabic, Khartoum has become a mix of peoples and cultures. Drought has impacted much of the country's western region causing many to move to the city in search of jobs. Many refugees from the south come to escape the area's political unrest.

During the summer months, the Blue Nile is at its highest level. Its waters can actually push back the waters of the White Nile and cause flooding in sections of Khartoum.

One of the highlights of the city is the Soug Al Arabi. This outdoor marketplace stretches several city blocks from the city's center. The market is divided into sections based on goods for sale. It even features a section dedicated to gold!

Sudan depends on the waters of the Blue Nile for irrigation and much of the country's hydroelectric power. But the Blue Nile is not just important to Sudan. It is estimated that about 60 percent of the Nile's water that reaches Egypt originates from the Blue Nile. -







OP Heavy rain caused an area between the White and Blue Niles in Khartoum to flood in August 2013.

CENTER The scene outside the Great Mosque is often buzzing with activity.

BOTTOM The world's largest camel market is held just



Great Rivers

The Nile is the world's longest river system, but it is by no means the only important river on Earth. Read on to discover some of the great rivers of the world.



The Amazon, South America

The Amazon is one of the world's longest rivers, second only to the Nile. Beginning with streams in the Andes Mountains in Peru, the Amazon flows 4,000 miles eastward through Colombia and Brazil to the Atlantic Ocean. Throughout its course, the river usually ranges from about one to six miles wide. During the annual flood season, it can swell to as much as 20 miles wide in some areas. It is also one of the deepest rivers, with depths up to 300 feet in a number of areas. In addition, the Amazon has the largest watershed of any river in the world. Water from Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia, and Venezuela drains into the Amazon. By the time the water reaches the mouth of the river, there is so much water traveling with so much force that it sends a huge plume of fresh water into the Atlantic Ocean. Since fresh water is lighter than salt water,

the fresh water rises above the salt water and changes the color and salinity of the surface of the Atlantic Ocean for about 250 miles off the coast of Brazil.

A WATERSHED is an area of land where water that is under it or that drains off of it flows into the same place.





their spirit get to nirvana (heaven). Many religious

ceremonies are held on the banks of the Ganges.

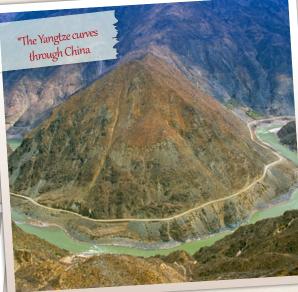
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The Yangtze, Asia

The Yangtze River divides China into north and south - geographically, historically, and culturally. Asia's longest river and the world's third longest river, it served as the country's principal means of transportation until the first railroads were built in the 19th century. Today, this waterway, which the Chinese call "Long River," remains an important eastwest water artery. The Yangtze, which sometimes is spelled Yangzi, begins as a modest stream that flows from melting glaciers near Mount Gelandong on the high Tibetan Plateau in far western China. The water plunges from the plateau and thrusts furiously through remote mountain ravines in an area called "Golden Sands." Originally, the Yangtze flowed south, but, over time, mountains rose and blocked the route leading through Vietnam. So, the river made an abrupt hairpin turn, first north, then south, and finally toward the northeast to the East China Sea. On its journey of 3,988 miles, the river receives water from 700 tributaries and lakes.

> *Typical Mekong Delta scene







The Mekong River is the longest river in Southeast Asia and the eleventh longest in the world. The Mekong River originates near the Tibetan border. The monsoon rainy season of Southeast Asia adds even more water to the river. From Tibet,

the Mekong flows through China, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam, where the river spreads into nine smaller tributaries and forms the Mekong Delta. The Vietnamese call these nine smaller rivers "the nine dragons" because of their sinuous shape.

*Casting for fish



30





THE KANGA (KAHN-gah) is a brightly-colored rectangle of cotton cloth, especially popular in the Great Lakes region of Africa.

Kangas are often bought in pairs in shops and markets. A kanga is as long as an adult's outstretched arms and is big enough to cover the body from the neck to the knees. A kanga can be wrapped and tied in many different and expressive ways. Men and boys sleep in them. Girls and women wear them as skirts and head coverings, both at home and in public.

Kangas are also used to carry babies in a sling on one's back. In East Africa, people say that you can never have too many kangas.

Kangas often have Kiswahili words on them. Sometimes these are messages to others. *Usinembue* is cranky but clear: "Don't bother me." Most often, however, the writings are wise sayings or proverbs. Here are some examples:

Brahidi ni bora kuliko mali.

(Blessings are better than possessions.)

Njia mwongo fupi.

(The path of the liar is a short one.)

Mtaka yote hukosa yote.

(One who grabs for all usually loses all.)

The word kanga is Swahili for a particular kind of bird. It is said that in the 1850s, ladies in Zanzibar began to sew colorful handkerchiefs together to make a

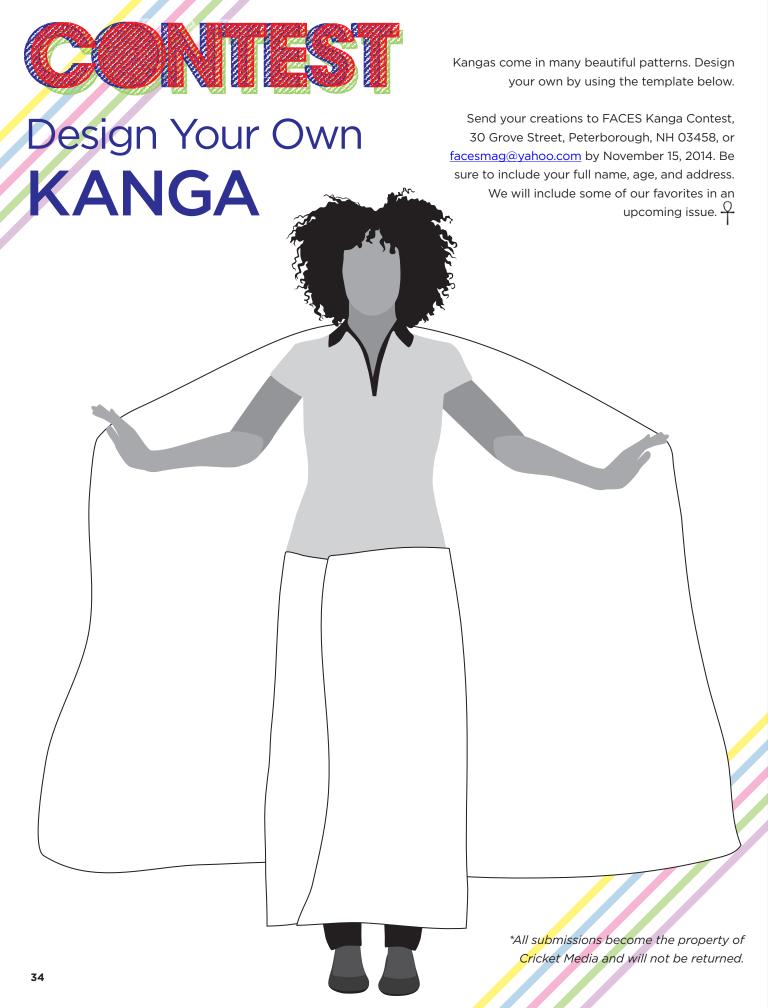
larger cloth. Then merchants began making this cloth and selling it. It reminded people of the kanga bird, which we call a guinea fowl, and the name stuck.

On the following page, you will see two different ways of tying a kanga. Try them or experiment with other methods.

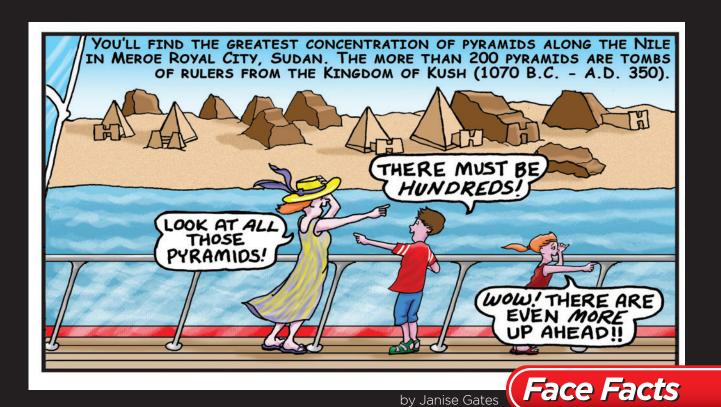
Kanga nenda na urembo, shani urembo na shani.

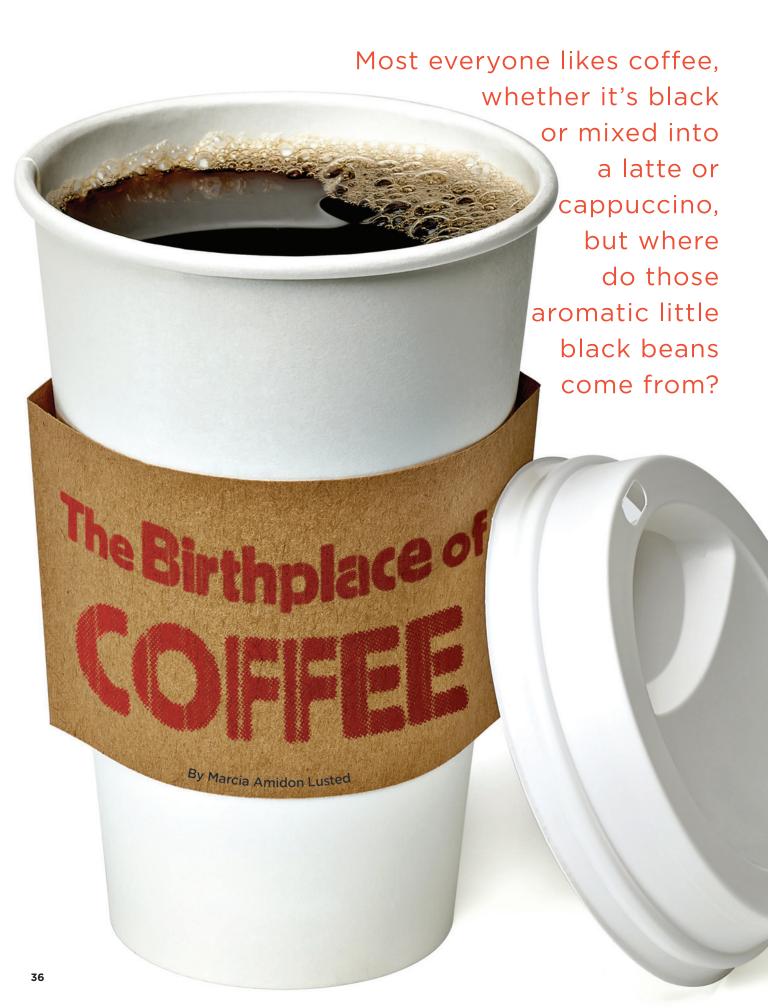
(The kanga struts in style, surprisingly stylish and smart.)











You can actually thank Ethiopia for the discovery of coffee beans and the flavorful, stimulating brew that comes from them! Legend has it that coffee beans were originally discovered by a goatherder in A.D. 850, when his goats seemed unusually excited and active after nibbling some bright red berries that grew near their pasture. The goatherder tried the berries for himself and immediately felt more energetic and happy. He took the berries to the monks in a nearby monastery, thinking they were miraculous, but the monks threw them into the fire, claiming they were evil. Only when the wonderful smell of roasting coffee beans filled the entire monastery did the monks sweep them out of the fire's embers and cover them with hot water to preserve them, accidentally creating a new and wonderful drink that helped the monks stay awake during long nights of meditation.

Today we know that the miraculous ingredient in coffee beans is caffeine, a stimulant that makes people wake up when they drink it. Coffee, whose name comes from the Kaffa region in southwestern Ethiopia where coffee trees grow wild, quickly became a popular drink all over the world. Although coffee is now grown in many other parts of the world as well, Ethiopia is still known for producing the best coffee in the world.

Today, Ethiopia is Africa's major exporter of Arabica coffee beans. Arabica is known as the world's highest-quality coffee, and it's one of the two major species of coffee beans used to make most of what the world drinks. Arabica trees will produce crops of coffee beans about three to







four years after being planted, and they can keep producing for 20 to 30 years. Most of the Arabica trees in the Kaffa province grow wild in the rolling hills and forests there. Coffee trees like Kaffa's climate, with temperatures of 60° to 75° F, shade from the midday sun, and plenty of moisture in the soil.

Coffee is big business in Ethiopia. More than 12 million people depend on this industry. The country produces 200,000 tons of coffee every year. Ethiopians buy almost half of that, and the rest is exported to countries such as Germany, Japan, the United States, and the Middle East. Coffee drinkers like Ethiopian coffee because of its unique flavor, not too strong and not too bitter, and some specially-blended types are specifically sought by sophisticated coffee drinkers all over the world.

No trip to Ethiopia would be complete without a chance to participate in an Ethiopian coffee ceremony. An invitation to attend this ceremony is a mark of friendship and respect. Coffee beans are roasted in the traditional way, in a flat pan over a small charcoal stove. Once they are black and glossy, the hostess (usually a young woman dressed in traditional Ethiopian clothing) grinds the beans with a mortar and pestle and then stirs the grounds into water in a special black clay coffee pot called a jebena. The coffee is served in tiny china cups, given first to the oldest person in the room and then to the rest, as a connection between the generations. Participants drink at least three cups of coffee, since the third round, or baraka, bestows a blessing upon the person who drinks it. \checkmark







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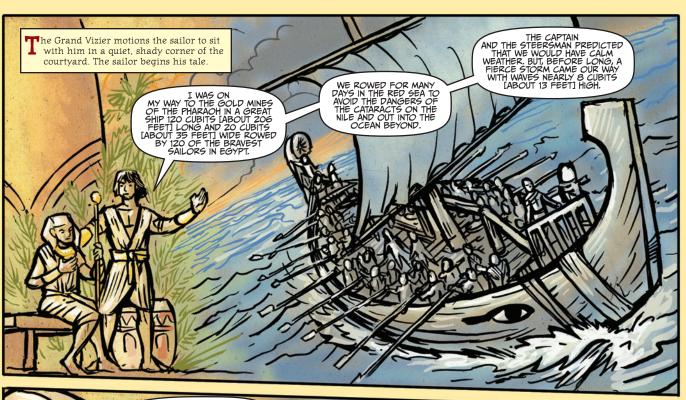


















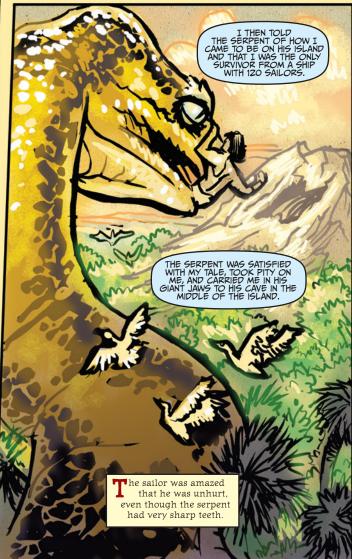








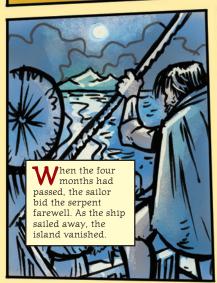


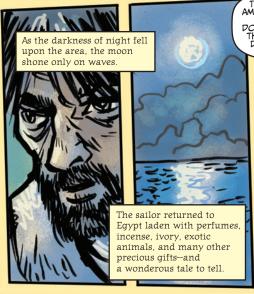




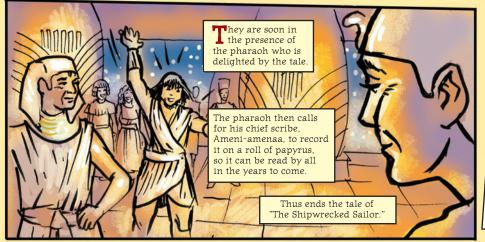












NOTE: THE ONLY KNOWN COPY OF THE TALE OF THE SHIPWRECKED SAILOR WAS FOUND IN 1881 IN A CHEST IN THE EGYPTIAN COLLECTION OF THE HERMITAGE MUSEUM IN ST.

PETERSBURG, RUSSIA. INSCRIBED ON A PIECE OF PAPYRUS 12.5 INCHES LONG AND 4.7 INCHES HIGH, THE TEXT IS VERY CLEAR. THE WRITING STYLE AND THE NAMES OF CERTAIN GEOGRAPHIC LOCATIONS DATE THE MANUSCRIPT TO A PERIOD NO LATER THAN THAT OF SENUSERT II OF THE 12TH DYNASTY, WHO DIED AROUND 1872 B.C.



a nile river

The Nile River has

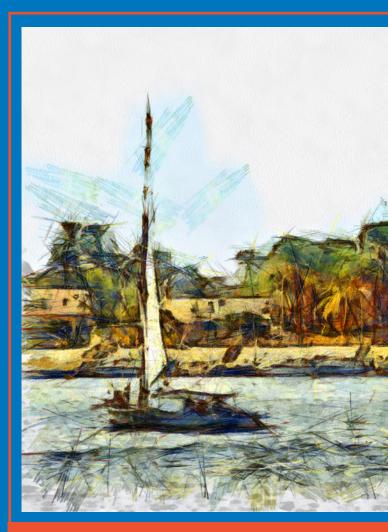
a huge influence on the people living in its path. It impacts agriculture, transportation, and yes, even art. You can paint the Nile River in the ancient Egyptian way.

MATERIALS:

- Pre-primed canvas or large watercolor paper or papyrus paper if you can find it!
- Acrylic paint
- Colored chalk
- Ruler
- Copies of ancient Egyptian art found on websites
- Scrap paper for planning

STEP I — PLAN YOUR PIECE

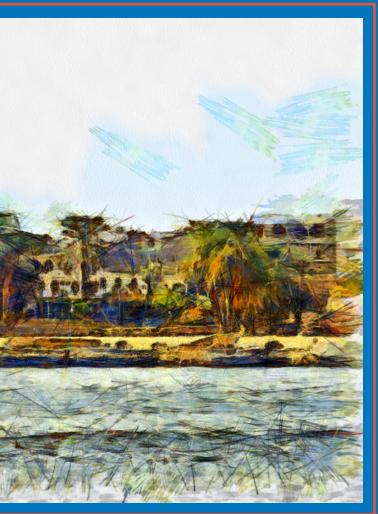
Using your scrap paper, draw a classic Nile landscape. Create more depth to your piece by dividing your paper into three sections, the foreground, the mid ground and the background. Draw objects in the foreground larger than those in the mid ground and draw objects in the background smaller and closer together. Overlap some objects to make them seem as if they are in front of another. For example, you could draw the Nile River flowing along the foreground of your piece with papyrus reeds and grasses growing along its banks. Then in the mid ground, behind the grasses you could draw some pyramids with sand dunes drawn in the background. Keep everything in the foreground crisp and clear with sharp details, and as you move







Landscape by Brenda Breuls of the Control of the Co



Send us your Nile landscapes. Mail your artwork to: FACES Landscape Contest, 30 Grove Street, Peterborough, NH 03458, or email a scan or photograph of your artwork to facesmag@ yahoo.com by November 17, 2014. Be sure to include your full name, age, and address. The best paintings will be featured in an upcoming issue of FACES.

* All submissions become the property of Cricket

Media and will not be returned.

to the background of your piece, make details a bit more faded and muted.

STED 2 — ADDING SOME FLARE

The Nile River was so important to the ancient Egyptians that it became a symbol for life. Artists used the color blue to symbolize life. Look for a way you could include blue in your piece to draw attention to something important. Try adding details like trees or human figures. Another idea might be to create a border around your entire piece repeating a simple symbol or design.

STEP 3 — PAINTING

When you have completed your rough draft, begin sketching it out on the canvas. Use chalk to draw in the basic shapes knowing that you will paint directly over it later. Using the ruler, draw in the border. Begin painting the background colors and the largest areas. Leave the darker colors and finer details until the end. Remember that painting happens in layers with each layer adding more details.

STED 4 -APPRECIATE YOUR WORK

Make sure to display your finished work and take time to celebrate and honor the importance of the Nile River and rivers everywhere.





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from April 2014 FACES: Paris/Why We Love This City



"Bonjour! Now sit here, and stay . . . " - Kate C.

"When I was your age, we painted our own selfies." - Lillian B.

"Shhh! I am painting and painting is very RUFF when there is noise!" - Gracie V.

"I'm Leonardo Dog Vinci!" - Jackson L.

"Woof you like moi to paint your portrait?" - Winna X.

Answer to **Mystery Photo** on inside front cover: Ancient Egyptians made paper and other goods from the papyrus plant.



Answers to **NILE CROSSWORD** on page 19:

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Answer to **Where in the World?** on page 31: The Thames provides some of the most breathtaking views of central London.

Answers to **Fallen Quote** on page 35: "It is like using a spoon to get water from the

Answers to KANGA MATCH on back cover:

