

Egypt

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4th Grade Nonfiction

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Egypt is a country in Africa. It is at the north part of the continent. The north side of Egypt borders the Mediterranean. East of it is the Red Sea, Sudan to the south and Libya to the west. Other countries are on its other sides. It is in a very special location. It is a place that is close to Asia.

The capital of Egypt is Cairo. That is a really great city. It has been an important city for a long time. It is the largest city in Africa. If you visit that city, you will find a very modern place. You will see many cars. You will see many businesses, schools, and homes.

About 82 million people live in Egypt. They have a rich history. Long ago, Egyptians made this the greatest place in the world. They built pyramids. These very smart people invented ways to farm.

Long ago, Egyptians were wonderful leaders. They built great buildings. They set up schools. They invented a special way of writing. That was called hieroglyphics. They looked like pictures instead of alphabet letters.

You will still see hieroglyphics in Egypt today. But they are not used to read and write. They are a part of history. Egypt has a long history. It has been a leader for a long time. If you read Egypt's history, you will know how great this country has been.

Today most Egyptians live near the banks of the Nile River. This is where the only good land to farm is. It's a great place to live. There are other parts that are difficult to live—they are deserts. So not many people live there.

About half of Egypt's residents live in cities. Those big cities are in the area of the Nile River. If you go to Cairo, the biggest city, you will find millions of people.

Egypt has had some problems. There have been wars. There have been problems of poverty. Poor people in the cities need jobs. They need homes. Egypt is working to solve those problems.

Egypt is making its schools better. The school leaders are making plans to help students learn more. They are planning ways to help parents help their children learn more, too.

Egypt is a great country. It has a wonderful history. It will have a great future because people are working hard. They are working together to get more jobs and homes.

Contrast and Evaluate Fact and Opinion – Nonfiction

Questions developed by Center for Urban Education for use by Chicago Public Schools 2008-2009.

Choose the best answer for each question.

1. Which of these sentences is an opinion?

- a. Egypt is a country in Africa
- b. Other countries are on its other sides.
- c. It is in a very special location.
- d. You will see hieroglyphics there today.

3. How do you know when a statement is a fact?

- a. It tells you information that is real.
- b. It uses adjectives.
- c. It tells you what someone thinks.
- d. It asks you a question.

2. Which of these sentences is a fact?

- a. It is the largest city in Africa.
- b. These very smart people invented ways to farm.
- c. Long ago, Egyptians were wonderful leaders.
- d. Long ago, they made this the greatest place in the world.

4. Why do people write opinions?

- a. to help you know history
- b. to get you to believe something
- c. to answer a question
- d. to make sure the facts are correct

5. *Write your own answer to this question. Choose a sentence that tells a fact in this passage.*

How do you know it tells a fact?

TEACHER NOTES: Develop Students' Skills: Exercise Thinking

These questions have not been validated, so decisions about student's achievement should not be made based on their responses. They are intended to exercise skills. Recommended activities include: students work in pairs to choose the best response; give students the questions without the responses so they generate their own answers; students make up additional questions; students make up questions like these for another passage.

Answers: *You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.*

Item	1	2	3	4
Answer	c	a	a	b

Question 5 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.
Students should identify a factual statement and explain that it tells something real.