

Flood Season

Flooding is part of the life cycle of many large rivers around the world. The people who live along these rivers expect flooding almost every year. How do they prepare for this emergency? How could they prevent it?

Read about flood season along the Nile River in ancient Egypt and today. Use the word bank to fill in the missing words.



Ancient Egypt

My name is Nadia and I live on the Nile River. My family has farmed here for hundreds of years. Each year the Nile **f** _____ and covers our farm with muddy water. The **w** _____ soaks into the soil and the mud is left behind, making our land very good for farming. We call this flood time *Akhet*, the first **s** _____ of the year.

When the flooding starts, my family moves away from the river to higher **g** _____. We pack up our belongings and herd our animals with us. Sometimes we have to stay away for weeks, but those are good times because a big flood brings more soil and water to our farm. We know how to stay **s** _____ when the Nile overflows, and we always bounce back when the flooding ends.

Egypt Today

My name is Anwar and I live on a **f** _____ near the Nile River. For centuries, the Nile flooded this land every year, but since 1970, our farm has been protected by the Aswan Dam. The dam holds back the **r** _____, storing its water in a giant lake.

Water from the lake flows through canals to farms all along the **N** _____. We use the water for *irrigation* – that means we use it to water our crops. There is always water in the **c** _____, so we can grow crops all year long. In ancient Egypt, the farmers could only grow crops after flood time, and they had to leave their **h** _____ every year. I'm glad that we are protected from flooding today.



Word Bank canals farm floods ground homes Nile river safe season water

ANSWERS: Ancient Egypt: floods, water, season, ground, safe; Egypt Today: farm, river, Nile, canals, homes

Be Prepared! Floods can happen in any part of the country and sometimes occur with little warning. Make a plan with the grownups in your home, have more than one route to get to safety, and talk about what you will do to stay safe. Remember: never walk or drive through floodwater; never play in or near a flooded or fast-moving stream; and when you come to an area covered with water, Turn Around, Don't Drown!

To Learn More about flooding in the U. S., visit www.education.noaa.gov/Freshwater/Watersheds_Flooding_and_Pollution.html and www.ready.gov/kids/know-the-facts/floods, and play the flood episode of Monster Guard, a free app available at redcross.org/monsterguard. You can also ask an adult to download the free Red Cross Flood App at redcross.org/prepare/mobile-apps/flood. To learn more about all kinds of emergencies, visit redcross.org/pillowcase.