

# **Student Essay on The Nile River: How It Affected Religion**

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## Essay

Life in Egypt could have never happened without certain aspects. Probably the most important feature was the Nile River. The Nile River affected the development of Egyptian society and religion.

The Nile River is a huge winding river that flows through Egypt and is known as the "giver of life." The Egyptians needed the river because it was the only reliable freshwater source in all of Egypt. The yearly floods of the river gave water and made the soil rich for growing crops. It also played the role of a highway. Since the water flowed north, the Egyptians would put down their sails and let the water take them up. Since the wind blew south, they would raise their sails and push against the currents. The Nile River affected many other things, too.

The Nile River also effected the development of Egypt by giving them many things. The Egyptians got water and fertile soil from the silt left on the ground from the river. Without it, early Egyptians would have no water to live off of. They also developed innovations because of the Nile River. The Egyptian calendar was made to predict the yearly floods of the Nile River. In these ways, the Nile River helped Egypt develop and prosper.

Religion was changed because of the Nile River as well. To the Egyptians, the floods of the river were believed to be controlled by their god Hapi. They gave thanks to Hapi and hoped for a continuance of the flooding. They did this by celebrating every Inundation in honor of their god. Without the Hapi or the Nile River, Egypt would not have been able to survive. Because of this, some say Hapi was a more important god than the sun god, Re.

Egypt grew and lived only because of the Nile River. It was the savior for Egypt and its entire population of people. It gave them fertile soil, water, and so much more. The Nile River truly was the "giver of life."