

Building a Map of Egypt

ALBANY INSTITUTE
OF HISTORY & ART

Historical Context: The peoples of the Nile River Valley began to settle on and around the Lower Nile and the Delta region of Africa more than 5,000 years ago. These people learned to adapt their nomadic ways of hunting and gathering to agriculture (planting and harvesting crops) and eventually began settling towns and cities. The success of this agriculture, fishing, and trade relied upon the seasonal flooding cycles of the river, as well as the protection from invading neighbors offered by the surrounding deserts. The rise of the pharaohs and the civilization of Egypt was directly tied to the geography of this unique region.

Time: One class period (40 minutes)

Correlation to Standards: World History, Geography

Materials Needed: Accompanying map and worksheet, coloring instruments (crayons, markers, colored pencils)

Objective: Students will be able to:

Create a geopolitical map of Egypt and the surrounding area.

Create an accurate key for their map.

Interpret their map to understand the importance of Nile River.

Develop inferences of the relationship between geography and development of civilizations.

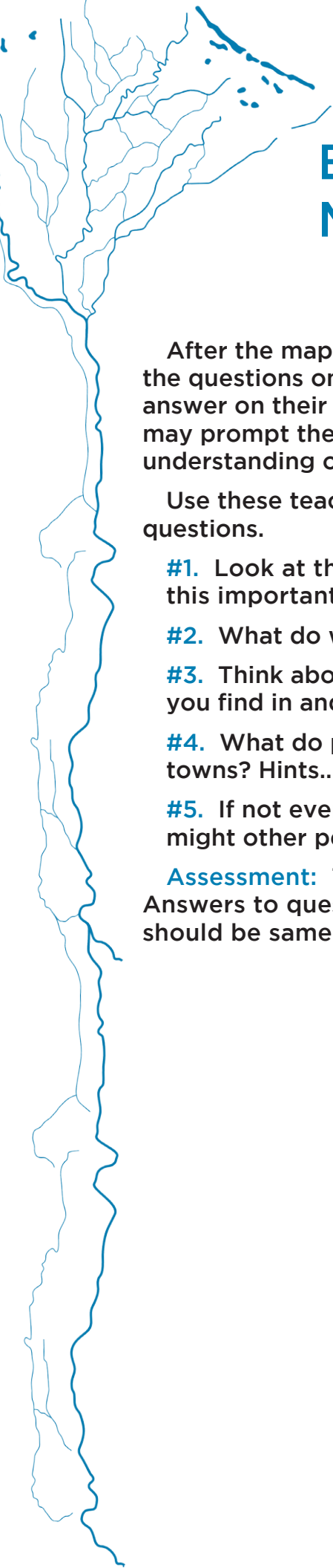
Task: Teacher will provide blank map for each student. Teacher will help students to label the features in the following order:

Nile River, Nile Delta, Mediterranean Sea, Red Sea, Western Desert, Eastern Desert, Nubia, Upper Egypt, Lower Egypt, Luxor/Thebes, Giza, Memphis, Valley of Kings, Cairo, Alexandria.

1. Color the river and seas blue and key as “Water.” This will help visually show the importance of the river system.

2. Students color the area around Nile River green; label the key “Nile River Valley.”

3. Shade the Eastern and Western Deserts lightly and key them “Desert”.



Building a Map of Egypt

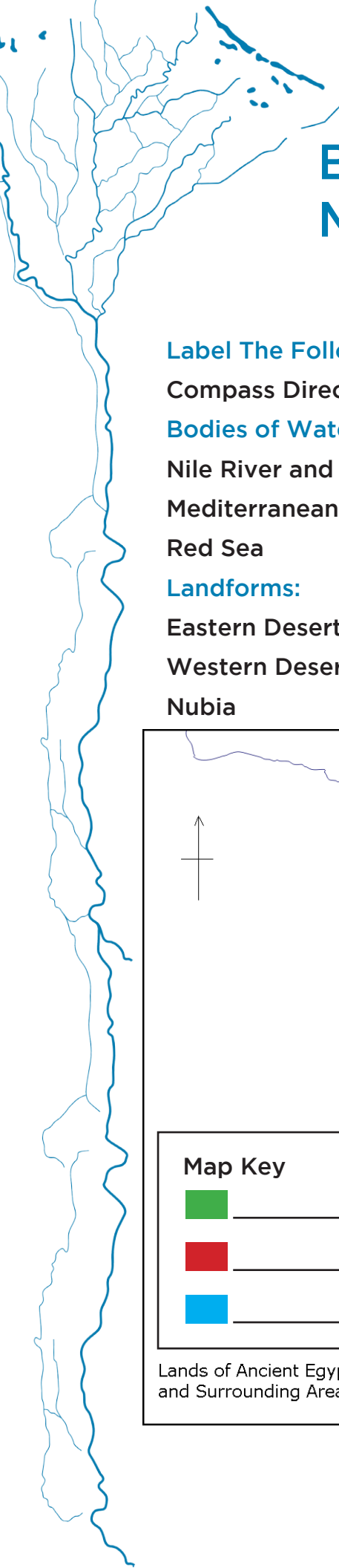
ALBANY INSTITUTE
OF HISTORY & ART

After the maps and key are complete, have students answer the questions on the following page. Give students time to answer on their own, then as you are going over answers you may prompt them with questions found below to help their understanding of the map and the relationship to settlement.

Use these teacher prompts to assist with the critical thinking questions.

- #1.** Look at the map. Where are all the settlements? Why is this important?
- #2.** What do we get from rivers and large bodies of water?
- #3.** Think about where Egypt is...Africa! What animals might you find in and around a river in Africa?
- #4.** What do people need to settle down and build permanent towns? Hints... Food, water, protection, trade
- #5.** If not everyone needs to be farmers, what specialized jobs might other people have in communities along a river?

Assessment: Teacher will visually check map for accuracy. Answers to questions may vary slightly, but overall theme should be same.



Building a Map of Egypt

Label The Following:

Compass Directions

Bodies of Water:

Nile River and Delta

Mediterranean Sea

Red Sea

Landforms:

Eastern Desert

Western Desert

Nubia

Settlements:

Thebes, Luxor

Giza

Memphis

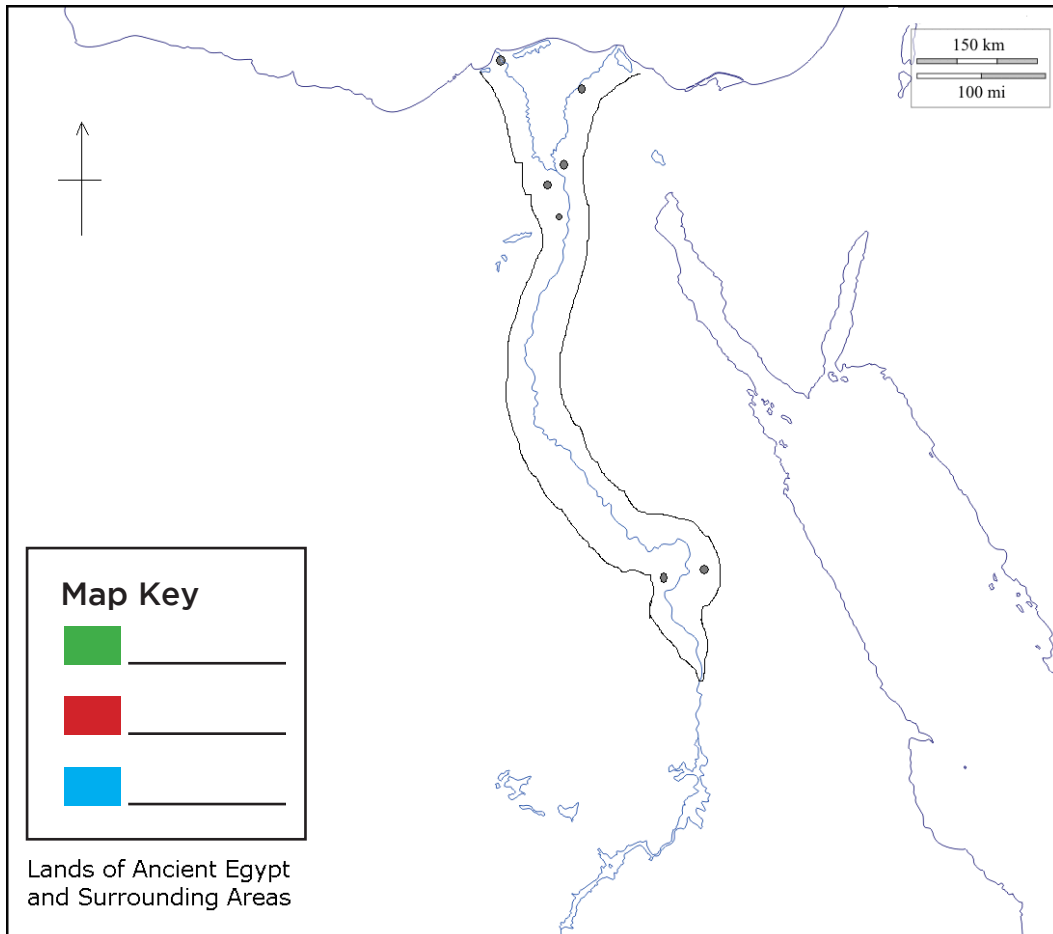
Valley of the Kings

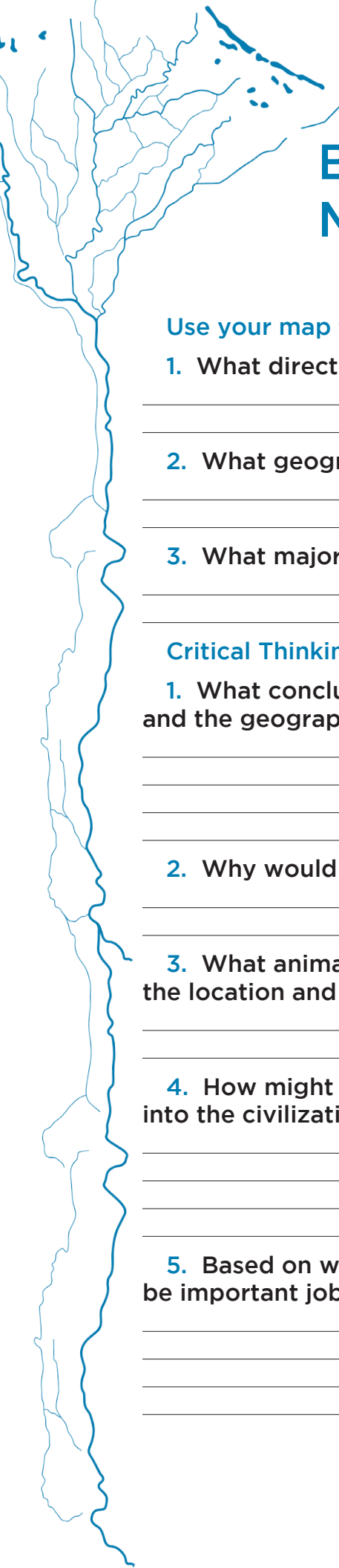
Cairo

Tanis

Alexandria

Map Key:





Building a Map of Egypt

Use your map to answer the following:

1. What direction does the Nile flow (from what to what)?

2. What geographic feature makes up most of Egypt?

3. What major body of water does the Nile end into?

Critical Thinking:

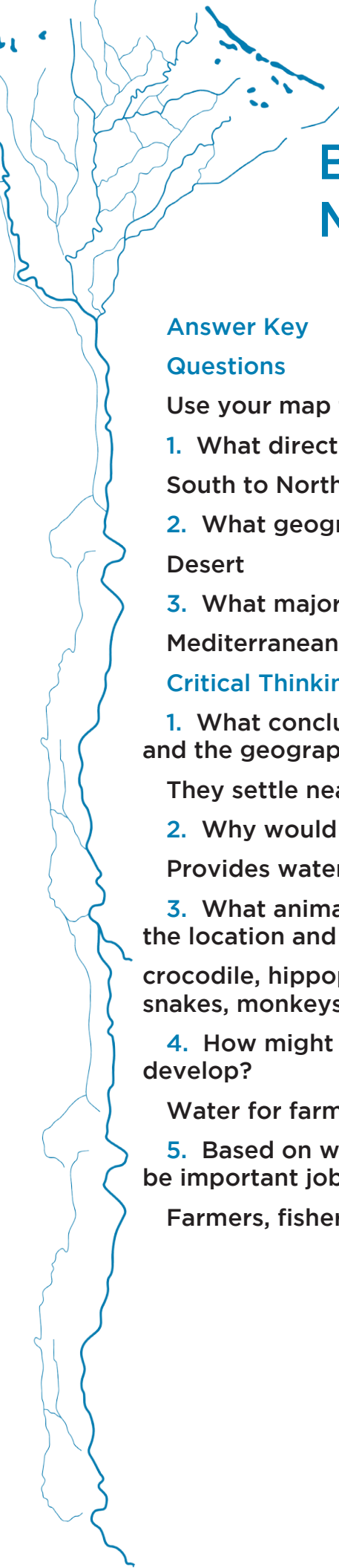
1. What conclusion can you draw about the people of Egypt and the geography?

2. Why would the Nile River be so critical to survival?

3. What animals might you find in ancient Egypt because of the location and geography?

4. How might the geography help the people here develop into the civilization of ancient Egypt?

5. Based on what you know about the geography, what might be important jobs or occupations in this civilization?



Building a Map of Egypt

Answer Key

Questions

Use your map to answer the following:

1. What direction does the Nile flow (from what to what)?

South to North

2. What geographic feature makes up most of Egypt?

Desert

3. What major body of water does the Nile end into?

Mediterranean Sea

Critical Thinking:

1. What conclusion can you draw about the people of Egypt and the geography?

They settle near to water

2. Why would the Nile River be so critical to survival?

Provides water for irrigation, fishing, travel routes

3. What animals might you find in ancient Egypt because of the location and geography?

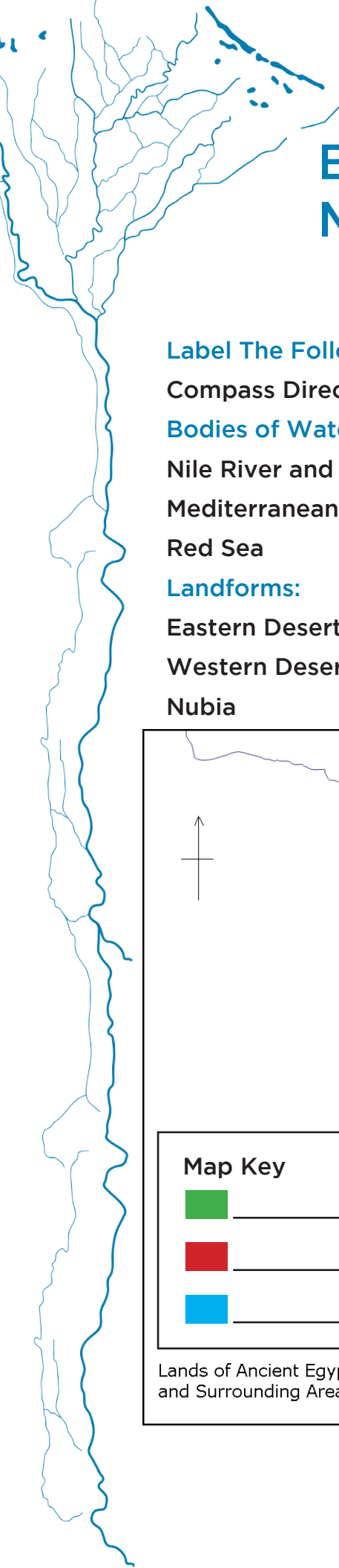
crocodile, hippopotamus, lions, horses, oxen, water birds, jackal, snakes, monkeys

4. How might the geography help the civilization in Egypt develop?

Water for farming, trade, deserts for protection from invasions

5. Based on what you know about the geography, what might be important jobs or occupations in this civilization?

Farmers, fishermen, sailors, boat builders, stone masons



Building a Map of Egypt

Label The Following:

Compass Directions

Bodies of Water:

Nile River and Delta

Mediterranean Sea

Red Sea

Landforms:

Eastern Desert

Western Desert

Nubia

Settlements:

Thebes, Luxor

Giza

Memphis

Valley of the Kings

Cairo

Tanis

Alexandria

Map Key:

