



Waterway Wonder

Egypt, India and the Suez Canal



Egypt

Capital City: Cairo

Population: Over 105 million (2022).

Official Language: Arabic

Climate: The climate is hot and dry for most of the year with a low annual rainfall.

Currency: Egyptian pound

Egypt is unequally split by the Nile. The Nile (the longest river on Earth) divides the country into the Eastern Desert and Western Desert. The eastern side has some hills and mountains and the western side is very flat.

The Nile river is home to lots of water plants, fish and some crocodiles. Sheep and goats are common in the countryside. In the desert, you can find desert foxes, gazelles, ibex, desert hares, jackals and different varieties of lizards and snakes.



Egypt is famous for its pyramids and the sphinx, which were built in ancient times. Ancient Egypt (one of the most famous ancient civilizations of the world) lasted from around 3150 BC until the Roman invasion in 30 BC. The ancient Egyptians were ruled by pharaohs (powerful kings and queens) and completed incredible feats of engineering and architecture.

Suez Canal

The Suez Canal is an artificial sea-level waterway in Egypt. It connects the Mediterranean sea to the Red Sea and divides Africa and Asia.

The Sinai Peninsula in the north-east is a strip of land divided from the main area of Egypt by the Suez Canal.

British Empire

In the 1600s, Britain began to spread its rule and powers beyond its borders, and used the resources of other countries for its own gain (**colonialism**). The power and wealth it gained came at the expense of indigenous people.

Britain built its empire based on trade. British trading companies, such as the East India Company, became so powerful that they controlled much of the trade in the colonies and around the world. Colonies provided valuable raw materials, such as sugar, tea, tobacco and cotton, which were imported into Britain. Then, these were used in factories to manufacture new goods that were resold for profit. A huge amount of money was made by exporting these goods.

By 1945, the British Empire was in decline, as lots of countries wanted their independence. Steadily, over the next few decades, British colonies achieved independence, including India in 1947 and Egypt in 1956.

India

Capital City: New Delhi

Land Borders: Pakistan, Afghanistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and Bangladesh

Population: Over 1.4 billion (2023)

Official Language: Hindi

Climate: Ranges from tropical monsoon in the south to temperate in the north

Currency: Indian rupee



India is known as a peninsula as most of the country is surrounded by water on three sides - the Arabian Sea, the Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal.

India has a very varied landscape. Rainforests, mountains and grasslands can all be found there. The Thar Desert in the northwest covers around 200,000 square km and many geologists believe that it is between 4000 and 10,000 years old.

Perhaps one of India's most well-known landmarks is the Taj Mahal in Agra. It was built in the 1600s and is covered by white marble on the outside. It is listed as one of the New Seven Wonders of the World.