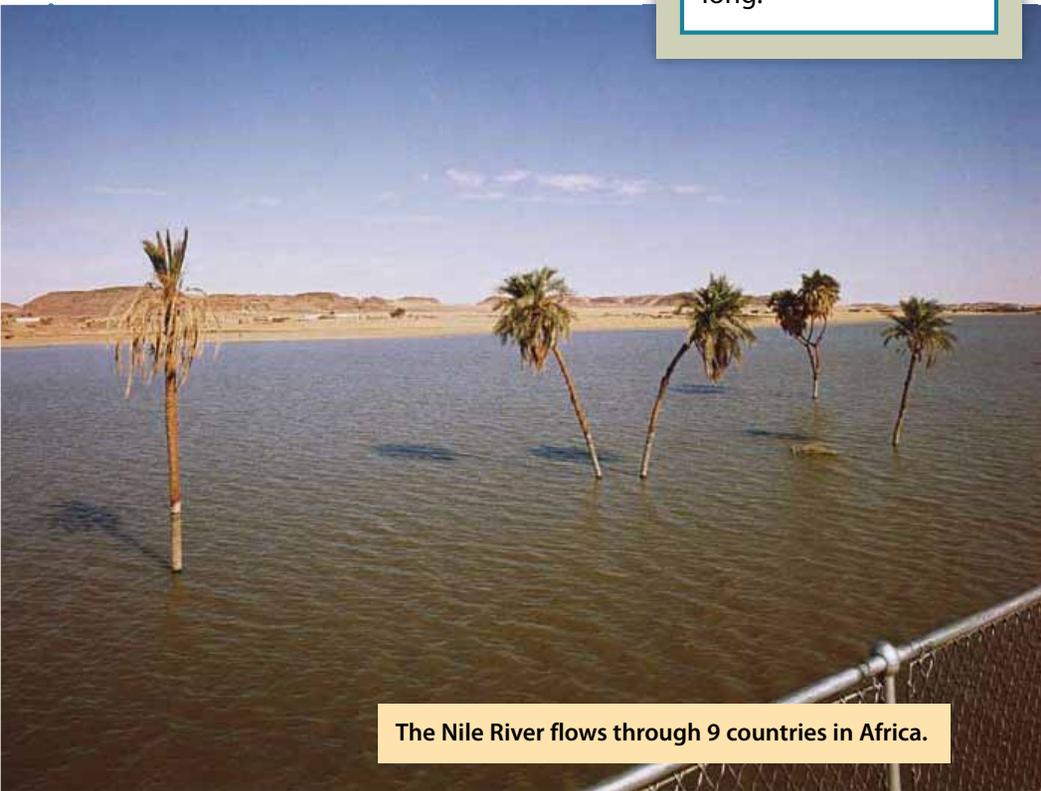


# Measuring Years

The ancient Egyptians noticed that the Nile River **flooded** about every 365 days. This event was used to measure a year. The ancient Egyptians counted the days from one flood to the next.

## The River Nile

The Nile is the longest river in the world. It is 4,160 miles (6,695 km) long.



The Nile River flows through 9 countries in Africa.

# Measuring Months

Time was also measured by the changes in the shape of the moon. The moon's **cycle** takes about 29.5 days. This cycle came to be known as a month.

## Phases of the Moon



First quarter



Full moon



Last quarter

## LET'S EXPLORE MATH

The moon's cycle takes about 29 days. If there was a full moon on March 14, on what dates will the next 2 full moons appear? *Hint:* Use a calendar to help.

# Measuring Days

The sun was also used to measure time. It is morning or evening when the sun is low in the sky. It is midday when the sun is high above us. The sun's cycle came to be known as a day.

When the sun is low in the western sky, it is evening.



## In a Spin

Have you ever spun a basketball on your finger? Earth spins kind of like this in space but very slowly. It takes Earth 24 hours, or 1 day, to complete 1 spin.



# Dividing Up the Day

## Shadow Sticks

Ancient Egyptians used shadow sticks to measure time passing during the day. The sun shone on the tall stick. The stick's shadow was used to measure the time of day. People used the shadow's position to divide the day into 24 hours.

This farmer checks a shadow stick to see what time of day it is.



## Moving Shadows

Have you ever noticed how shadows move across your schoolyard during the day? This happens because the sun moves to a different part of the sky at different times of the day.