

## Where is Egypt?

Egypt is a large and historically significant country situated in the north-east of Africa. However, its territory is not confined to Africa alone — the Sinai Peninsula, located in the north-east of the country, extends across into south-west Asia, making Egypt a transcontinental nation. This strategic position has made Egypt a crossroads between Africa, Asia, and Europe throughout history.

Egypt shares land borders with Libya to the west, Sudan to the south, and Israel and Gaza to the north-east. It also has extensive coastlines along two important bodies of water: the Mediterranean Sea to the north and the Red Sea to the east. These coastlines have made Egypt a vital hub for trade and maritime travel for thousands of years.

The River Nile is the lifeline of Egypt. Flowing northwards through the country, it is the longest river in the world and eventually fans out into the Mediterranean through the fertile Nile Delta. It is here, and along the Nile Valley, that the vast majority of Egypt's population is concentrated, because beyond this narrow green corridor, the country is almost entirely desert. The Sahara covers the western region, while the Eastern Desert stretches between the Nile and the Red Sea.

Egypt's capital city, Cairo, is located near the Nile Delta. It is the largest city in Africa, with a population exceeding twenty million, making it one of the most densely populated urban areas in the world.

## Questions

1. In which part of Africa is Egypt situated?
2. What makes Egypt a transcontinental nation?
3. Which three regions or continents has Egypt historically connected?
4. Name two countries that share a land border with Egypt.
5. Which two seas have coastlines in Egypt?
6. Why have Egypt's coastlines been historically important?
7. In which direction does the River Nile flow?
8. What is the Nile Delta and where does it lead?
9. Where do most of Egypt's people live, and why?
10. The article says the Nile is Egypt's "lifeline." Why do you think this word has been chosen?



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