

Dam Divides the Nile

The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) is Africa's largest **hydroelectric** project. Its opening has sparked both hope and tension throughout the region.

The dam is located on the Blue Nile River in Ethiopia, about 14 kilometres east of the border with Sudan. The dam stretches nearly two kilometres across the river and stands about 145 metres tall. Its **reservoir** holds up to 64 billion cubic metres of water and the plant can produce over 5000 **megawatts** of electricity. This is enough to double Ethiopia's current electricity supply and offer power to neighbouring countries.

Ethiopia aims to become a huge supplier of electricity. Many Ethiopians see the

project as a chance to end frequent power shortages and boost development. The dam is expected to bring industry, jobs, and investment.

Egypt and Sudan are deeply worried about how the dam will affect the flow of the Nile River. Egypt relies on the Nile for almost all its freshwater and agriculture. If the water in the Nile is reduced at all, it will impact farming, jobs, and stability. Sudan is also anxious that lower water levels may harm its crops and threaten its own dams, especially given its frequent droughts.

Both Egypt and Sudan fear that during dry years, Ethiopia could hold back water in the GERD reservoir, making shortages worse downstream. There is no formal agreement yet about how the dam should be managed during droughts, increasing the risk of disputes. Old agreements once secured most Nile water for Egypt

and Sudan, leaving countries upstream, like Ethiopia, with little say.

The main concern is how much water will reach Egypt and Sudan, since their economies, food supply, and daily life depend on the Nile. They worry Ethiopia could use the dam for political or economic leverage, and that in times of drought, their share of water could drop dangerously. ★



DID YOU KNOW

Ethiopia is landlocked and borders Eritrea, Djibouti, Somalia, Kenya, Sudan, and South Sudan.

To view videos, go to:
<http://resources.dynamic-classroom.ca/books/pvxe>

Video



WORD POWER

HYDROELECTRICITY: Electricity produced using the power of water

RESERVOIR: A natural or artificial lake where water is stored before it is taken by pipes to houses or buildings

MEGAWATT: A unit for measuring electrical power

Dam Divides the Nile

1. Where is the dam located?

2. How big is the dam? How much water does it hold? How much electricity can it produce?

3. How will the dam help Ethiopia?

4. Why is Egypt worried about how the dam will affect the flow of the river?

5. What do Egypt and Sudan fear could happen during dry years?

CRITICAL THINKING

1. If you were in charge, how would you solve disagreements about water from the Nile?

Map Activity: Ethiopia

1. Locate and label the following countries:

ETHIOPIA

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

CHAD

DJIBOUTI

EGYPT

ERITREA

KENYA

LIBYA

SAUDI ARABIA

SOMALIA

SOUTH SUDAN

SUDAN

UGANDA

YEMEN

2. Locate and label the following cities:

Addis Ababa

Bangui

Djibouti

Juba

Khartoum

N'Djamena

Riyadh

Sanaa

3. Locate and label the following bodies of salt water:

Gulf of Aden

Mediterranean Sea

Red Sea

4. Create a colour legend for your map with the following:

Ethiopia

Other Countries

Salt Water

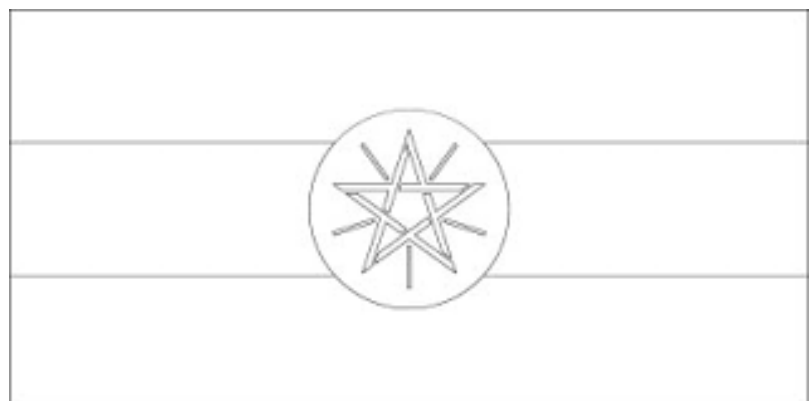
5. Draw and label the compass bearing.

6. Label your map:

Ethiopia and Neighbouring Countries

7. Colour the flag as follows:

Three equal horizontal bands of green (top), yellow, and red, with a light blue disk centred on the three bands; on the disk is a yellow pentagram with single yellow rays emanating from the angles between the points.





Word Power

Using the words defined below, fill in the blank in each of the following sentences with the word that fits best. All of the words have been used in the article.

1. The beaver built a _____ across the river to create a pond.
2. After the storm, they found the boat _____ from the dock.
3. He was feeling _____ about the upcoming test.
4. The town experienced _____ thunderstorms during the summer.
5. She decided to _____ her business by using social media.

Anxious: Feeling worried or nervous

Boost: To make something increase, or become better or more successful

Dam: A barrier that is built across a river in order to stop the water from flowing

Dispute: An argument between two people, groups, or countries

Downstream: In the direction in which a river flows

Drought: A long period of time when there is little or no rain

Frequent: Happening or doing something often

Freshwater: Water that is not the sea and does not contain salt

Quiz

1. The dam is located on the Blue Nile River in Egypt.
True False
2. Both Egypt and Sudan fear that during dry years, Ethiopia could hold back water in the GERD reservoir, making shortages worse downstream.
True False
3. Ethiopia aims to become a huge supplier of _____.
4. Egypt and Sudan are deeply worried about how the dam will affect the flow of the _____
_____.
5. There is no formal agreement yet about how the dam should be managed during _____, increasing the risk of disputes.

Weekly News Answer Key

Dam Divides the Nile

1. Where is the dam located?

The dam is located on the Blue Nile River in Ethiopia, about 14 kilometres east of the border with Sudan.

2. How big is the dam? How much water does it hold? How much electricity can it produce?

The dam stretches nearly two kilometres across the river and stands about 145 metres tall. Its reservoir holds up to 64 billion cubic metres of water and the plant can produce over 5000 megawatts of electricity.

3. How will the dam help Ethiopia?

Ethiopia aims to become a huge supplier of electricity. Many Ethiopians see the project as a chance to end frequent power shortages and boost development. The dam is expected to bring industry, jobs, and investment.

4. Why is Egypt worried about how the dam will affect the flow of the river?

Egypt relies on the Nile for almost all its freshwater and agriculture. If the water in the Nile is reduced at all, it will impact farming, jobs, and stability.

5. What do Egypt and Sudan fear could happen during dry years?

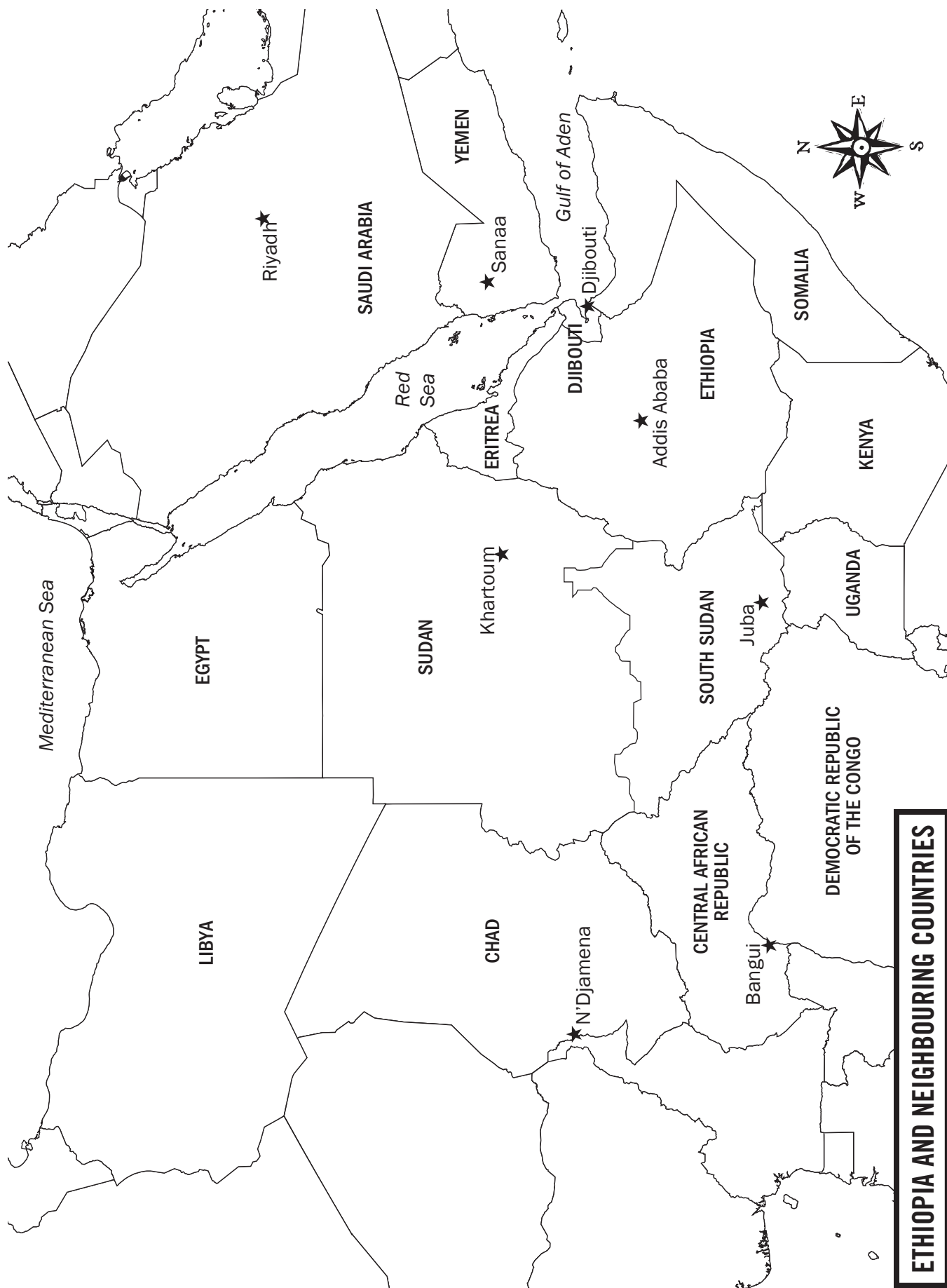
Both Egypt and Sudan fear that during dry years, Ethiopia could hold back water in the GERD reservoir, making shortages worse downstream.

Word Power

1. dam
2. downstream
3. anxious
4. frequent
5. boost

Quiz

1. **The dam is located on the Blue Nile River in Egypt.**
False – Ethiopia
2. **Both Egypt and Sudan fear that during dry years, Ethiopia could hold back water in the GERD reservoir, making shortages worse downstream.**
True
3. Ethiopia aims to become a huge supplier of **ELECTRICITY.**
4. Egypt and Sudan are deeply worried about how the dam will affect the flow of the **NILE RIVER.**
5. There is no formal agreement yet about how the dam should be managed during **DROUGHTS**, increasing the risk of disputes.



ETHIOPIA AND NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES