

# KEY

## Document B

Source: Chart adapted from Katherine Hinds, *Life in Ancient Egypt: The Countryside*, Marshall Cavendish Benchmark, 2007.

### The Nile River Flood Cycle

**Akhet (flood season)**  
Mid-June to mid-October  
Fields in the Nile floodplain covered in water and fertilized by a new batch of silt. Time when many farmers worked off their public-labor tax, doing jobs like canal repair or quarrying.

**Peret (planting & growing season)**  
Mid-October to mid-February  
Waters receded but Nile high enough to fill irrigation canals; crops planted and tended.

**Shemu (harvest season)**  
Mid-February to mid-June  
Crops in the Lower Nile harvested and sent to market.

Note: Average rainfall, historically and today, has remained about the same. The Nile delta receives about four inches per year. The Nile Valley south of Cairo and Giza receives less than one inch. In comparison, Atlanta, Georgia, gets about 50 inches of rain annually and Phoenix, Arizona, about eight inches.

• River rises 23 feet!

### Document Analysis

1. ~~What differences do you see between the Egyptian seasons and the standard seasons in much of the United States today?~~ 3 seasons vs 4 in USA.

2. Usually the flood season produced a "good Nile," just the right amount of water. What might be the consequences of a "bad Nile"—too much or too little water?

Too much or too little could impact planting and ability to work/repair irrigation.

3. The population of Ancient Egypt was probably about one million, 95 percent of whom were farmers. According to the chart, when were farmers busiest?

Harvest season, planting season too

4. When would this large work force of farmers be available to work on government projects, like building palaces and tombs?

Flood season

5. How does this document help you answer the question: How did the Nile shape Ancient Egypt?

Work, activities and leisure time were all determined by the Nile.