

## 4.1 Geography of Egypt

How did Egypt's location influence its development?

### Explore

## Egypt's Trade Economy

What goods did Egypt trade with other regions?

The Nile region provided more crops than the Egyptians needed for themselves. They were able to [trade](#) their surplus crops for goods they desired from other parts of Africa and Southwest Asia, including [Mesopotamia](#). The main Egyptian exports were wheat, barley, [papyrus](#), and linen. In exchange, Egyptians received the resources they needed to make tools, build ships, and create jewelry and art. The trading of goods became a significant part of the Egyptian [economy](#).

Like modern-day [Egypt](#), ancient Egypt did not have many forests. This meant that Egyptians needed to import timber, or wood, from other regions. Egyptians imported cedar and cypress from the forests of Lebanon and tropical woods from Nubia, which is located southeast of Egypt. They then used this timber to make furniture and to build ships. Traders also brought back gold from Nubia.

The Egyptians also sent trading ships to Mediterranean lands. In Sinai, they traded for copper. They even traveled over land as far as Afghanistan for the coveted precious gemstone called lapis lazuli. The lapis was used to make jewelry and other ornaments.

Queen [Hatshepsut](#), who reigned during the mid-1400s BCE, sent a trading expedition along the eastern coast of Africa to Punt. Punt was an ancient region located in modern day Ethiopia and Djibouti and known for its incense, which the Egyptians brought back with them.