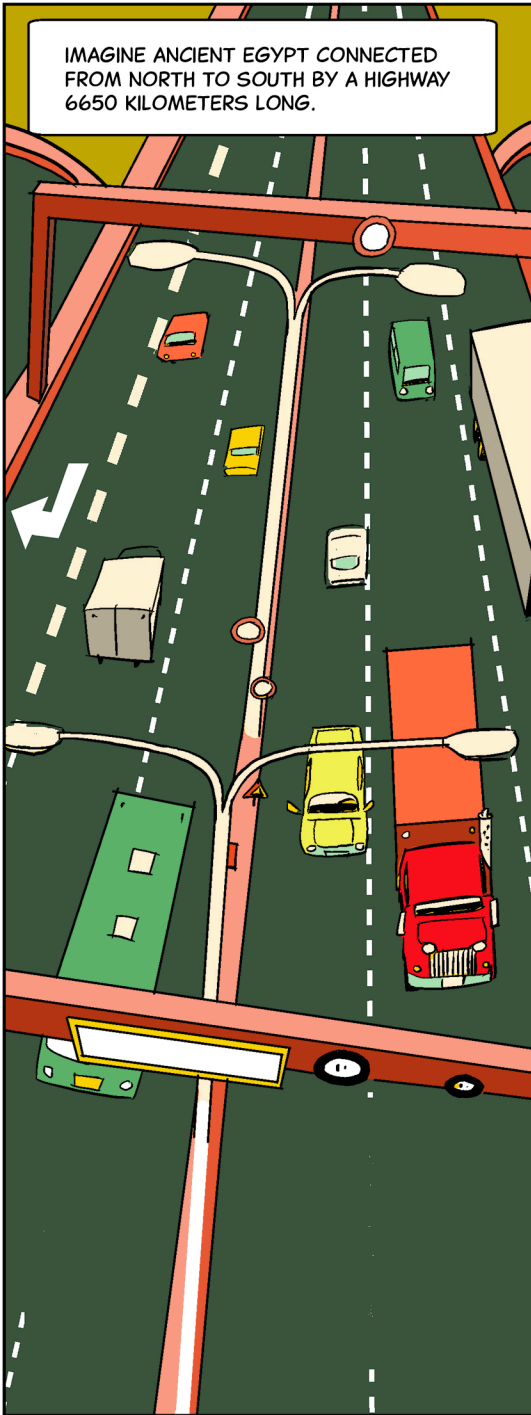


IMAGINE ANCIENT EGYPT CONNECTED FROM NORTH TO SOUTH BY A HIGHWAY 6650 KILOMETERS LONG.



THIS HIGHWAY WAS THE RIVER NILE.

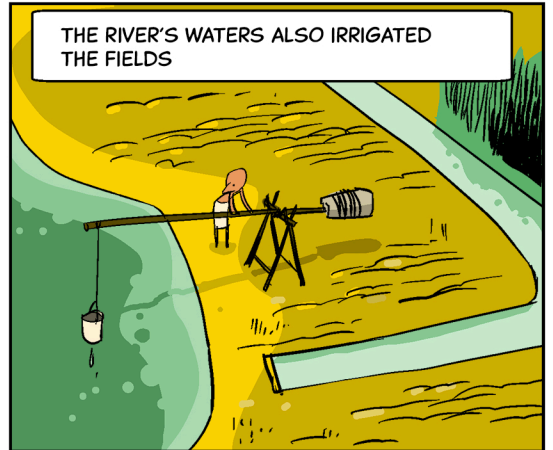


AND IT HELPED EGYPT BECOME ONE OF THE RICHEST AND MOST POWERFUL EMPIRES OF ANTIQUITY.

EVERY YEAR THE NILE FLOODED ITS BANK FERTILIZING THE SOIL WITH SILT.



THE RIVER'S WATERS ALSO IRRIGATED THE FIELDS



WHICH YIELDED CROPS



ENOUGH TO FEED ALL THE POPULATION



AND LEAVING A SURPLUS THAT COULD BE TRADED FOR GOODS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES.



ALL THIS WAS POSSIBLE THANKS TO THE RIVER NILE, THE HIGHWAY OF ANCIENT EGYPT.



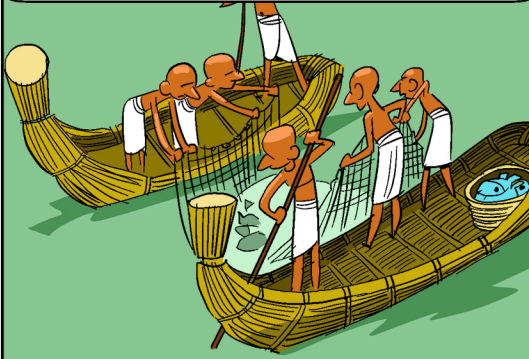
FOR EGYPTIANS OF ANCIENT TIMES, SMALL CANOES MADE OF PAPYRUS WERE VERY IMPORTANT.



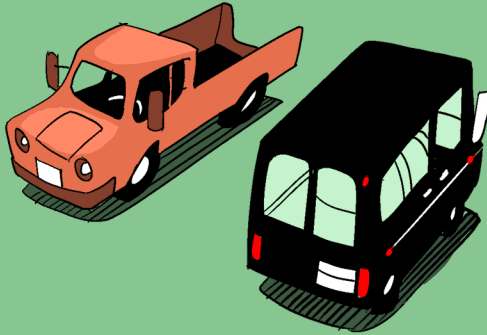
THEY WERE LIKE TODAY'S COMPACT CARS.



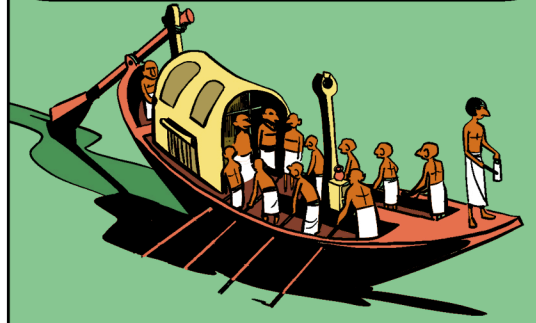
THERE WERE ALSO BIGGER PAPYRUS VESSELS BUILT FOR HEAVIER WORK.



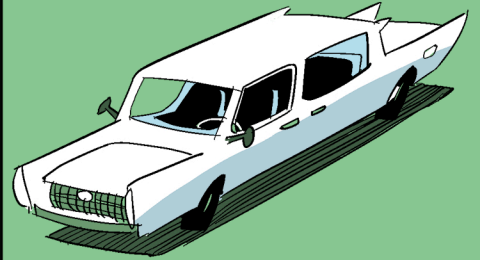
LIKE OUR VANS, PICK UPS AND SMALL TRUCKS.



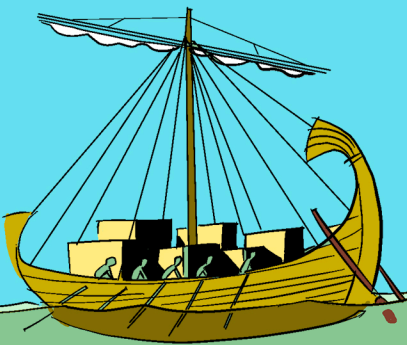
PRIESTS AND HIGH CIVIL SERVANTS HAD BIG IMPORTANT BOATS.



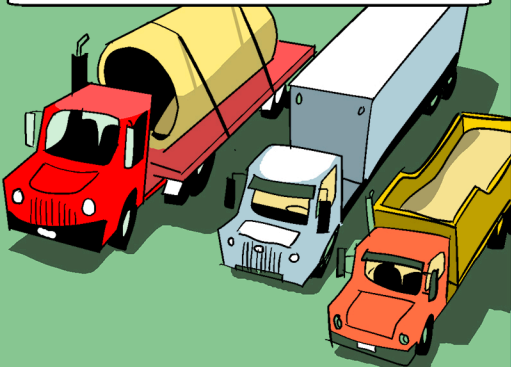
THEY WERE THE NILE'S LIMOS.



ALL KINDS OF GOODS WERE TRANSPORTED UP AND DOWN THE NILE.



THESE WERE THE NILE'S TRUCKS.



FOREIGN MERCHANTS SAILED TO EGYPT



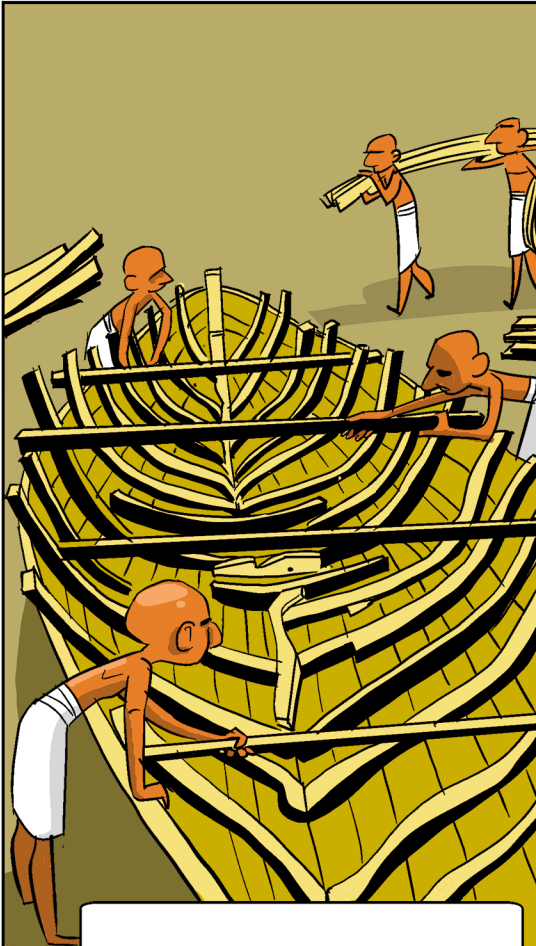
EAGER TO EXCHANGE THEIR GOODS FOR GRAIN AND OTHER GOODS EGYPTIAN MERCHANTS BROUGHT DOWN THE NILE.



SAILING FROM THE INTERIOR OF EGYPT DOWN THE NILE WAS VERY EASY. THE RIVER CURRENT CARRIED BOATS DOWNSTREAM.

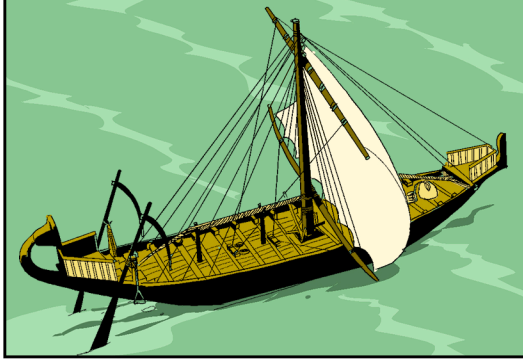


TO GO BACK HOME, A SAILOR COULD CATCH THE PREVAILING NORTHERN WINDS TO TRAVEL UP RIVER.



THE EGYPTIANS WERE VERY SKILLFUL BOAT BUILDERS.

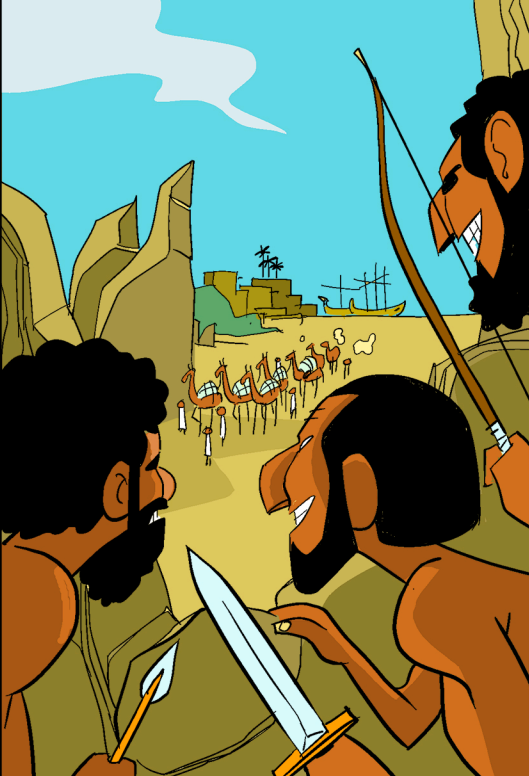
THE SEA CONNECTED EGYPT TO OTHER EMPIRES, BUT IT WAS HARDER TO REACH MORE DISTANT LANDS.



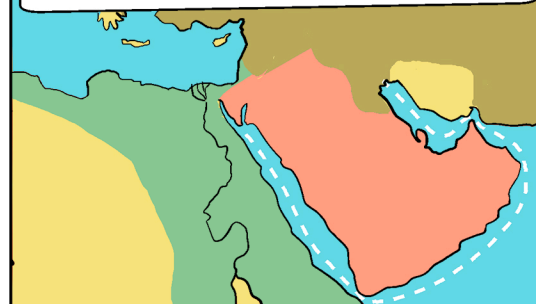
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS MAP. THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA IS TO THE NORTH OF EGYPT AND THE RED SEA IS TO THE EAST. BUT THEY'RE NOT CONNECTED (LIKE THE BLACK SEA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA).



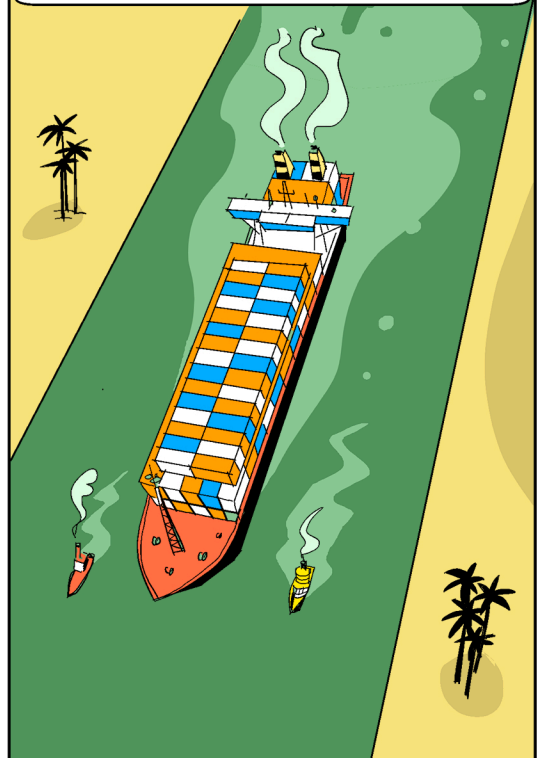
TO GET THE GOODS THAT ARRIVED BY THE RED SEA TO THE CITIES ALONG THE NILE YOU HAD EITHER TO SAIL AROUND AFRICA (1500 MILES) OR TO CROSS THE DESERT (DANGEROUS JOURNEYS IN THOSE TIMES, ESPECIALLY IF YOU WERE CARRYING TREASURE AND LUXURY GOODS)



EGYPTIANS AS WELL AS FOREIGN EMPIRES LIKE PERSIA CONSTRUCTED CHANNELS TO CREATE WATER ROUTES BETWEEN THE NILE AND THE RED SEA.



IT WAS AN EXTREMELY HARD ENGINEERING FEAT AND VERY DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN.



IT WASN'T UNTIL THE 20TH CENTURY, THAT A PERMANENT CONNECTION WAS BUILT BETWEEN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE RED SEA - THE SUZ CANAL.



EGYPT WAS SUCH A FERTILE NATION IT WAS A COMMON TARGET OF CONQUEST FOR EMPIRES IN NEED OF GRAIN TO FEED THEIR ARMIES..

ASSYRIANS

WHY DON'T WE OCCUPY EGYPT?

PIRATES TOO

ALL MAJOR EGYPTIAN CITIES ARE CLOSE TO THE WATER.

LET'S GO RANSACK SOME OF THEM.

TO WAGE WAR AND DEFEND THEMSELVES, THE EGYPTIANS BUILT WAR SHIPS.

AND BECAME SKILLED SAILORS

PERSIANS

LET'S INVADE EGYPT.

BUT EGYPT WAS CONQUERED MORE THAN ONCE AND EGYPTIAN SAILORS WERE ADDED TO THE CONQUERING EMPIRES' SAILING FLEETS.

FOR EXAMPLE PERSIA CONQUERED EGYPT AND USED EGYPTIAN SAILORS IN THE FLEETS THAT ATTACKED GREECE.

ATTACK!!

AND IN TIME, LIKE THE CONQUERORS BEFORE HIM, ALEXANDER THE GREAT RECOGNIZED THE VALUE OF EGYPT.

LET'S CONQUER EGYPT.

AND HE DID, BECOMING PHARAOH AND FOUNDING THE LAST OF THE EGYPTIAN DYNASTIES.