

Nonfiction

The Nile

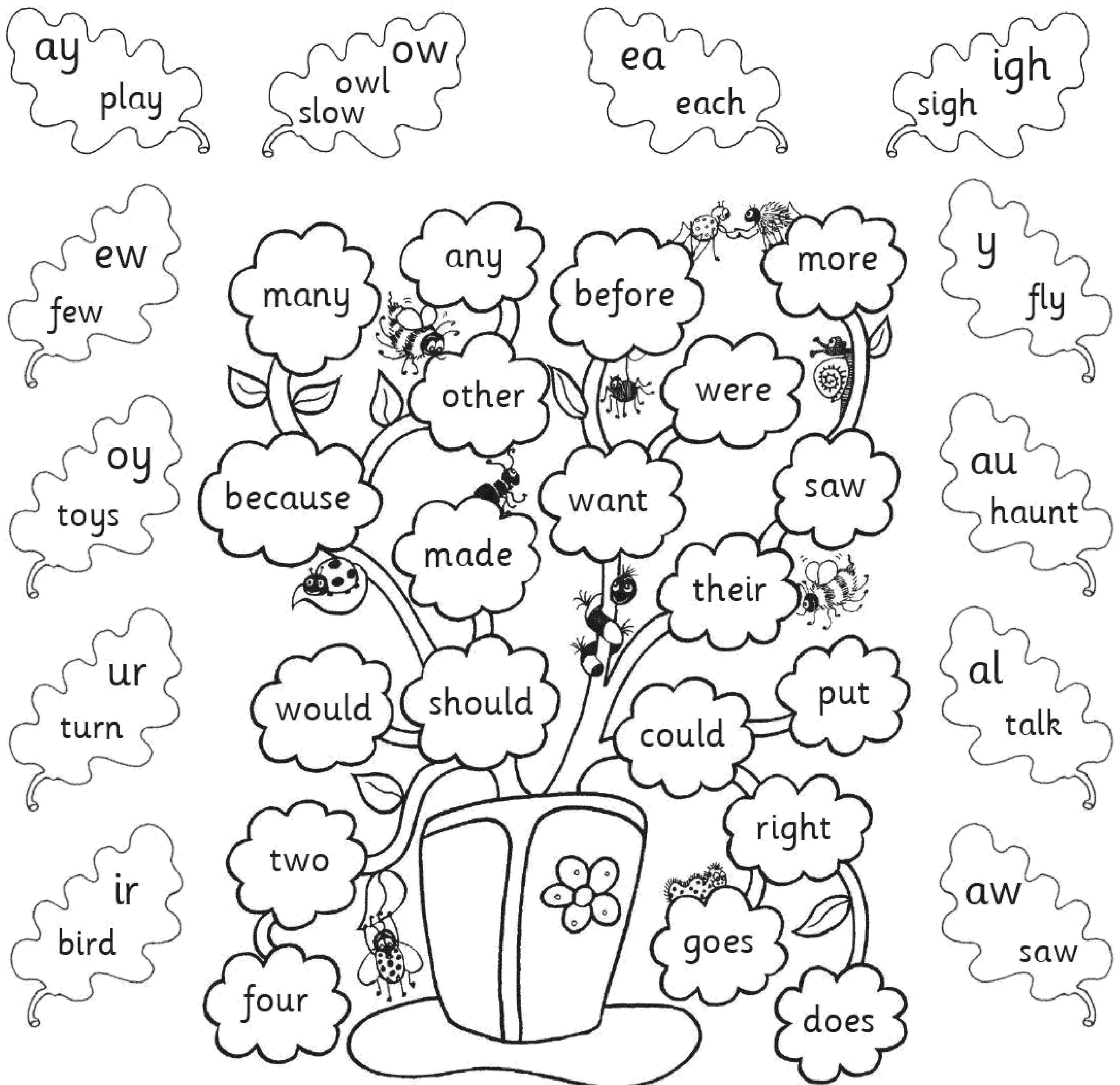


Jolly
Phonics

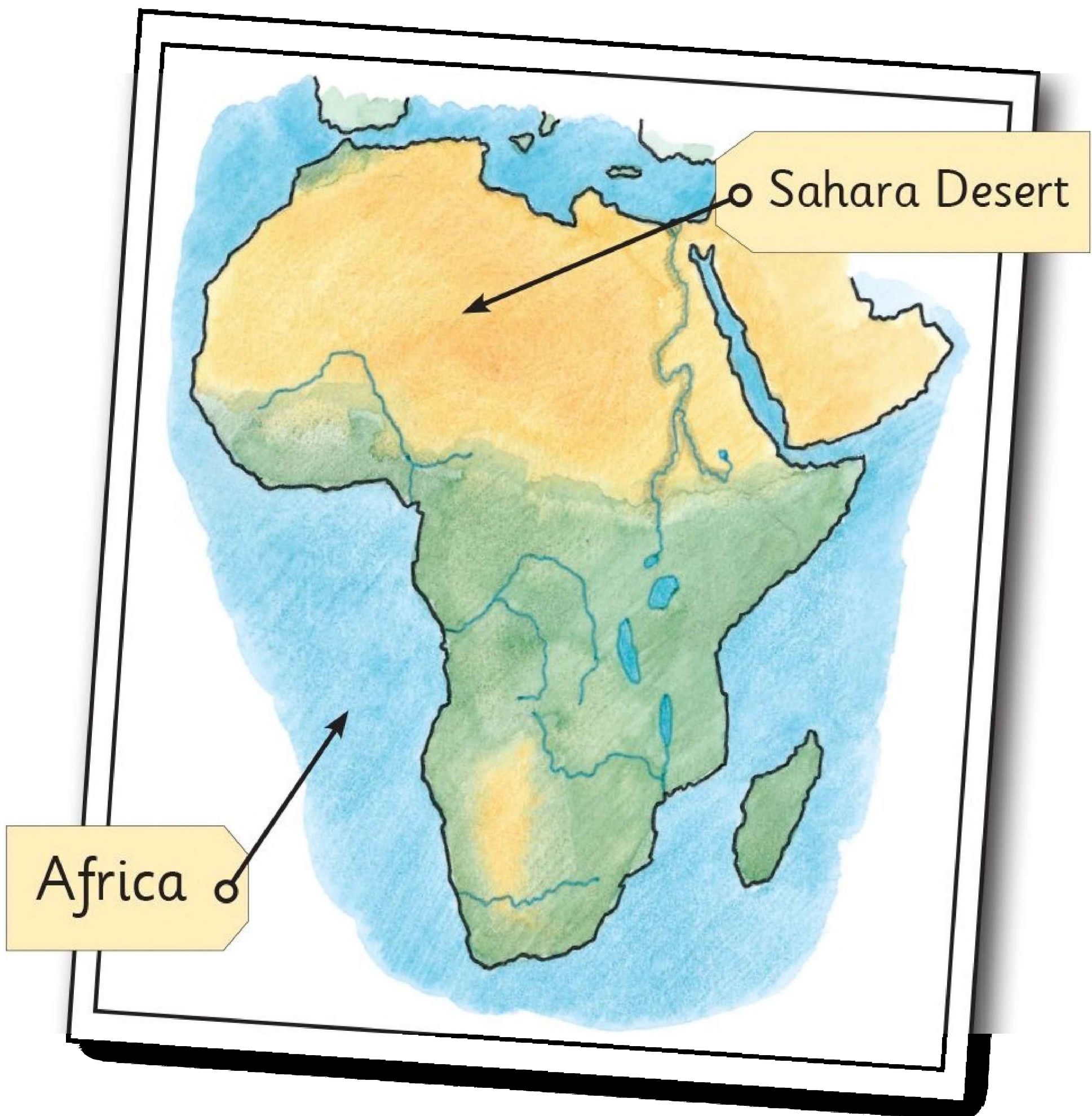
Teachers and parents

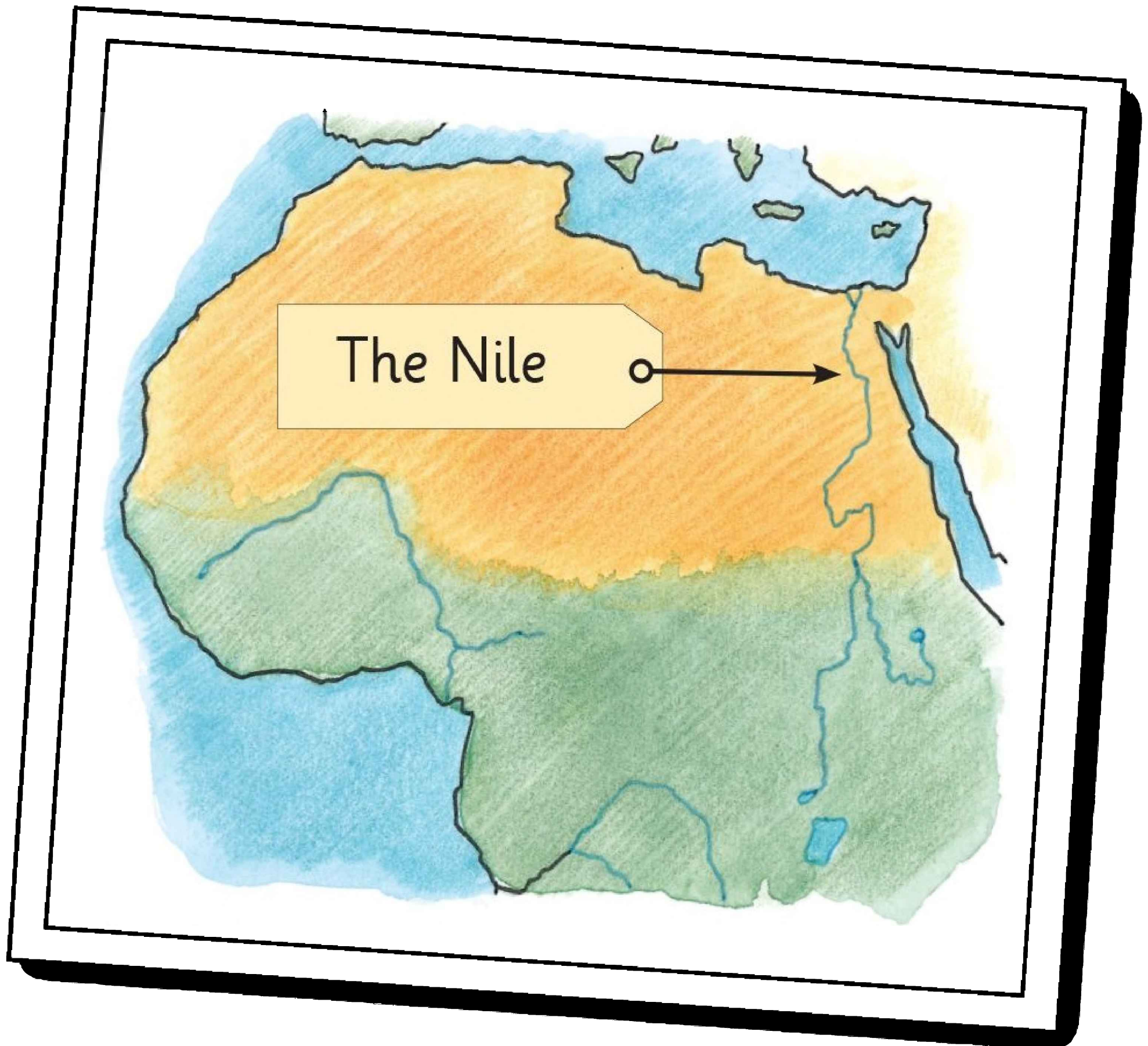
Before tackling these Blue Level Readers, a child will need to be able to:

- Recognise the basic 42 letter sounds, <y> as in *happy*, the 'hop-over <e>' digraphs in words like *take*, *these*, *bike*, *code* and *mule*, and the other main alternative vowel spellings in the leaves below;
- Read (blend) regular words containing these letter sounds;
- Recognise the twenty tricky words shown in the flowers below;
- Recognise the names of the three main characters, as well as Phonic.



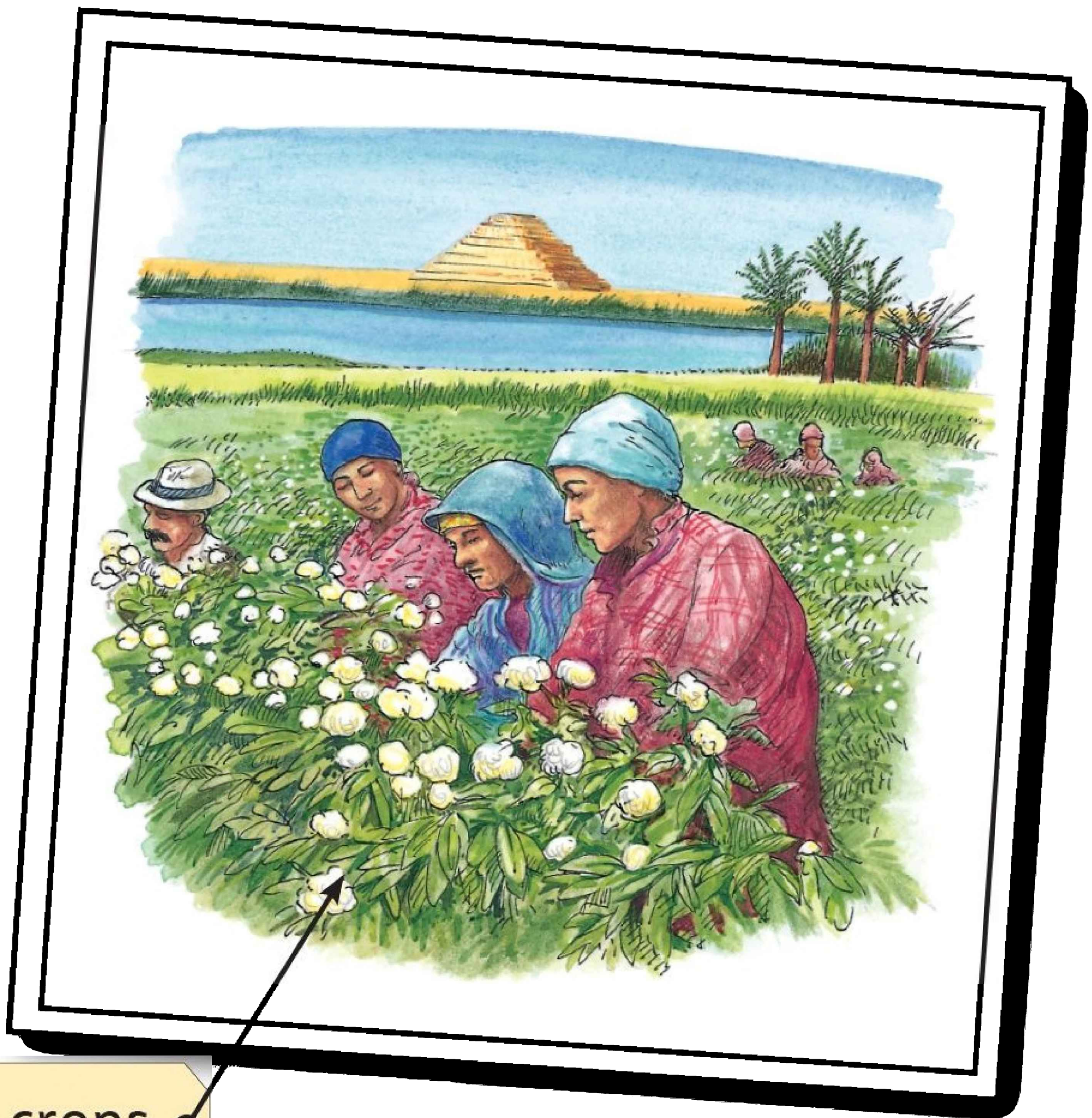
Africa is a big continent. In the north of Africa is the Sahara Desert. There is lots of sand and it is very hot. There is no rain, so it is difficult for anyone to live there.





There is a big river in North Africa. This river comes out of the Sahara Desert. It is the biggest river in Africa and it is called the Nile.

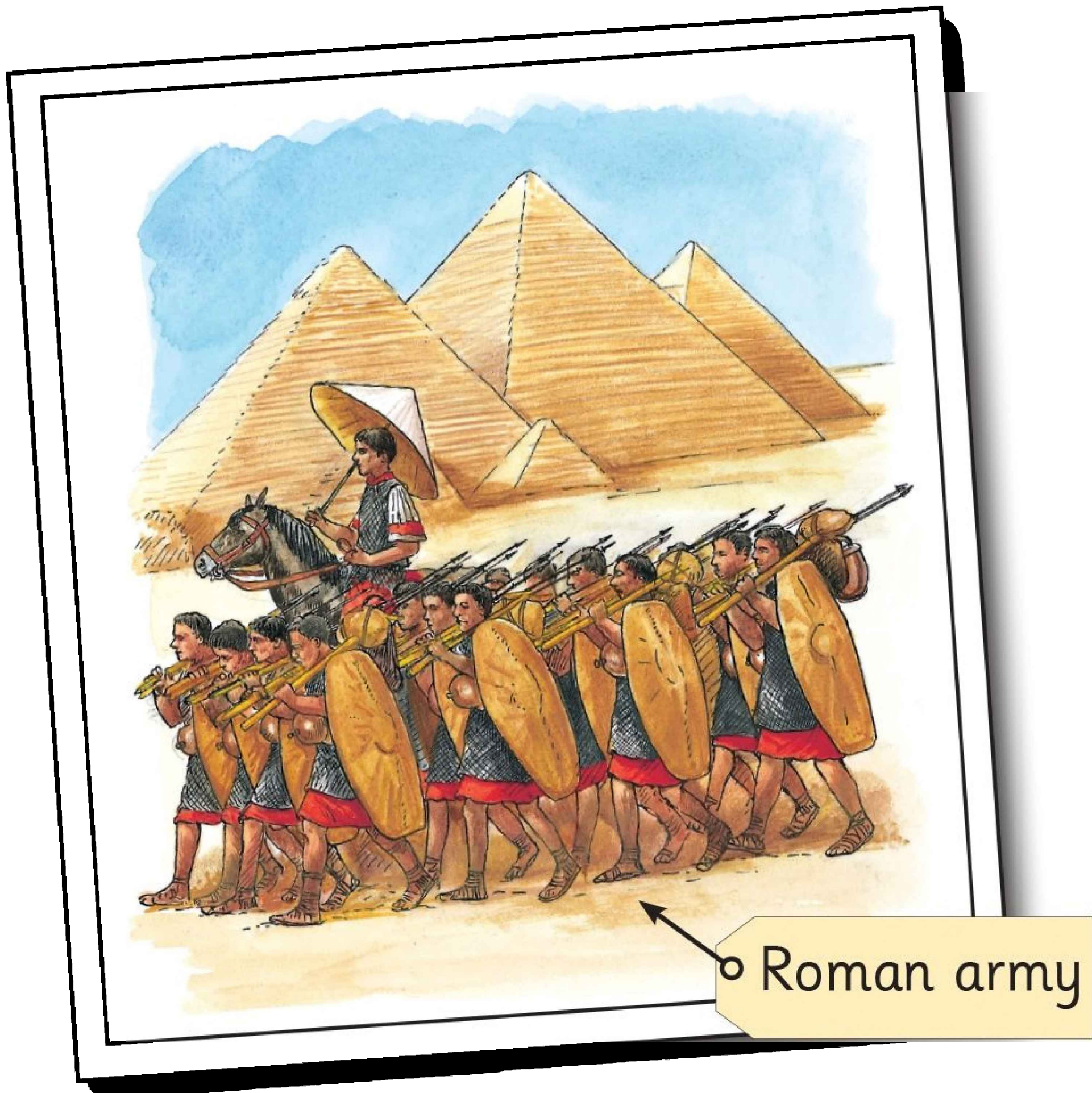
From the Nile, the farmers make the land grow crops. The crops grow well and are used for food. Farmers have lived and grown crops next to the Nile for thousands and thousands of years.



crops o

The land further away from the Nile does not get wet so crops cannot grow there. It is a desert. All the living things in this part of Africa depend on the River Nile.





Some buildings by the Nile are five thousand years old. When an army from Rome came and took the Nile lands, the buildings were already three thousand years old.

But where does the Nile come from? Where does it start? Many years ago, no one knew where it came from. It seemed to come out of the desert.





Explorers set out to see where it started. They marched up the Nile for a long time. It was hot and there was no rain. They took camels and marched and marched and marched.

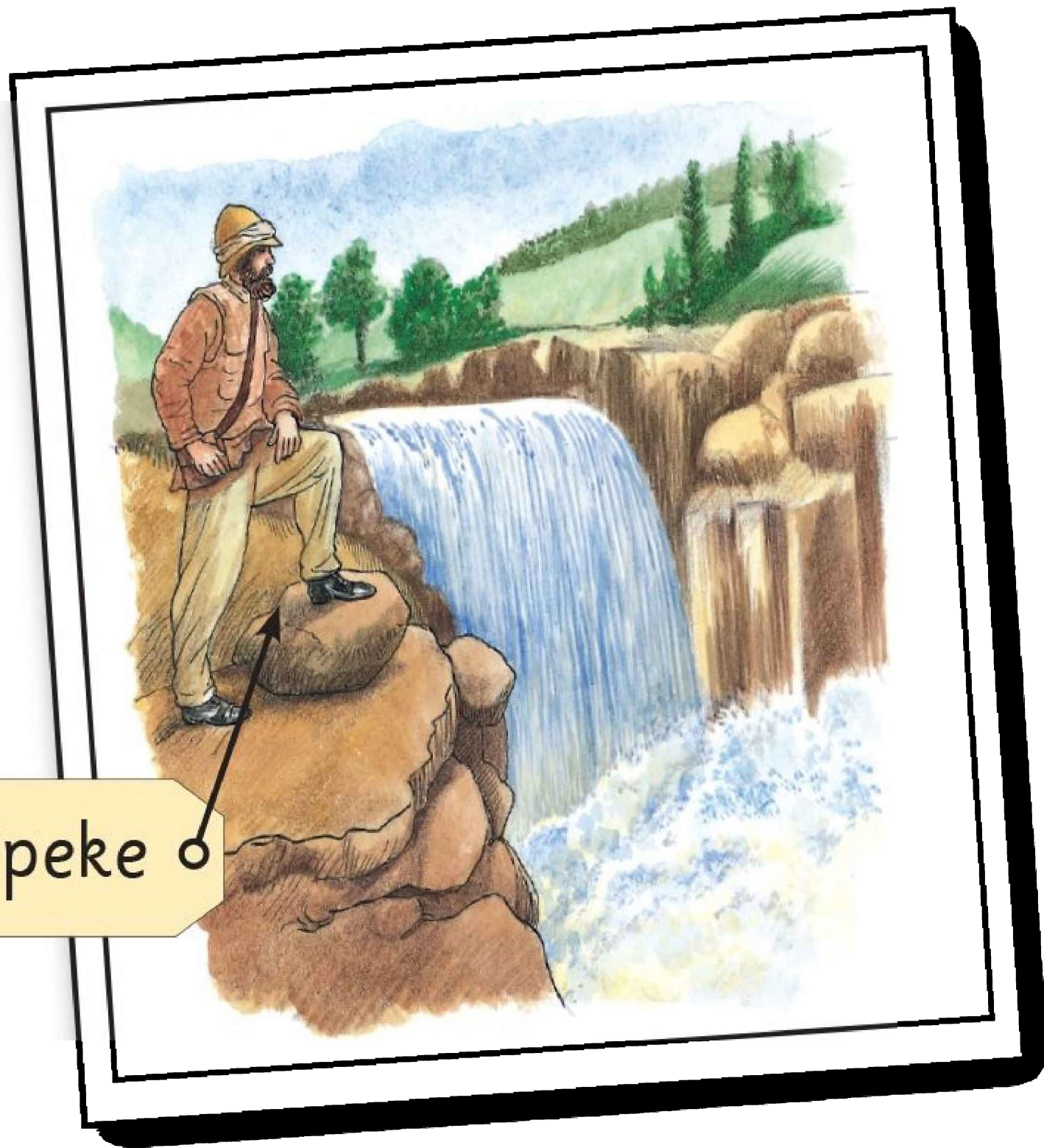
They found only sand and desert. When they returned, they said that the Nile must spring up from out of the desert sands. But they had not really found where the River Nile began.





Then, about one hundred and fifty years ago, some men explored far into the middle of Africa. They, too, were looking for the start of the River Nile.

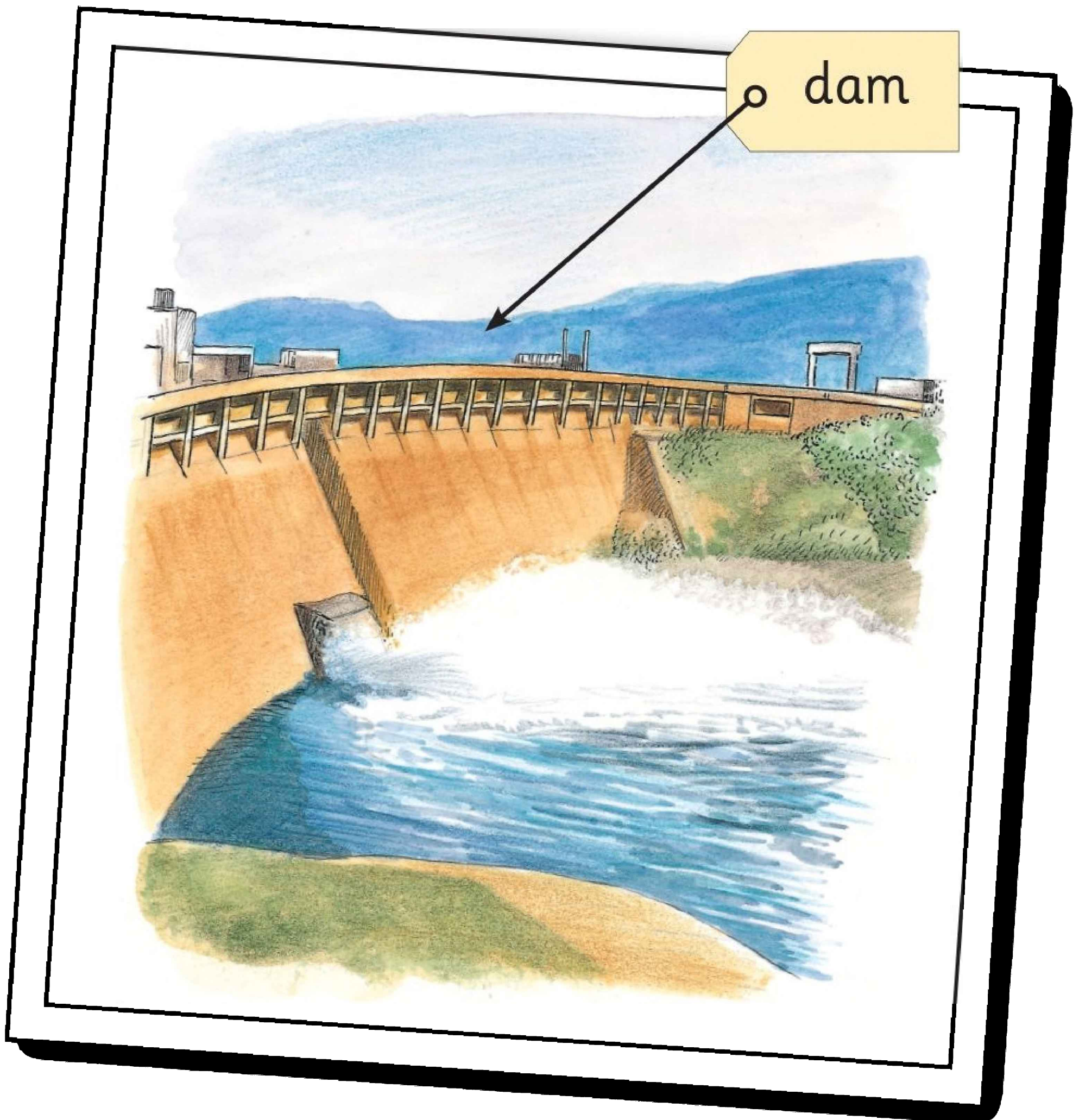
One of these men was called John Speke and, in the end, he was the person who found the start of the Nile.



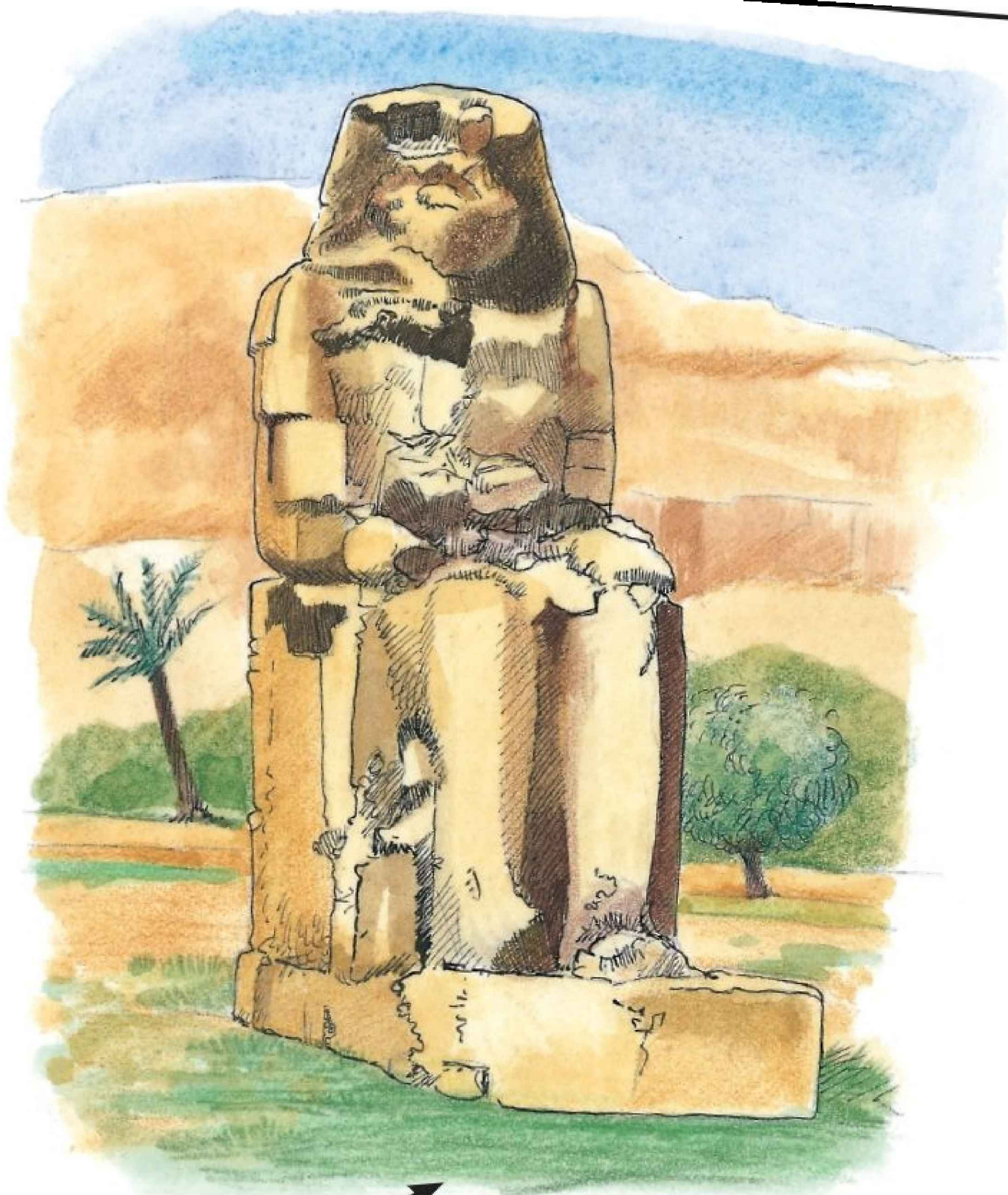
John Speke

Speke found out that it came from a big lake in the middle of Africa. He named it Lake Victoria. Victoria was the British queen of the time.

It rains a lot around Lake Victoria so it is very lush and green. Where Speke found the start of the Nile, there is now a big dam that makes electric power.

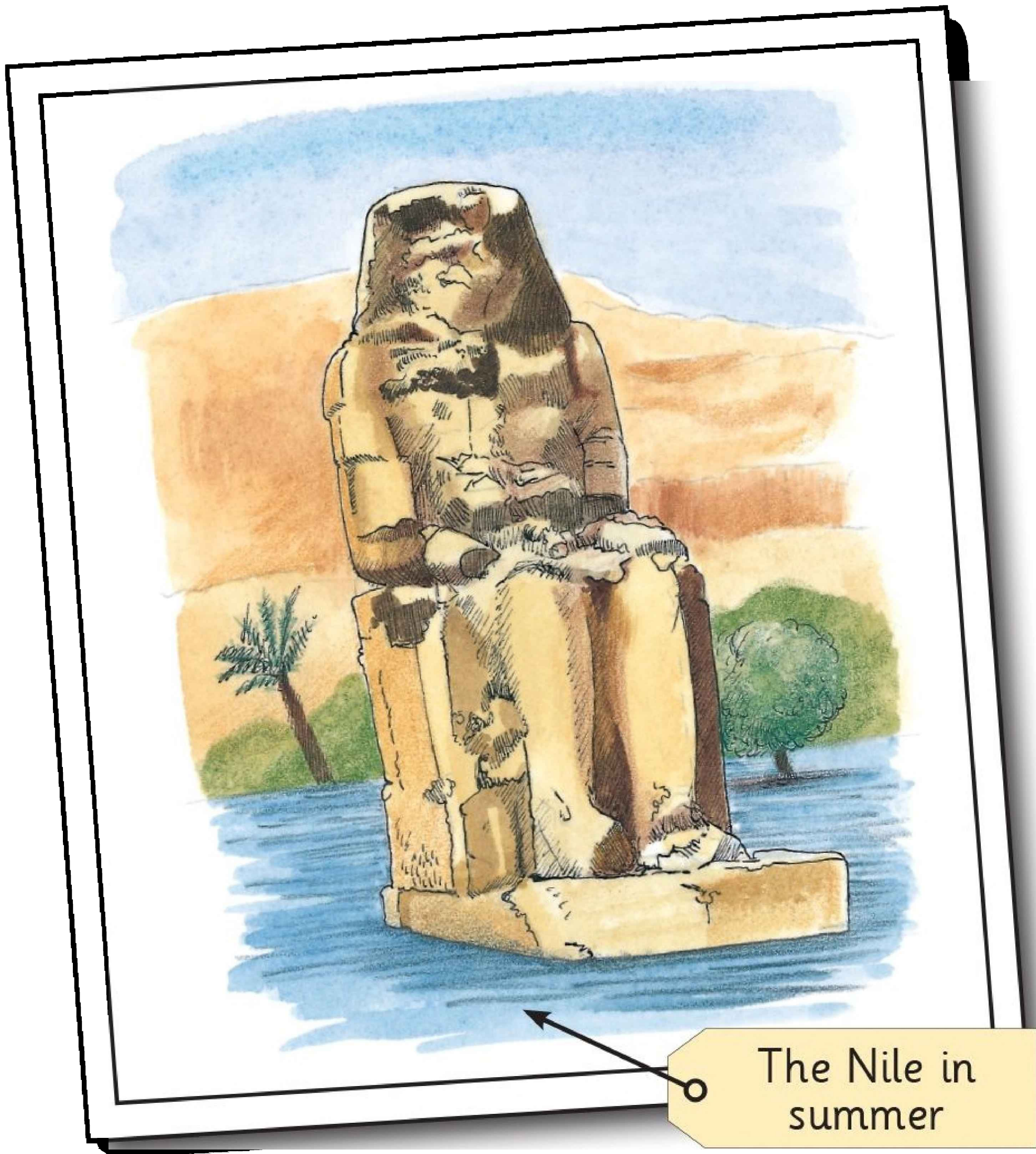


It is hotter in the summer than in the winter. So we would expect rivers to get smaller in the summer because there is less rain. But the Nile is different.



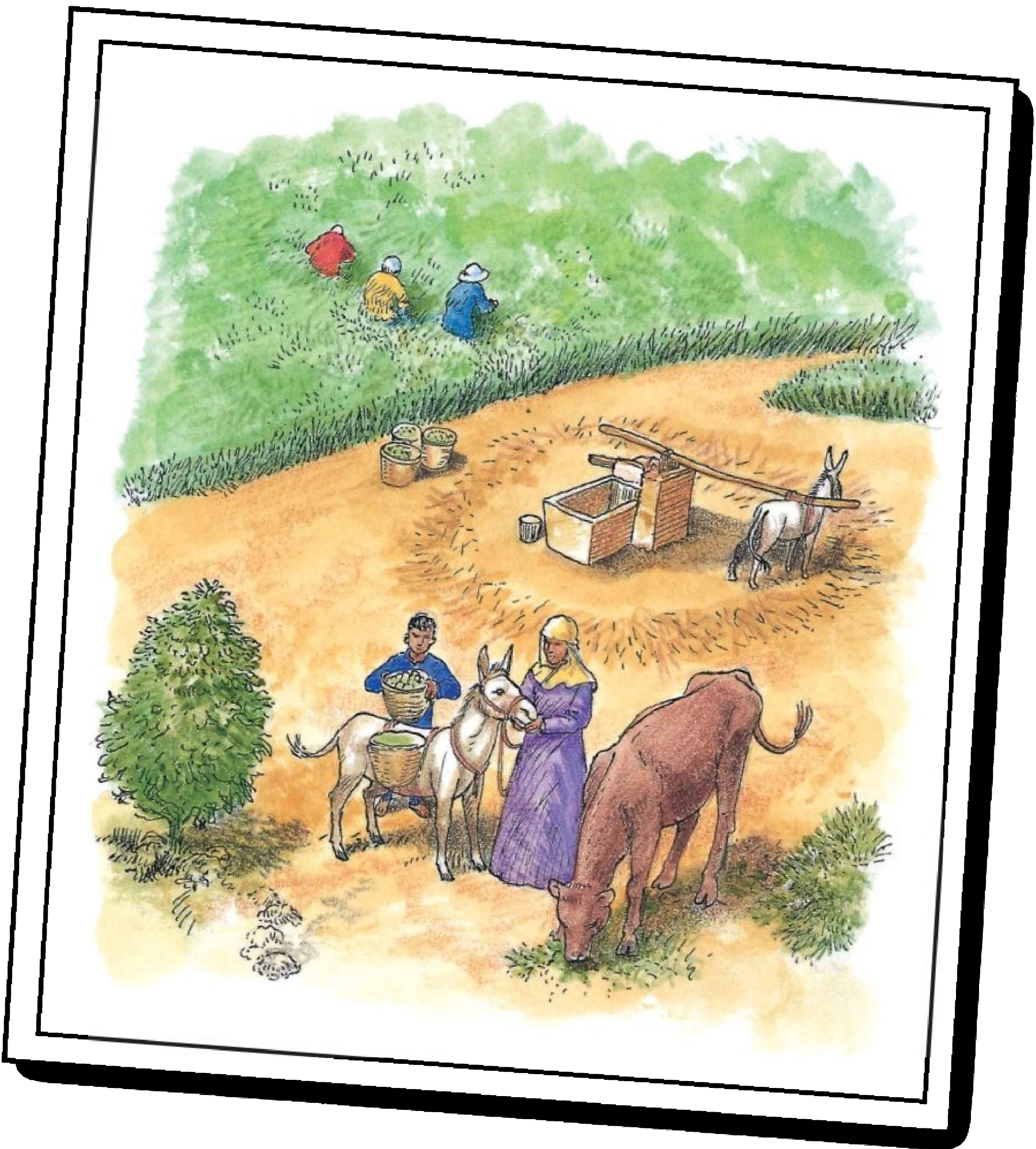
The Nile in winter

In the summer, the Nile gets bigger and spreads out over the land around it. As it does so, it brings earth and mud onto the farmland.



The Nile in summer

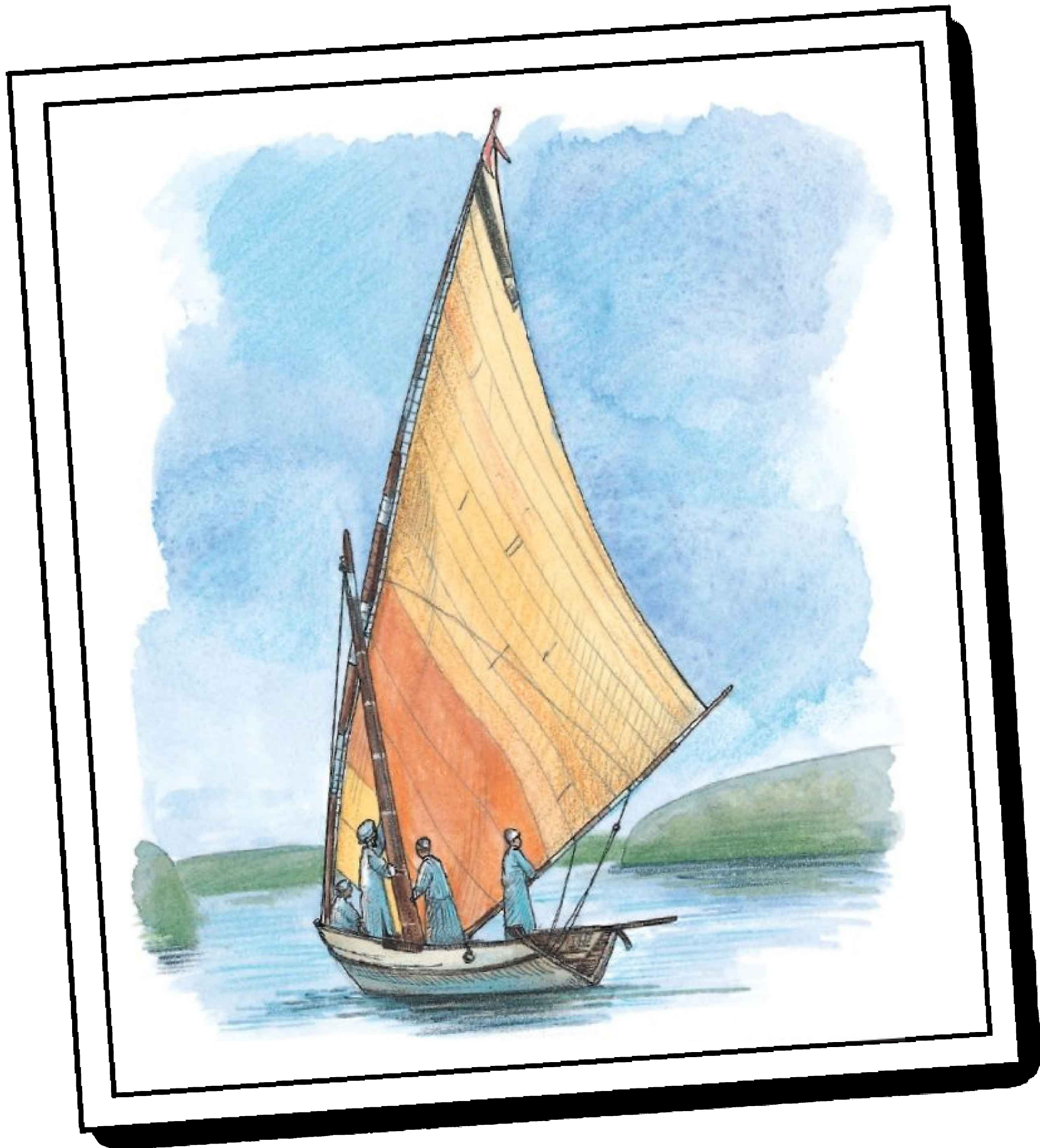
This means the farmers can grow crops there. All the farmers depend on the Nile, but for thousands of years no one understood why it is that the Nile gets bigger in the summer.





The reason is because the Nile has to travel a long, long way before it reaches the desert. As it travels along, a second big river joins it from some mountains. In the winter, there is a lot of rain in the mountains.

It is this rain that makes the Nile bigger in the summer. The Nile is so long that it is summer by the time all the rain reaches the Nile in the desert. So this part of the river is at its biggest in the summertime.



Reading Comprehension

Teachers and parents

An important part of becoming a confident, fluent reader is a child's ability to understand what they are reading. Below are some suggestions on how to develop a child's reading comprehension.

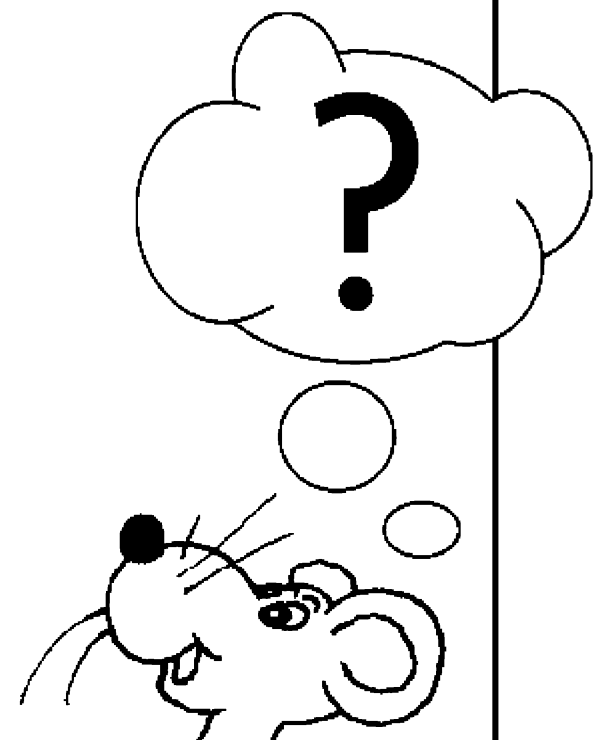
- Make reading this book a shared experience between you and the child. Try to avoid leaving it until the whole book is read before talking about it. Occasionally stop at various intervals throughout the book.
- Ask questions about the characters, the setting, the action and the meaning.
- Encourage the child to think about what might happen next. It does not matter if the answer is right or wrong, so long as the suggestion makes sense and demonstrates understanding.
- Ask the child to describe what is happening in the illustrations.
- Relate what is happening in the book to any real-life experiences the child may have.
- Pick out any vocabulary that may be new to the child and ask what they think it means. If they don't know, explain it and relate it to what is happening in the book.
- Encourage the child to summarise, in their own words, what they have read.

What's in the book?

- Where did people used to think the Nile came from?
- Who eventually found the start of the Nile?
- What happens to the Nile in the summer?

What do you think?

- Why is it hard to live in the desert?
- Why do people in the desert use camels?





Jolly Phonics Readers are fully decodable books for new readers.

These Readers have been written with a **carefully controlled vocabulary**, and are specifically designed for children who are learning to read and write with *Jolly Phonics*.

- The text in these Blue Level Books (fourth level) uses only **decodable regular words** that use the letter-sound knowledge taught so far: the 42 main letter sounds, <y> as in *happy*, and the main alternative vowel spellings (the 'hop-over <e>' spellings of the long vowel sounds, <ay> as in *day*, <ea> as in *seat*, <y> and <igh> as in *fly* and *high*, <ow> as in *low* and *now*, <ew> as in *dew*, <oy> as in *joy*, <ir> and <ur> as in *bird* and *turn*, and <al>, <au> and <aw> as in *talk*, *pause* and *saw*), and a small number of **'tricky' words** (frequently used words that are not fully decodable at this stage).
- All new tricky words and alternative vowel spellings used are shown on the front inside cover; these can be used as a quick practice activity before starting the book.
- **Faint type** is used for silent letters, like the in 'lamb'.
- **Comprehension questions** and discussion topics are included at the end of the book. These ensure that children are not only able to read the text, but also get meaning from the stories.

Blue Level Readers



Inky Mouse & Friends	General Fiction	Nonfiction
The Bird House	The Enormous Turnip	Soccer
Daisy and Buttercup	Rumpelstiltskin	Mountains
The New Kitten	Puppets	Henry Ford
An Inter-Hive Match	Many More Monsters	Sharks
The Maize Maze	The Pumpkin Party	The Moon
Beach Rescue	Town Mouse and Country Mouse	The Nile



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