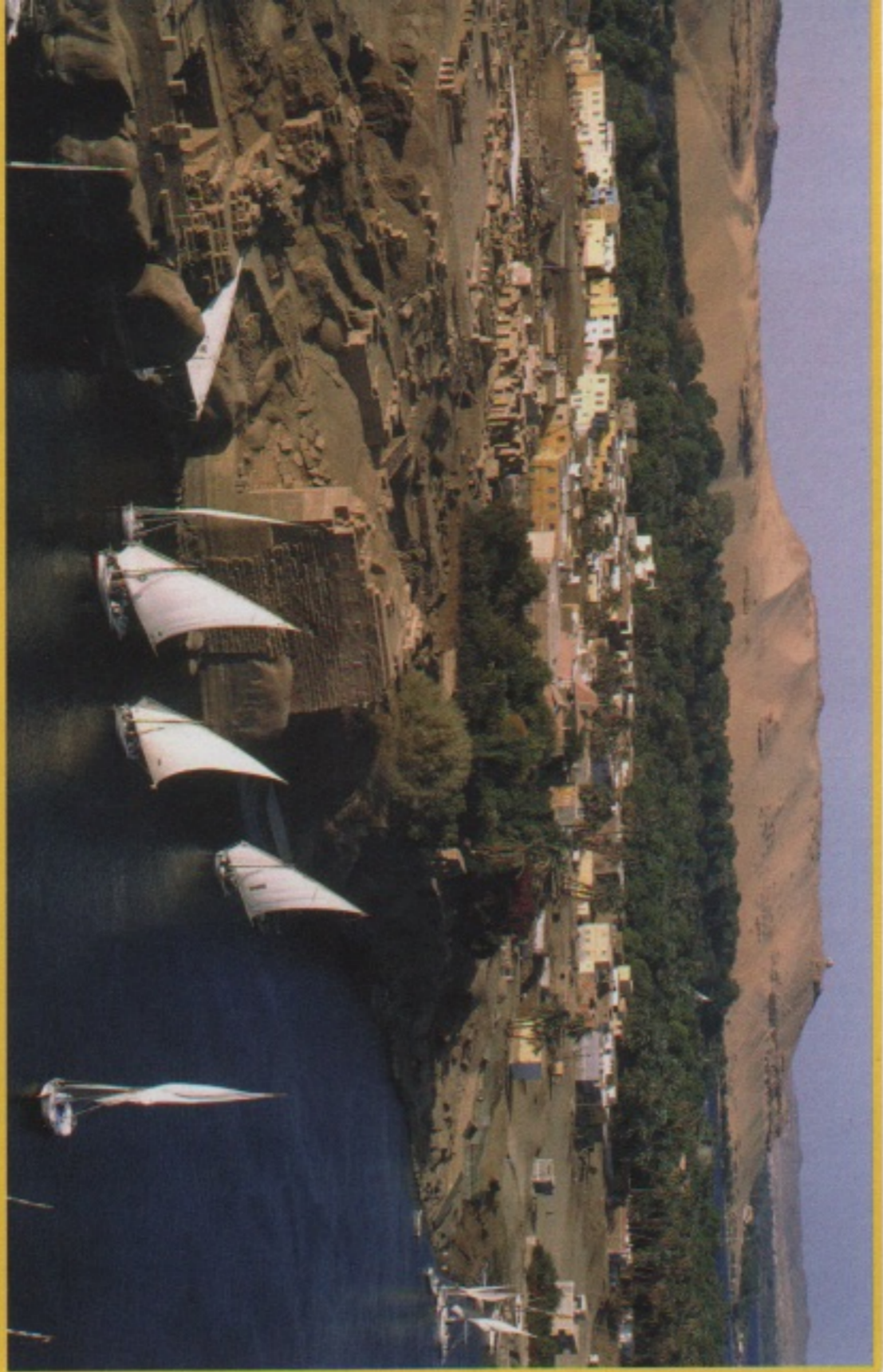


The mighty Nile

If you fly over Egypt in a plane, you see great sandy deserts. The land is hot and dry and only a narrow green strip marks the course of a big river, called the Nile.



Boats still sail up and down the River Nile today.

The Nile carries rainwater from central Africa all the way to the Mediterranean Sea. Before the river reaches the coast it splits into many separate streams. This region of Egypt is called the Nile delta.

In ancient times, the river flooded every summer. The floods left behind thick black mud. This soil was very good for growing crops, which was why farmers first settled along the banks of the river thousands of years ago.

People used the river for watering their fields. It also gave them water to drink. They made boats from reeds or wood to travel up and down the river. Without the Nile, the ancient Egyptians could not have survived.



The Nile is about 6,670 kilometres long. It is the longest river in the world.