

How did the Egyptians get around?

By boat, of course! The Nile was like a great highway, stretching up and down the country, with all sorts of different traffic. In any case, there were no roads.

Why not?

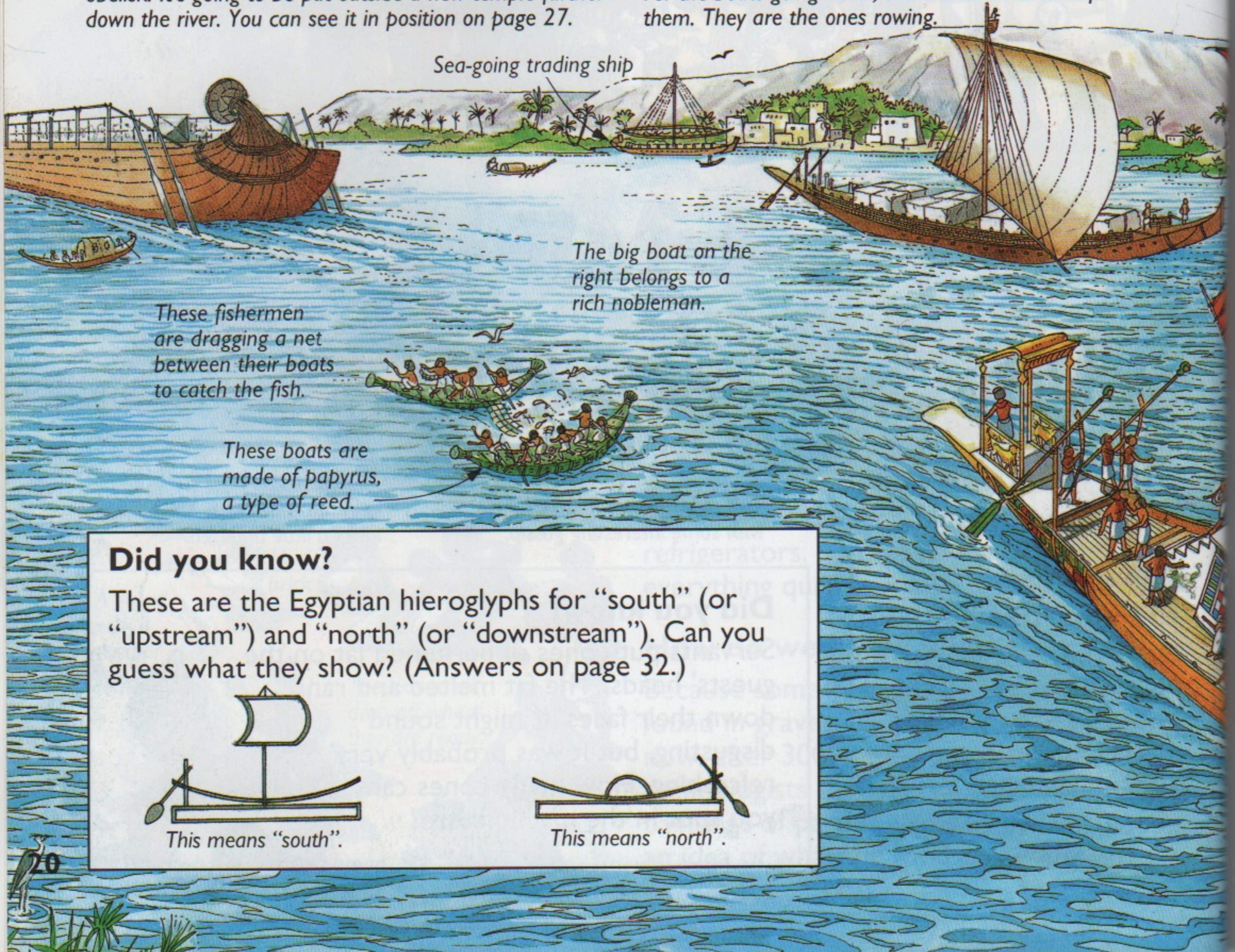
It was pointless to try to build roads in Egypt. They would have been covered and washed away by the floods every year.

This barge is carrying a huge stone statue called an obelisk. It's going to be put outside a new temple further down the river. You can see it in position on page 27.

What kinds of boats did they have?

Fishing boats, funeral barges, luxurious boats for the royal family, cargo ships for transporting things such as stone blocks for the pyramids, and passenger ferries (which were usually overloaded). Can you spot the man who has fallen out?

The wind in Egypt usually blows from the north. This means the boats with their sails up are going south. For the boats going north, there is no wind to help them. They are the ones rowing.



Sea-going trading ship

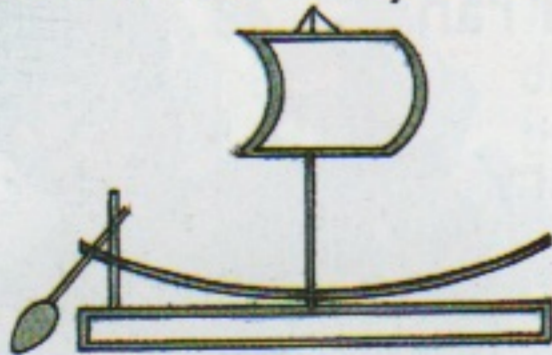
These fishermen are dragging a net between their boats to catch the fish.

The big boat on the right belongs to a rich nobleman.

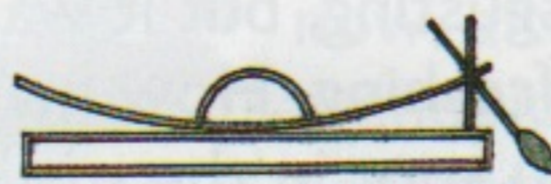
These boats are made of papyrus, a type of reed.

Did you know?

These are the Egyptian hieroglyphs for "south" (or "upstream") and "north" (or "downstream"). Can you guess what they show? (Answers on page 32.)



This means "south".



This means "north".