

Lesson 4– The Nile River - An Overview

Earth 105 – Audio Transcript

Hi everyone, this is your Environments of Africa Instructor, Dr. G., as we leave African Biodiversity and Conservation. We are now going to start three full weeks of the Nile River.

In lesson 3 we had the profiles of these four people that are doing so many things for the African environment. I personally hope that some day I get to meet Dr. Mathai. I think it is just amazing what she has done and what she has faced just to do something for the environment and to help the people, specifically the women, in Kenya help make better lives for themselves.

It is interesting to see what each of you would work on in terms of conservation issues in Africa. Many of you choose particular species... I think bonobos might have been an interesting topic for some of you. And people that wanted to work with AIDS, the Peace Corp, helping the rain forests and ecosystems in Africa. A number of you also said that you wanted to focus on education and how education is really going to make a difference. But I want to pose something to you as an educator – I can do all the teaching in the world and you can do all the learning in the world. But does it really make a difference? We really need to take education another step. It is one thing to gain that knowledge; it is another thing to take action with that knowledge – to actually do something with what you learn. So yes we can write books and pamphlets and create websites, create radio broadcasts to help people learn something but if they don't take action on this new knowledge then this education has gone to waste. Just want you to think about this as you continue to go through the course and through life.

For the next couple weeks we will focus on the Nile River – there is a lot going on with the Nile, and that is why we are devoting three weeks to it.

This week, we will have a general overview of the Nile – we will talk about the Blue and White Nile – the two main branches.

There is one message board posting due on Friday. This message board is about the meeting of the two Niles in the city of Khartoum.

You have a topic specific assignment, due Friday. This is about the Nile basin geography.

This week's second assignment is a little more involved. It will include virtual labs, getting certificates to drop in the drop boxes, and creating hydrographs. If you are not familiar with hydrographs, you will learn about them in this unit too. This assignment is due on Sunday.

So please start this unit early, at least take a look at what's due and try to pace yourselves as you go through this week. Remember this week's assignment may take longer since you may not be comfortable with some of the material unless you have taken previous courses in the geosciences and geography.

You can always send me an email if you have questions. Good luck as you start your journey down the Nile!