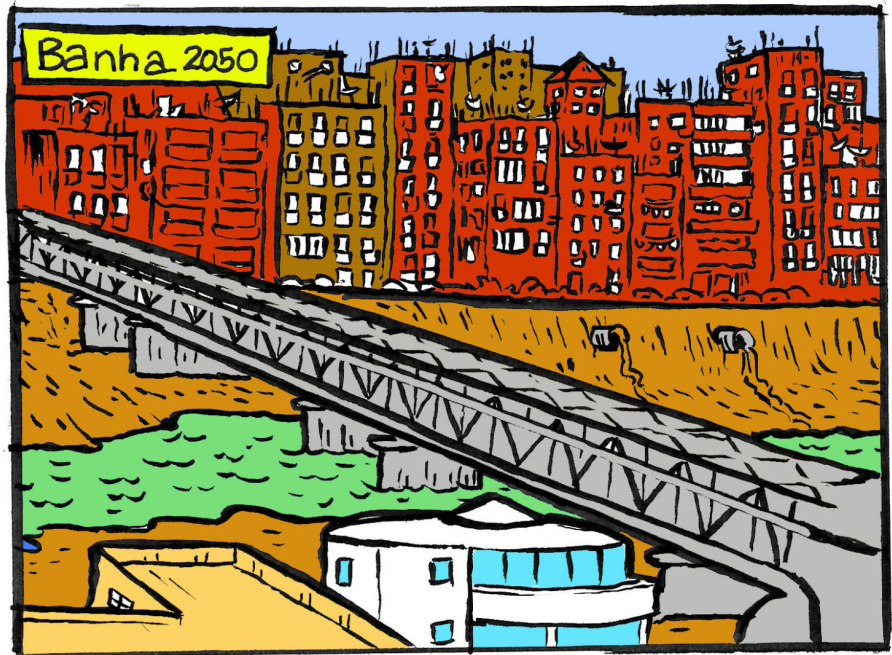
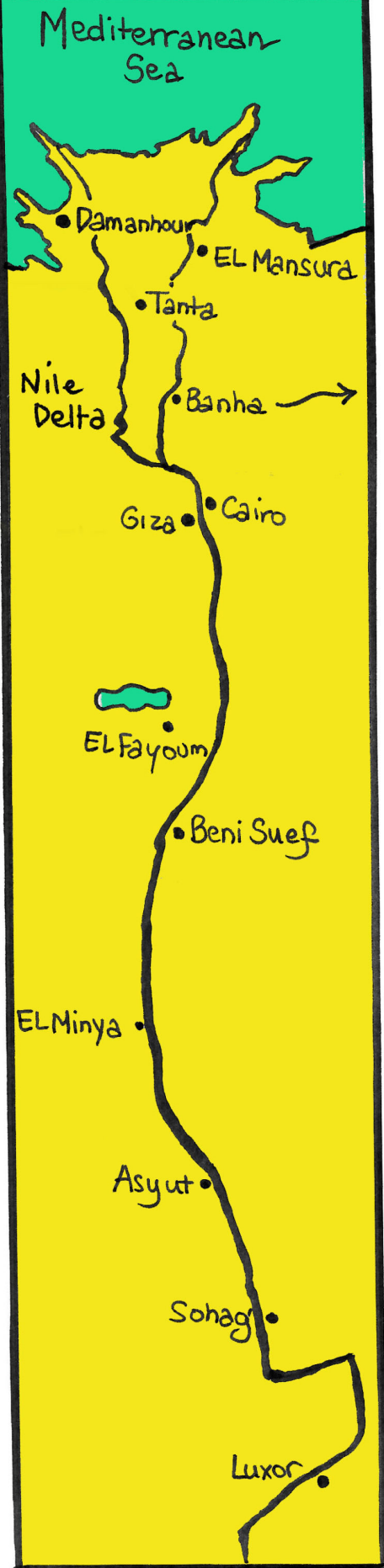
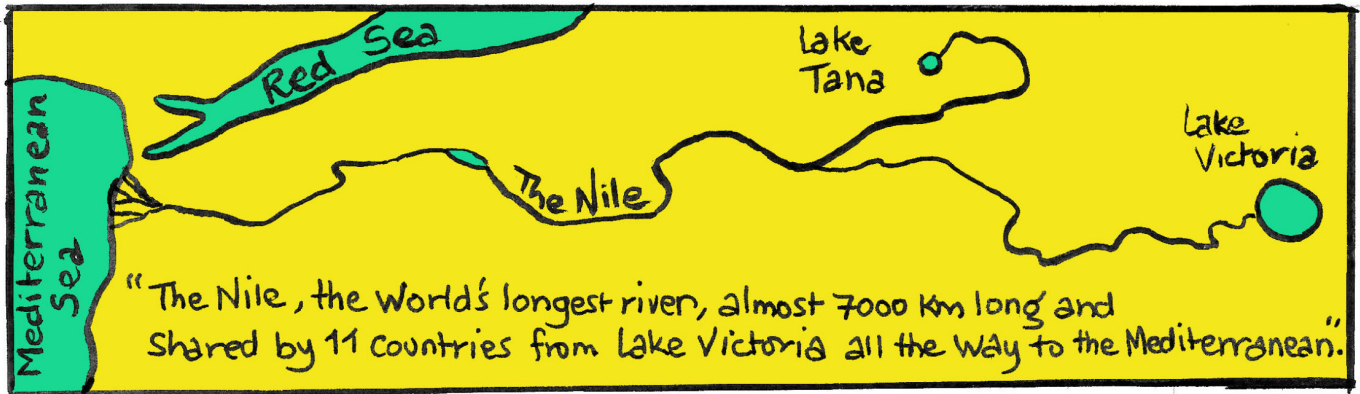
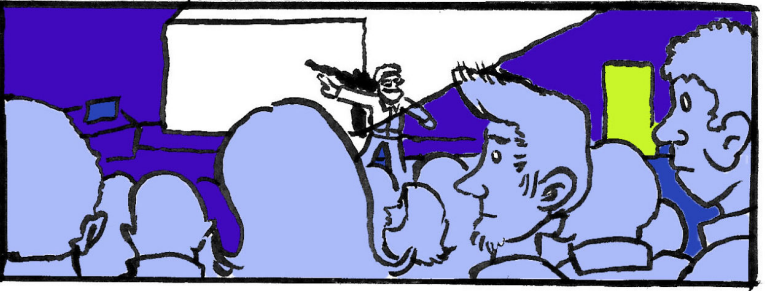


Egypt, 2050



Egypt, 2017. The present day.
We are now overseeing a lecture on the Nile and its relationship with Egypt.



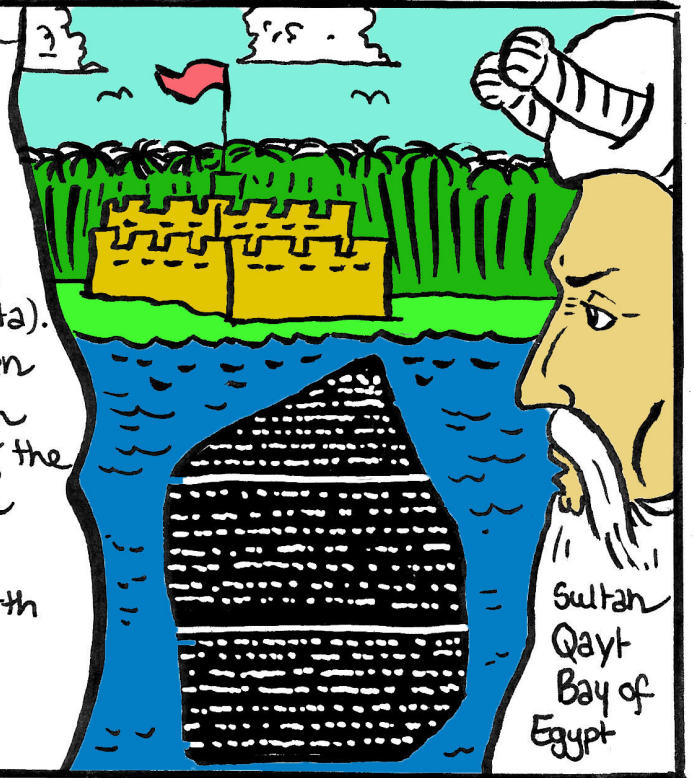
Both Egypt & Sudan rely solely on the Nile as the most important source of water, and in 3100 BC the Nile Valley and Delta became the world's first large nation state, what we know now as Ancient Egypt.

The Nile made movement between upper and lower Egypt very easy. The Delta offered protection from invaders. Crops grown along the Nile included cereals, barley and papyrus, used for food, and in papyrus case, for writing (sheets). Livestock was used for agriculture and meat, and fishing was commonly practiced. The annual Nile flood delivered layers of rich silt which fertilized the land and pushed the Delta outward into the sea. This helped in making the Delta the richest farmland in all of Egypt; its 'breadbasket' so to speak. Absence of the annual flood meant certain famine.

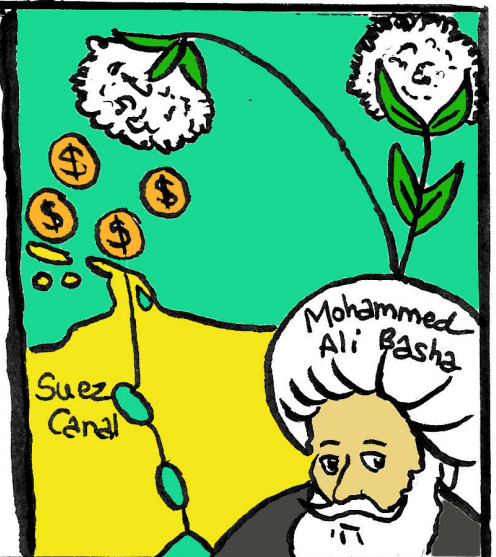


Mahmoud Shattout

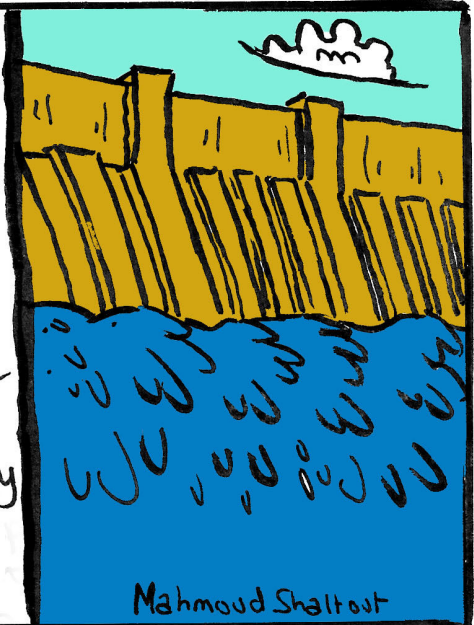
Throughout the millennia, the Nile Valley and Delta continued to sustain life in the Egyptian population. The Delta's key role in defense against invaders led to the Mamluk Sultan Qayt Bay (1416-1496) building fortresses along the Northern coast, namely the Qayt Bay Fortress in Alexandria and a fort in Rashid (Rosetta). This fort was later renamed fort Julien by Napoleon in 1799 during the French occupation of Egypt. It was during the rebuilding of the fort by the French that the Rosetta Stone (the key to deciphering hieroglyphs and the Birth of Egyptology) was discovered.



During the early 19th century under the Mohammed Ali Dynasty, Egypt began growing cotton along the Nile, especially in the Delta. Cotton production increased throughout the 19th century and in the 1860's replaced the missing American cotton exports (due to the American Civil War). This proved an economic boon to Egypt, leading to the modernization of the country and providing funding for several large scale projects like the digging of the Suez Canal and the modernization of Egypt's capital city, Cairo.



In the 20th century, the need for controlling the Nile floods and the need to generate hydro-electric energy led to the building of the Aswan Dam (completed in 1970). The Dam creates a large power output, and the resulting Lake Nasser led to new agriculture and fishing opportunities. However, the rich silt which used to reach the Delta and help expand it, now fails to reach it. This has led to a reduction in the land's fertility as well as productivity. Moreover, ongoing dam construction upstream in Ethiopia is also a concern.



Among the audience are four senior film students who just came up with a great idea, simultaneously! These four students are...

Karim..... Farida..... Hassan..... and Zeina.



How about doing our Senior film project about the Nile Valley and Delta?

I was just thinking the same... like a silent documentary with complimentary instrumental music



You guys read my mind! How about we film off a boat or felluca all the way downstream to the Mediterranean from Aswan?



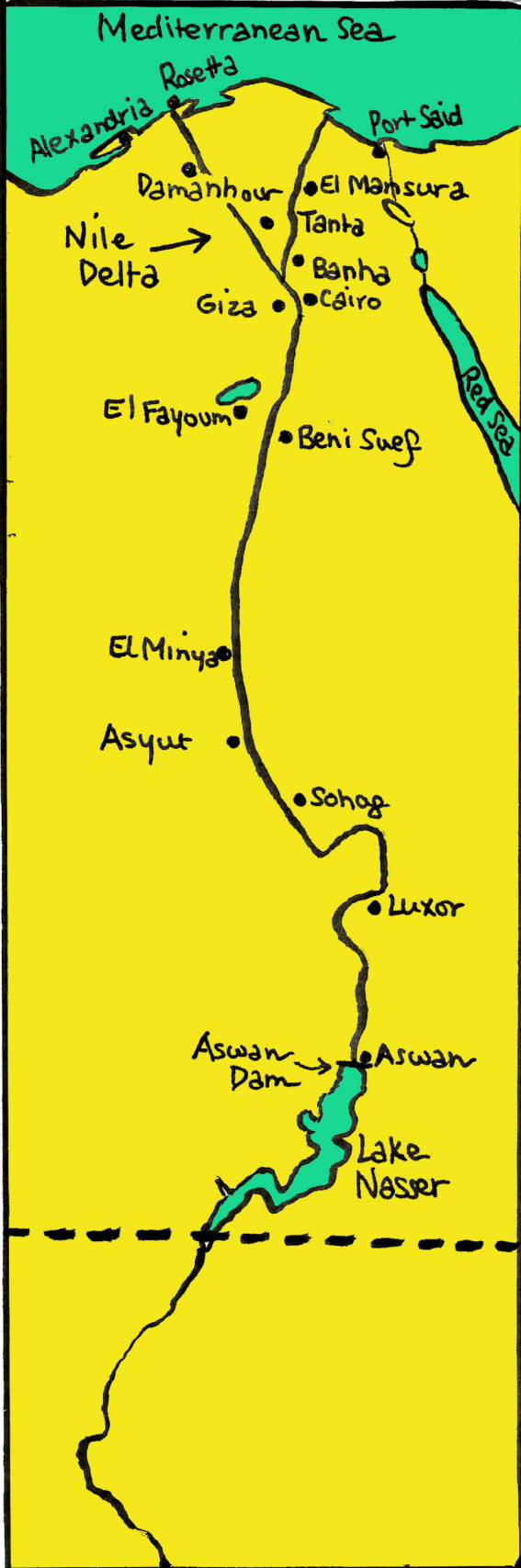
Sounds great! I'll get on the tickets and reservations, and you guys can take care of the cameras and equipment...



A couple of weeks later, during a mid-semester break, the team of four film students board a plane from Cairo to Aswan to begin filming



They begin their journey in Aswan and will make their way North, past Cairo and into the Nile Delta till they reach the Mediterranean Coast.



Wow! So you've worked on the felluca for 20 years Mr Ahmed?



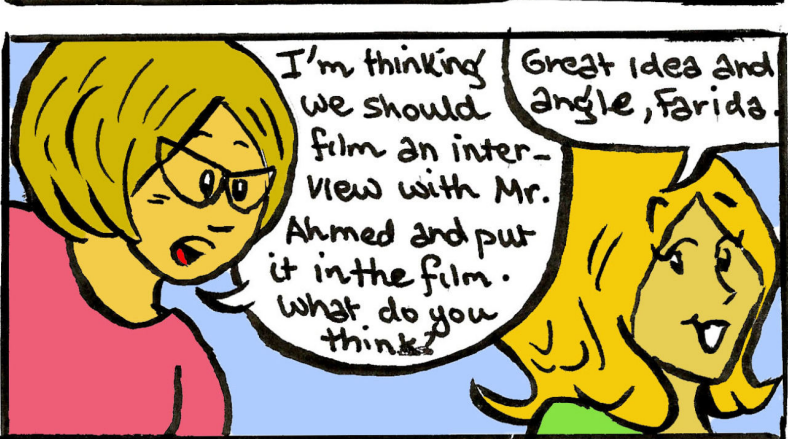
Luxor..

Yes sonny! 20 years now!

Before that I was a tour guide in Luxor. Back when tourism was booming, I left my family back up in Bahha to make a living and boy did I save!



I made enough to buy a plot of land just outside of Bahha on the Nile to farm and to build homes for my kids. I have 8 grown kids who are either married or about to marry and I need to build flats for them to be near the farms



I'm thinking we should film an interview with Mr. Ahmed and put it in the film. What do you think?

Great idea and angle, Farida.

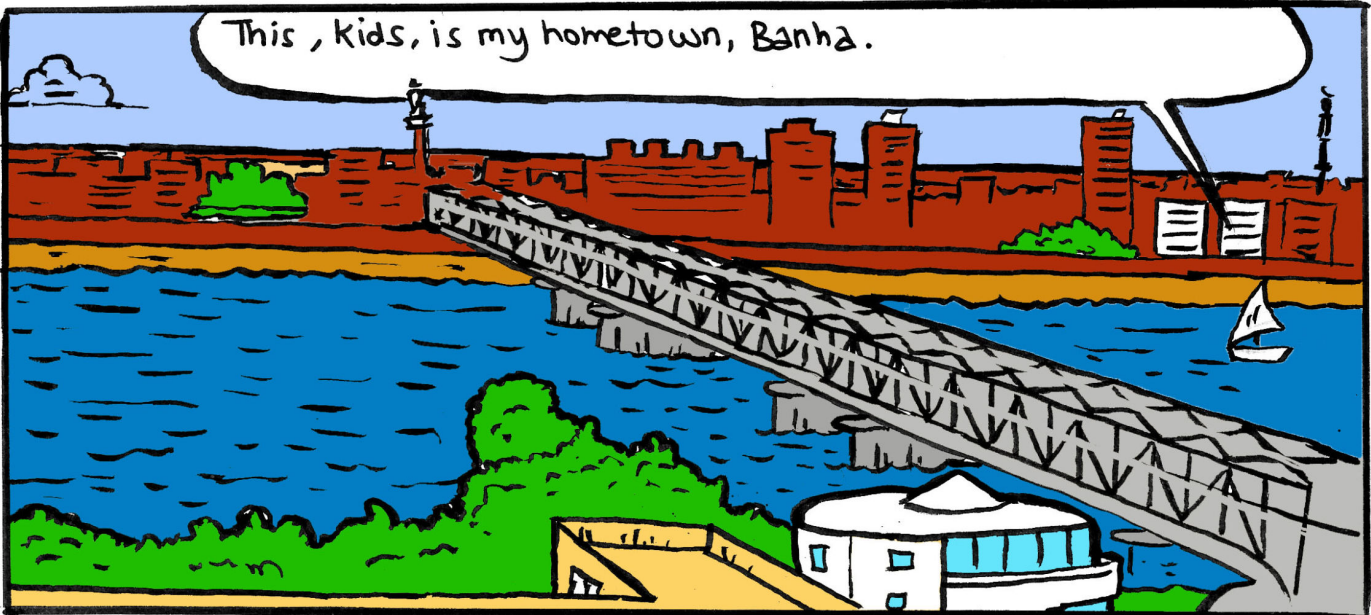
As the days roll along, the falluca sails downstream, finally crossing the mega-city of Cairo and into the Damietta branch of the Nile Delta...



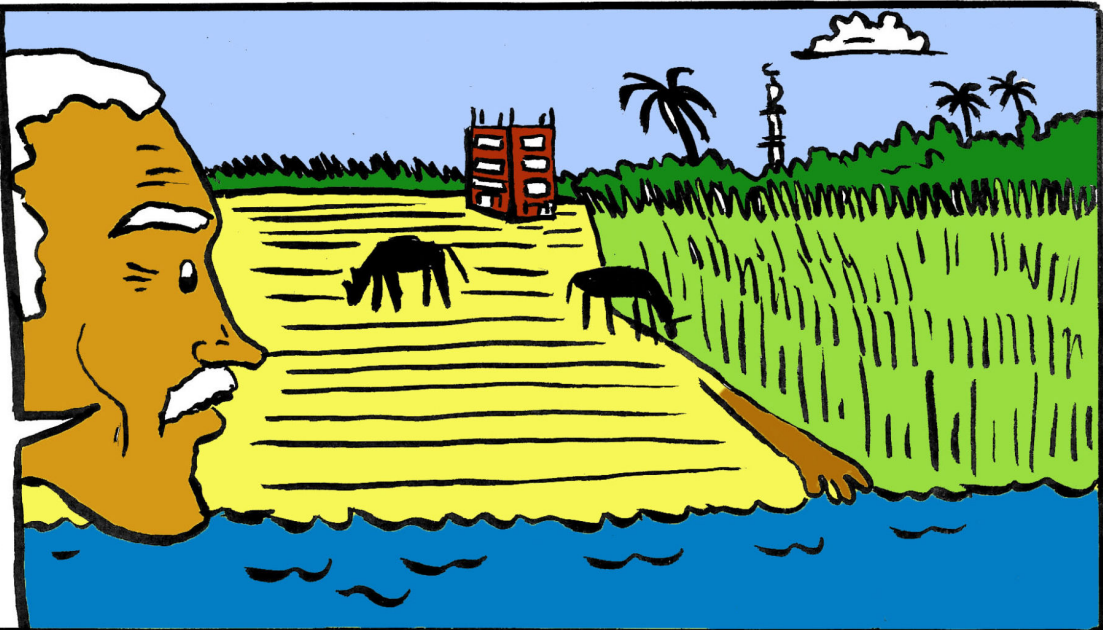
Mediterranean Sea



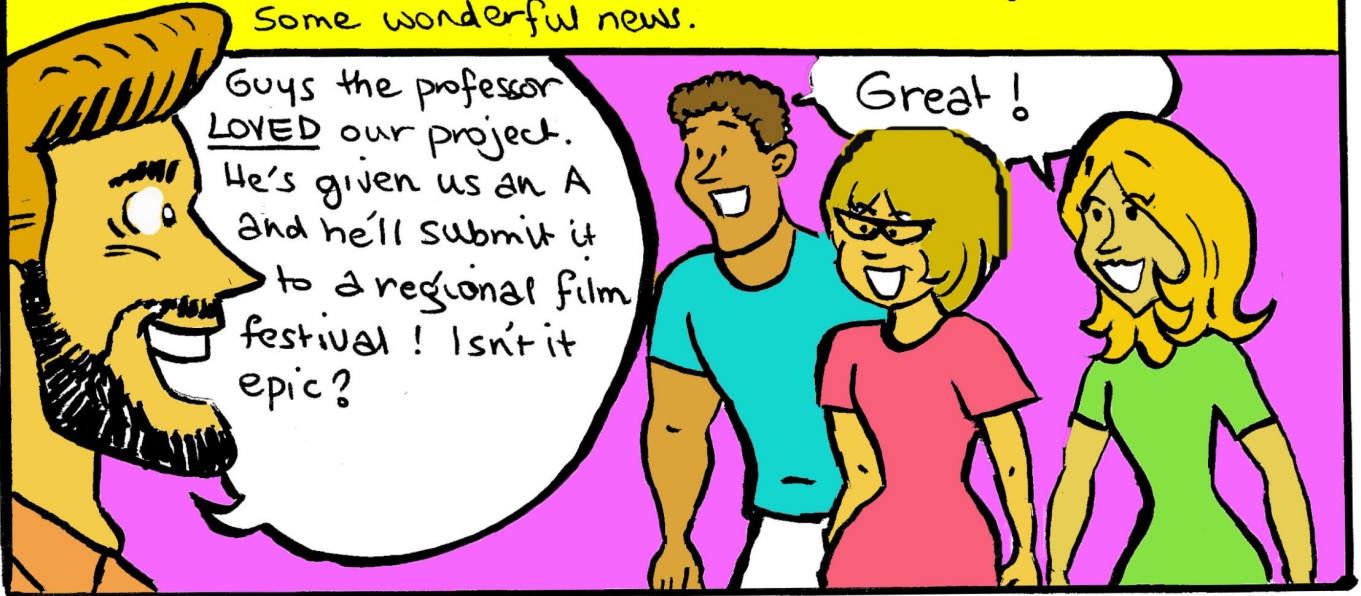
This, kids, is my hometown, Banha.



And this is the plot of land I bought. That house over there is where my family lives... we are building another house right next to it for my kids.



After filming and editing, the group submit their project and receive some wonderful news.



Guys the professor LOVED our project. He's given us an A and he'll submit it to a regional film festival! Isn't it epic?

Great!

We now flash-forward back to 2050, where Farida, now a highly successful director and film professor at her old university, is giving her own film students a project assignment.



I'm going to show you a documentary film that was my and my group's film project. This eventually won an award at the Middle Eastern Short Film Festival in 2017. I will submit the best film project this year to that same film festival.

And so the film students of the future got a glimpse into a Nile and an Egypt from a not too distant past.

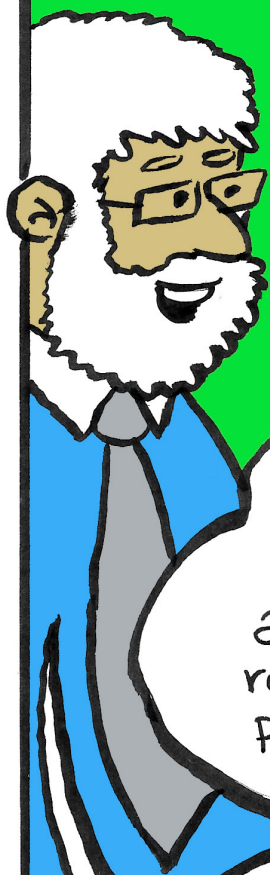


THE END النهاية

Nile Comic Part 2

After the long Nile trip, the group are back and ready to work on their documentary. They consult their professor, Dr Masry, to help them get started. He directs them to a few authorities on a variety of topics...

The importance of the Nile Delta to Egypt cannot be quantified. Not only did it provide the key to Egyptology (the Rosetta Stone), it is an agricultural gold mine, essential to Egypt's millenia long survival. It is also home to Egypt's most densely populated cities: Cairo, Alexandria, Port Said, Mansoura, Zagazig and Tanta. This is over one half of Egypt's 91 million population



This is fascinating! I've been living in Egypt my whole life and never thought of the role the Nile and the Delta plays in our daily lives

Egypt's relationship with the Nile is a complex one; it's difficult to know where to start. Why don't you start by looking at some data on Egypt's relationship with water, one of these is water access....

Mahmoud Shaltout