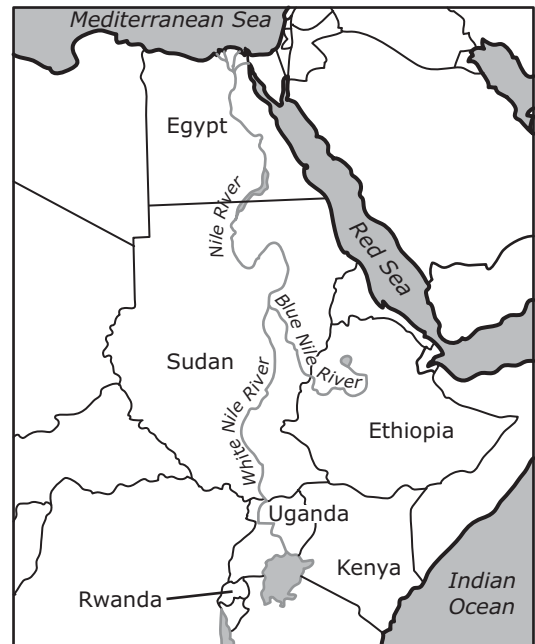


Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

Adventuring on the Nile

- 1 "It has rapids, waterfalls, jungle, canyons, deserts, hippos, crocs, long flat beautiful sections, huge beautiful sandbars," Pasquale Scaturro says. "There is no other river in the world that can compare." The river that Scaturro is describing has been the subject of human curiosity and a home to civilizations for thousands of years: the Nile. The river has long been a significant agricultural and transportation fixture in northeastern Africa, crucial to the people who depend on it. And yet no one had ever made the journey from its beginning to its end by boat. Scaturro is a geophysicist and a world-famous guide and explorer. His job in oil and gas exploration and his love of adventure have led him on expeditions in some of the wildest, roughest parts of the world. In 2004 he and filmmaker Gordon Brown completed the first-ever descent of the Nile River, from its headwaters in Ethiopia to its mouth at the Mediterranean Sea. Their journey was documented in the IMAX film *Mystery of the Nile*.
- 2 The Nile is the longest river in the world. When including the headwaters of both the Blue Nile and the White Nile, the Nile measures more than 4,100 miles. The White Nile begins in Rwanda, and the Blue Nile begins in Ethiopia; they meet in Sudan to form the Nile River, which flows through Egypt to the Mediterranean Sea. The river covers terrain that includes mountains, deserts, gorges, lakes, valleys, dams, waterfalls, and large cities. It flows through the largest lake in Africa; it winds through capital cities; it grazes ancient cities as well as world-renowned antiquities such as the pyramids.
- 3 Until Scaturro and Brown's expedition in 2004, no one had successfully traveled the length of the river beginning from the Blue Nile, which is often considered the source of the Nile because it provides more than 85 percent of the water in the Nile River. Scaturro and Brown launched their watercraft from the Springs of Sakala, the origins of the Blue Nile in the Ethiopian highlands, in late December 2003. Their watercraft included two 16-foot inflatable rafts and a two-person kayak. A small support crew, which at times included a journalist, an archaeologist, a photographer, and a hydrologist, joined the men and aided with some of the planning. But the bulk of the navigating, paddling, and filming—Brown was shooting their adventure with a 70-pound IMAX camera—fell to Scaturro and Brown.



- 4 The pair traveled 3,250 miles in four months. During their journey they encountered disease-carrying mosquitoes, sand storms, extreme heat, and armed bandits. Several stretches of the river pass through areas of unrest or civil war. Many sections of the Nile have life-threatening rapids, leading some to

liken the river to Mount Everest in terms of adventure and danger. Scaturro and Brown's boats flipped in the white water more than once. A crocodile attacked Brown's kayak and took a bite out of his oar. In several areas the river proved impassible, and the team was forced to briefly portage their boats or send the boats down dangerous waterfalls or rapids unmanned while they bypassed the area on foot.

- 5 But for all the dangers they encountered, they also met with awe-inspiring sights and experiences. Scaturro noted in his journal that for much of their time on the Nile in Sudan, they saw "absolutely not a single other tourist, adventurer, traveler, or any other westerner. . . . Basically, we have had the entire Nile River to ourselves. What an adventure."
- 6 From the white-water gorges of Ethiopia to the desert plains of Sudan to the urban pollution near heavily populated Egyptian cities, Scaturro and Brown experienced the best and the worst of the Nile. Their journey revealed to them that the Nile is a unifying thread of civilization in northeastern Africa. All told, the Nile and its main tributaries flow through 11 African countries: Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda—countries with diverse cultures, beliefs, and environments that are all connected by the mighty river. "One theme we hope this expedition highlights is that the Nile brings people of different faiths and cultures . . . together," Brown says.



Scaturro and Brown in Alexandria, Egypt,
in 2004

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- 31** Scaturro and Brown filmed their adventure most likely because they —
- A** believed their journey down the Nile River would bring them more fame
 - B** hoped it would help promote efforts to clean and protect the areas along the Nile River
 - C** wanted people around the world to appreciate the beauty and diversity of the Nile River
 - D** thought the publicity would encourage more tourists to visit the Nile River
-

- 32** Which detail from paragraph 2 supports the idea that the Nile River spans diverse areas?
- F** The Nile River is the longest river in the world, measuring about 4,100 miles in length.
 - G** The White Nile begins in Rwanda, and the Blue Nile begins in Ethiopia.
 - H** The two main tributaries of the Nile River meet in Sudan to form one river.
 - J** The Nile River flows through cities as well as remote deserts and mountain regions.
-

- 33** Based on paragraphs 3 and 4, what can the reader infer about navigating the Nile River?
- A** Many explorers have failed in their attempts to complete the trip.
 - B** It is a challenging endeavor even for experienced adventurers.
 - C** Preparing for the journey can take many months of planning.
 - D** It is best to make the expedition with a small crew.
-

- 34** Based on paragraph 5, the reader can infer that for Scaturro and Brown —
- F** the satisfaction of traveling the Nile River outweighed the dangers it presented
 - G** the Nile River provided a place to get away from modern life
 - H** the journey along the Nile River was a challenging test of their survival skills
 - J** the sights along the Nile River were better experienced on film than in person

35 The details in paragraph 6 support the idea that —

- A** the Nile River and its main tributaries flow through many African countries
 - B** population growth along the Nile has caused the river to become polluted
 - C** the Nile River serves as a shared foundation for many diverse African cultures
 - D** the largest cities along the Nile River are located in Egypt
-

36 The map of the Nile River Valley is included in the selection to —

- F** indicate why the Blue Nile is considered the primary source of the river
 - G** show the long and winding course of the river
 - H** emphasize that the river is important to all the countries it flows through
 - J** highlight the most popular locations along the river
-

37 The author organizes the information in the selection mainly by —

- A** explaining why Scaturro and Brown wanted to explore the Nile River and then giving details about how they prepared for the journey
- B** comparing the Nile River with other rivers around the world and then discussing Scaturro and Brown’s journey along the Blue Nile
- C** stating that the Nile River is challenging to navigate and then sharing details about the difficulties Scaturro and Brown encountered on their journey
- D** providing background information about the Nile River and then describing Scaturro and Brown’s expedition

38 The author’s main purpose for writing this selection is to —

- F** explain how the Nile River brings together a variety of cultures
 - G** describe the first expedition to travel the full length of the Nile River
 - H** discuss the dangers that travelers have encountered along the Nile River
 - J** provide information about the history of the Nile River
-

39 What is the best summary of the selection?

- A** Explorers Pasquale Scaturro and Gordon Brown traveled the length of the Nile River by boat. On their trip they saw mountains, deserts, gorges, waterfalls, and large cities. Their journey began in Ethiopia and ended in Egypt at the Mediterranean Sea. Some of the areas they traveled through were unsafe because of the harsh rapids, extreme heat, and hostile wildlife.
- B** The Nile River flows through 11 African countries. The river is the world’s longest and has been important to many civilizations for thousands of years. In 2004 explorers Pasquale Scaturro and Gordon Brown paddled the river and made a film about their trip. Sometimes their boats flipped in the water, and they were even attacked by a crocodile.
- C** In 2004, Pasquale Scaturro and Gordon Brown became the first people to travel the entire Nile River by boat. Their 3,250-mile journey on the longest river in the world took four months. Though awed by the river’s beauty, they also endured menacing conditions. Their trip helped them understand the significance of the Nile River to many African cultures.
- D** A geophysicist and explorer named Pasquale Scaturro paddled the Nile River with filmmaker Gordon Brown in 2004. The river measures more than 4,100 miles and flows past a variety of landscapes as well as ancient cities and the Egyptian pyramids. An IMAX film was made about their journey.