

DT – Year 3

Egyptian Shaduf

(Previous knowledge – Year 2)

Vocabulary

Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Crops	Canals	Tapering
Hand-operated	Lever	Transport
Machine	Technology	Mechanical
Shaduf	Pivot	Irrigation
Ancient	River Nile	Counterweigh †
Invention	Civilisation	Fertile

Useful Resources

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/history-ks2-the-river-nile/zkvmjsj>

<https://primaryfacts.com/3336/shaduf-facts-and-information/>

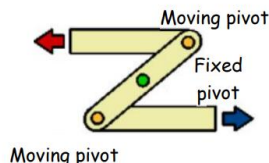
Key Skills

- To research what a shaduf was and the techniques used in order for it to function
- To create a design for a shaduf using techniques previously learnt about
- To explore different ways of joining wood
- To select tools and equipment suitable for the task
- To construct a shaduf according to a design, using appropriate equipment
- To evaluate the design and identify areas of strength and weakness

Shaduf Facts:

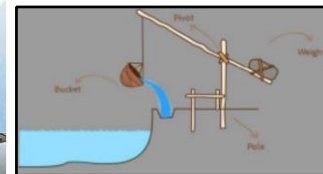
- A shadoof is a hand operated device used for lifting water out of a well or reservoir.
- It was invented by the Ancient Egyptians and is still used today.
- The device is extremely efficient and easy to use. It is estimated that it can easily and with little effort lift more than 2,500 litres per day.
- The shaduf consisted of a long wooden pole and balanced on a beam. The pole had a bucket attached by a rope to one end and a heavyweight acting as a counterweight on the other end.

Pivot points



What is a shaduf?

A shadoof or shaduf is an irrigation tool that is used to lift water from a water source onto land into another waterway or basin. It is highly efficient and has been known since 3000 BCE. The mechanism of a shadoof comprises a long counterbalanced pole on a pivot, with a bucket attached to the end of it. It is still used in many areas of Africa and Asia and is very common in rural areas of India and Pakistan. In Europe they are considered a symbol of the region.



- The typical shaduf was able to hold 20 litres of water.
- The container part of the device was usually made from animal skins or clay.

