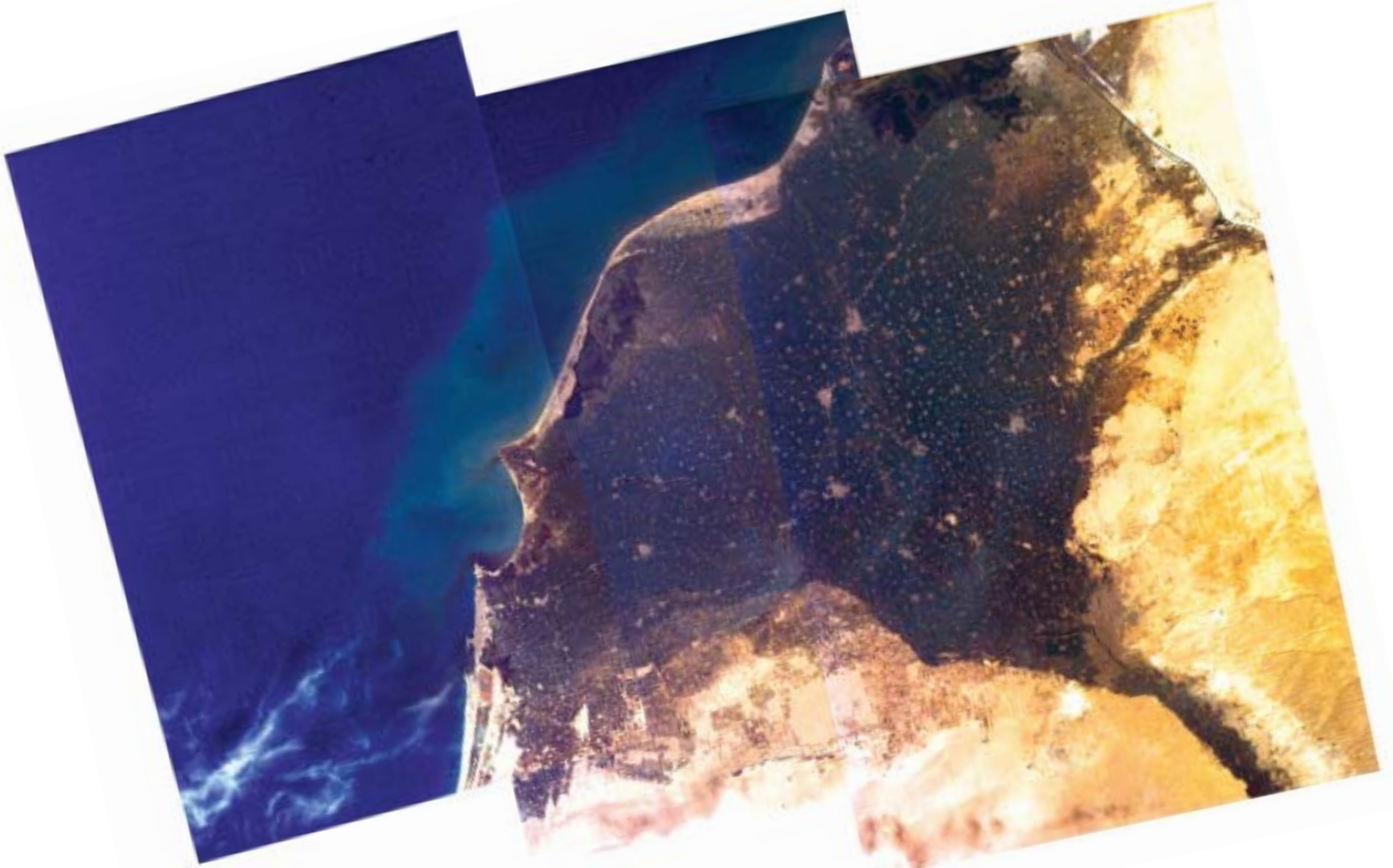




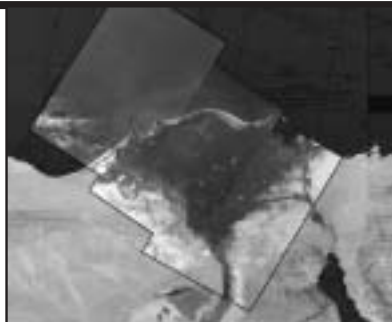
National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Nile River Delta

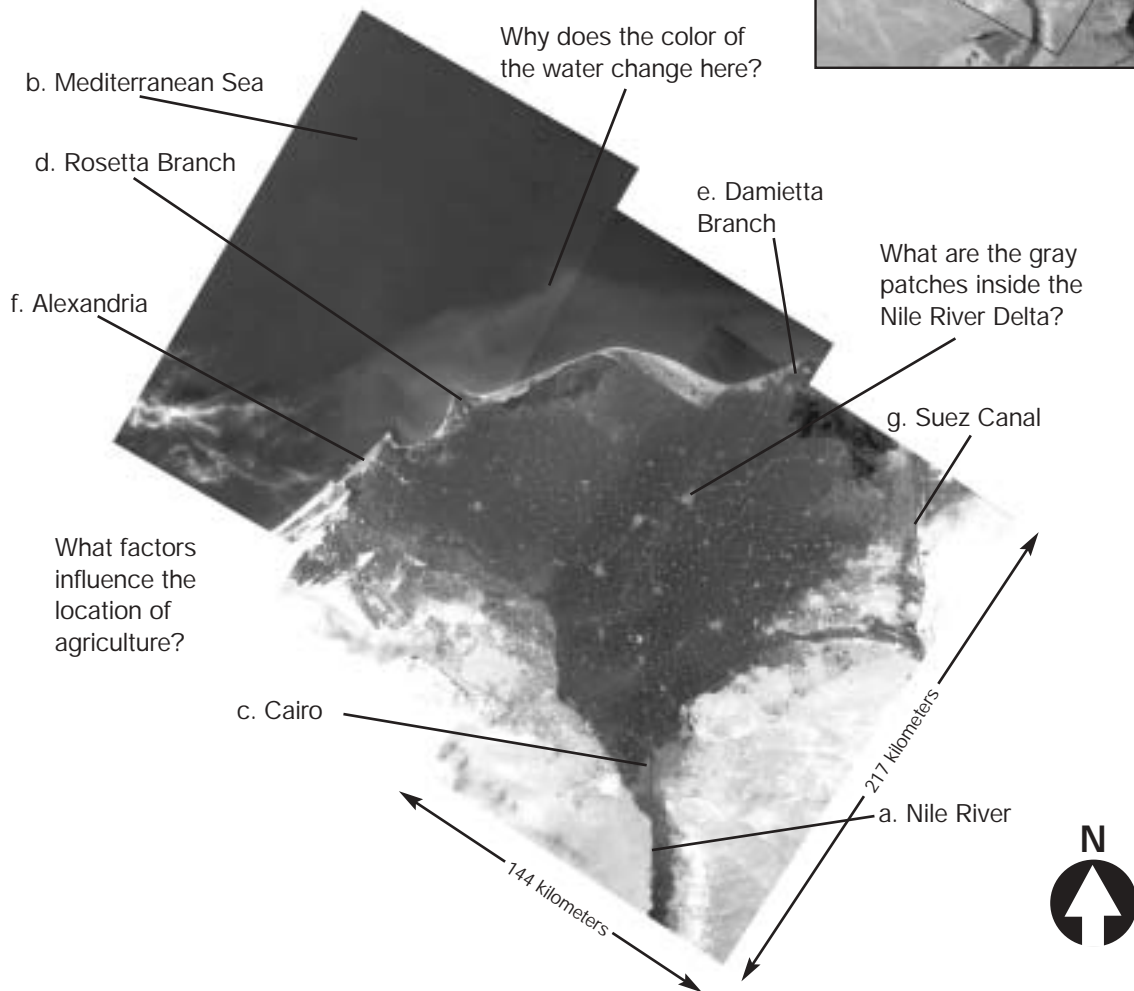




Nile River Delta



Latitude: 30.85° N **Longitude:** 31.01° E
Date: March 6, 2002
Image ID #: ISS004.ESC2.066103626,
ISS004.ESC2.066103641, and ISS004.ESC2.066103655



Why does the color of the water change here?

What are the gray patches inside the Nile River Delta?

What factors influence the location of agriculture?

The Nile River (a) is the longest river in the world. From its major source, Lake Victoria, the river extends 5,589 kilometers (3,437 miles) before emptying into the Mediterranean Sea (b). Just north of Egypt's capital city, Cairo (c), the Nile River divides into two main branches, the Rosetta Branch (d) and the Damietta Branch (e). These two branches spread apart to form the triangular Nile Delta. The Nile Delta is predominantly agricultural; half its occupants are farmers who depend upon the waters of the Nile to irrigate their crops. Average farm size is about 8,000 square meters. The dark color of the irrigated delta farmland contrasts starkly with the arid yellow of the surrounding desert.

Gray patches seen throughout the delta are densely populated settlements. The even distribution of the settlements shows the human tendency to organize spatially in regular patterns. Alexandria (f), founded in 332 B.C. by Alexander the Great, is Egypt's largest seaport. More than 80 percent of Egypt's imports and exports pass through Alexandria. The Suez Canal (g) is an artificial waterway connecting the Mediterranean Sea with the Gulf of Suez. The canal is 195 kilometers (121 miles) in length and has a minimum channel width of 60 meters (200 feet).

Additional information:
ISS EarthKAM images and lessons:
<http://www.earthkam.ucsd.edu>
NASA Spacelink:
<http://spacelink.nasa.gov>