

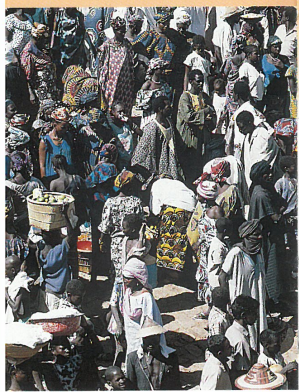
NORTH AFRICA

Egypt is a desert country; its fertile land is 'the gift of the River Nile'. It has the biggest population of any North African country. Its capital, Cairo, is one of the biggest cities in the world. The River Nile brings water to the valley and delta. The land on either side of the Nile is carefully farmed using irrigation and is crowded with people. The rest of Egypt is almost empty. Find Cairo and the River Nile on the world population map on page 11 which shows the crowded and empty areas very clearly. The lack of rain has helped to preserve many of the monuments, palaces and tombs built by the ancient Egyptians. The pyramids at Giza, near Cairo, are about 4500 years old (page 53). They are the only one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world still surviving.

THE SAHARA DESERT

The Sahara is the biggest desert in the world. It is over 9 million sq km in size. From west to east it is over 5000 km; from north to south it extends about 2000 km and it is still growing. **The hottest shade temperature** ever recorded, 58°C, was in Al Aziziyah, Libya, in 1922.

The sunniest place in the world, over 4300 hours of sunshine per year, is in the eastern Sahara. **The highest sand dunes** in the world, 430 metres high, are in central Algeria. **The longest river** in the world is the River Nile, 6695 km long.



ibuktu, in Mali, is a place de. People bring the goods y made baskets or in re-used ice on their heads.



▲ **Mosque in Morocco.** This tower is a minaret: part of an Islamic mosque. It is used to announce the times of prayer to all the village. The village is in the Ziz River valley, south of the Atlas Mountains of Morocco. Notice the flat roofs of the houses and the date palms.

