

Chapter 4 – Ancient Egypt



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History Close-

- Building the Pyramids
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Geography and Early Egypt



6.2.1

6.2.2

The Big Idea

The water and fertile soils of the Nile Valley allowed a great civilization to develop in Egypt.

Main Ideas

- **Egypt was called the “gift of the Nile” because the Nile River was so important.**
- **Civilization developed after people began farming along the Nile.**
- **Strong kings unified all of Egypt.**



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Main Idea 1:
Egypt was called the “gift of the Nile”
because the Nile River was so important.

The Nile River brought life to Egypt and allowed it to thrive.

Biannual flooding of the Nile made farming possible.



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Features of the Nile

The Nile is the longest river in the world, with a distance of over 4,000 miles.

Ancient Egypt included two regions, a southern and a northern region given their names by their relation to the Nile.

At several points, the rough terrain caused cataracts, or rapids, to form.

The Nile divided into several branches, forming a delta, a triangular area of land made from soil deposited by a river.



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The Floods of the Nile

Little rain fell in the Egyptian desert, but the Nile flooded every year, in the summer and fall.

The Nile's flooding coated the land around it with a rich silt that made the soil ideal for farming.

Without the floods, people could never have farmed in Egypt.



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Main Idea 2: Civilization developed after people began farming along the Nile.

The Nile provided both water and fertile soil for farming.

Egypt's location offered another advantage because it had natural barriers that made it hard to invade.



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Increased Food Production

Canals were built to carry water to fields of wheat, barley, fruits, and vegetables.

The Nile allowed farmers to raise animals such as cattle and sheep.

The river also provided many types of fish to eat, and hunters trapped ducks and geese.



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Two Kingdoms

Protected from invaders, the villages of Egypt eventually grew into two kingdoms.

The desert was harsh to cross.

The Mediterranean and the Red Sea kept enemies away.

Cataracts in the Nile made it hard to travel.

The capital of Lower Egypt was called Pe, and the capital of Upper Egypt was called Nekhen.



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Main Idea 3: Strong kings unified all of Egypt.

According to tradition, Menes rose to power in Upper Egypt and unified the two kingdoms by taking control of Lower Egypt and marrying a Lower Egyptian princess.

Menes was probably Egypt's first pharaoh, or ruler.

He also founded Egypt's first dynasty, or series of

rulers from the same family.



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The Old Kingdom

The Big Idea

Egyptian government and religion were closely connected during the Old Kingdom.

Main Ideas

- **Life in the Old Kingdom was influenced by pharaohs, roles in society, and trade.**
- **Religion shaped Egyptian life.**
- **The pyramids were built as huge tombs for Egyptian pharaohs.**



Main Idea 1:
Life in the Old Kingdom was influenced by pharaohs, roles in society, and trade.

The Old Kingdom was a period in which the Egyptians developed a system based on the belief that the pharaoh was both a king and a god.

As the population grew, social classes appeared.

Egypt began to trade goods with its neighbors.



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Egyptian Society

Social classes

Pharaohs ruled Egypt as gods.

Nobles were officials and priests who helped run the government.

Scribes and craftspeople wrote and produced goods.

Farmers, servants, and slaves made up most of Egyptian society.



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Main Idea 2: Religion shaped Egyptian life.

The Egyptians had gods for nearly everything, including the sun, the sky, and the earth. These gods would often mix human and animal forms.

Egyptian religion focused on the afterlife, or life after death. They believed that when a person died, his or her *ka* left the body and became a spirit.

They developed embalming to preserve bodies and keep the link between the body and the spirit. The specially treated bodies wrapped in cloth were called mummies.



Main Idea 3:

The pyramids were built as huge tombs for Egyptian pharaohs.

Pyramids are huge stone tombs with four triangular sides that meet in a point on the top. Historians are unsure how they were built.

Pyramids displayed amazing engineering, or the application of scientific knowledge for practical purposes.

The size and shape of the pyramids showed the importance of pharaohs. They were the people's link to the gods, so the Egyptians wanted their spirits to be happy.



The Middle and New Kingdoms



6.2.6

6.2.7

The Big Idea

During the Middle and New Kingdoms, order and greatness were restored in Egypt.

Main Ideas

- **The Middle Kingdom was a period of stable government between periods of disorder.**
- **The New Kingdom was the peak of Egyptian trade and military power, but their greatness did not last.**
- **Work and daily life were different among Egypt's social classes.**



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Main Idea 1:

The Middle Kingdom was a period of stable government between periods of disorder.

Following a period of competition for power between the nobles and the pharaohs, the Middle Kingdom began.

Egypt fell into disorder around 1750 BC. A group called the Hyksos invaded and ruled the region for 200 years.

The Egyptians fought back, and Ahmose of Thebes declared himself king and drove the Hyksos out of Egypt, beginning the New Kingdom.



Main Idea 2:

The New Kingdom was the peak of Egyptian trade and military power, but their greatness did not last.

Fearing future invasions, the Egyptians took control of all possible invasion routes into the kingdom.

Egypt took over vast lands and was the leading military power in the area.

Egypt became rich because of the lands it conquered.



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Growth and Effects of Trade

Conquests brought traders into contact with distant lands, and trade routes, or paths followed by traders, developed.

Queen Hatshepsut encouraged trade and used the profits to support the arts and architecture.

Led by Ramses the Great, Egypt fought invaders for many years, leaving their empire diminished.



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Main Idea 3: Work and daily life were different among Egypt's social classes.

The complex society required people to take on many different kinds of jobs.

Family life was very important in Egyptian society, and most Egyptians lived in their own homes.

Women had many legal rights, including owning property, making **contracts**, and divorcing their husbands.



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Egyptian Jobs

Scribes

Few people were more respected than scribes. They did not have to pay taxes, and many became wealthy.

Artisans, Artists, and Architects

These jobs required advanced skills and were also very admired in Egypt.

Merchants and Traders

Although trade was important, few held these positions. Some had to travel very long distances to buy and sell goods.



Additional Egyptian Jobs

Soldiers

Egypt created a permanent army that offered soldiers a chance to rise in social status and receive land as payment.

Farmers and Other Peasants

This group made up the vast majority of the population. They grew crops to support their families and to pay taxes.

Slaves

Slaves were usually criminals or prisoners. They had some legal rights, however.



Egyptian Achievements



6.2.5

6.2.9

The Big Idea

The Egyptians made lasting achievements in writing, architecture, and art.

Main Ideas

- Egyptian writing used **hieroglyphics**.
- Egypt's great temples were lavishly decorated.
- Egyptian art filled tombs.



Main Idea 1: Egyptian writing used hieroglyphics.

Hieroglyphics was the Egyptian writing system.

Egyptians learned to write hieroglyphics on papyrus, a long-lasting, paper-like material made from reeds.

Scribes wrote on papyrus using brushes and ink.

- Historians learned how to read hieroglyphics after discovering the **Rosetta Stone** written in three languages.
 - Hieroglyphics
 - A later form of Egyptian
 - Greek



Main Idea 2: Egypt's great temples were lavishly decorated.

Egyptians believed the massive temples were homes of the gods.

People visited to worship, offer gifts to the gods, and ask for favors.

- Temples had**
- **Stone sphinxes and other statues**
 - **obelisk: tall, four-sided pillar that is pointed at the top**
 - **Painted walls and columns that also had hieroglyphics**



Main Idea 3: Egyptian art filled tombs.

Egyptian art was filled with lively, colorful scenes, but only kings, priests, and other important people could enter the tombs.

- Tombs contained art such as
- Art and hieroglyphics on walls and columns
- Stone statues and carvings
- Jewelry



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History Close-up

Building the Pyramids

More than 4,000 years ago, workers near Giza, Egypt, built three massive pyramids as tombs for their rulers. The amount of work this job required is hard to imagine. Tens of thousands of people must have worked for decades to build these gigantic structures. In this illustration, men work to build the pharaoh Khafre's pyramid.

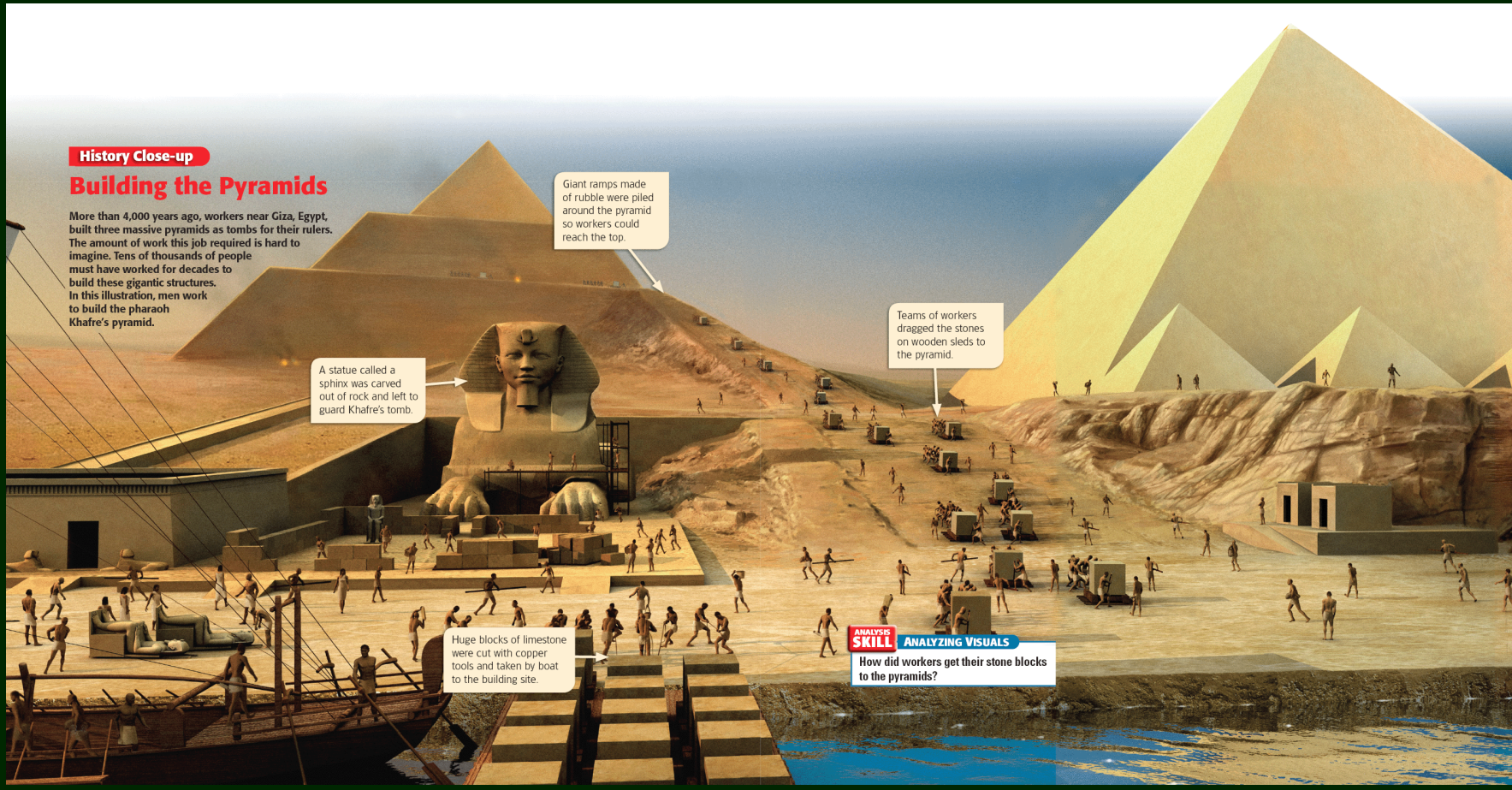
Giant ramps made of rubble were piled around the pyramid so workers could reach the top.

A statue called a sphinx was carved out of rock and left to guard Khafre's tomb.

Teams of workers dragged the stones on wooden sleds to the pyramid.

Huge blocks of limestone were cut with copper tools and taken by boat to the building site.

ANALYSIS SKILL ANALYZING VISUALS
How did workers get their stone blocks to the pyramids?



History Close-up

The Temple of Karnak

The Temple of Karnak was Egypt's largest temple. Built mainly to honor Re, the sun god, Karnak was one of Egypt's major religious centers for centuries. Over the years, pharaohs added to the temple's many buildings. This illustration shows how Karnak's great hall may have looked during an ancient festival.

Karnak's interior columns and walls were painted brilliant colors.

In the annual Opet festival, priests carried statues of the gods and sacred boats from the temple to the Nile River.

Massive columns, some more than 80 feet high, supported the temple's high roof.

High windows let light and air into the temple.

Only the pharaoh and priests were allowed inside the temple, which was considered the home of the gods.

ANALYSIS SKILL ANALYZING VISUALS

What features of Egyptian architecture can you see in this illustration?



The pharaoh Menes combined the white crown of Upper Egypt and the red crown of Lower Egypt as a symbol of his rule of Egypt as one kingdom.



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Egyptian Society

Pharaoh

The pharaoh ruled Egypt as a god.



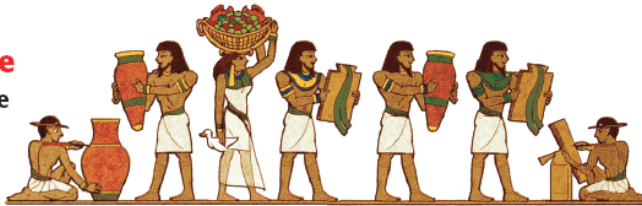
Nobles

Officials and priests helped run the government and temples.



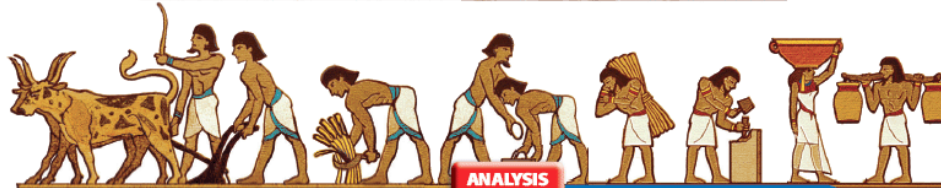
Scribes and Craftspeople

Scribes wrote and craftspeople produced goods.



Farmers, Servants, and Slaves

Most Egyptians were farmers. Below them were servants and slaves.



ANALYSIS
SKILL

ANALYZING VISUALS

Which group helped run the government and temples?



BIOGRAPHY

Queen Hatshepsut

Ruled c. 1472–1458 BC




Hatshepsut was married to the pharaoh Thutmose II, her half-brother. He died young, leaving the throne to Thutmose III, his son by another woman. Since Thutmose III was still very young, Hatshepsut took over power. Many people did not think women should rule, but Hatshepsut dressed as a man and called herself king. After Hatshepsut died, her stepson took back power and destroyed all of the monuments Hatshepsut had built during her rule.

Analyze Why do you think some Egyptians objected to the idea of being ruled by a woman?






Egyptian Writing

Egyptian hieroglyphics used picture symbols to represent sounds.

| | Sound | Meaning |
|---|-------|---------|
|  | Imn | Amun |
|  | Tut | Image |
|  | Ankh | Living |

Translation—"Living image of Amun"

| | | |
|---|------|------------|
|  | Heka | Ruler |
|  | Iunu | Heliopolis |
|  | Resy | Southern |

Translation—"Ruler of Southern Heliopolis"

ANALYSIS SKILL

ANALYZING VISUALS

What does the symbol for ruler look like?



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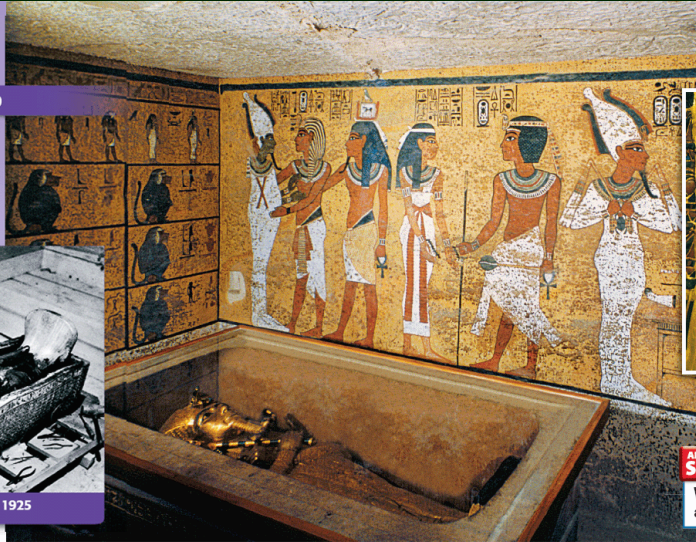
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Treasures of King Tut's Tomb

In 1922 the archaeologist Howard Carter discovered the tomb of King Tut. Although the tomb had been robbed in ancient times, it was still filled with treasures, some of which are shown here.



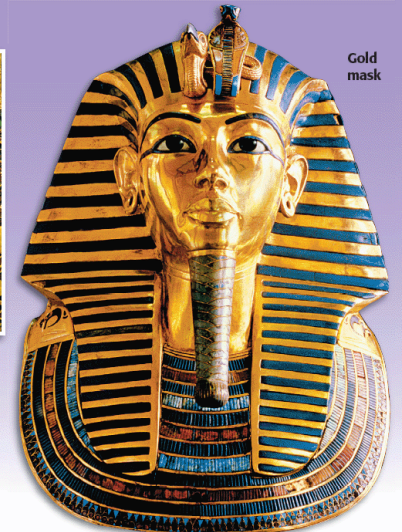
Howard Carter examining King Tut's coffin in 1925



The back of King Tut's chair was decorated with this image of the pharaoh and his wife.

ANALYSIS SKILL ANALYZING VISUALS

What might archaeologists learn about ancient Egypt from these artifacts?



Gold mask



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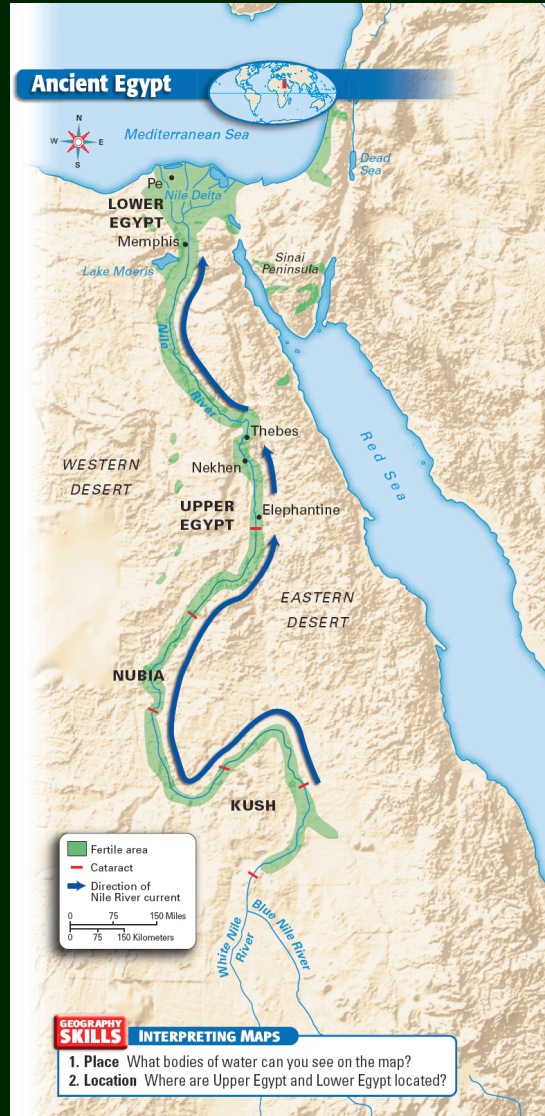
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Egyptian Trade, c. 1400 BC



WESTERN DESERT

- New Kingdom, c. 1400 BC
- Trade route
- Gold
- Copper
- Timber
- Oasis

0 100 200 Miles
0 100 200 Kilometers

GEOGRAPHY SKILLS **INTERPRETING MAPS**

1. **Location** Where was timber available?
2. **Movement** What city was the furthest north along the Egyptian trade routes?



Time Line



Periods of Egyptian History

3000 BC

c. 2700–2200 BC
Old Kingdom

2000 BC

c. 2050–1750 BC
Middle Kingdom

1000 BC

c. 1550–1050 BC
New Kingdom



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Visual Summary

Use the visual summary below to help you review the main ideas of the chapter.

QUICK FACTS



Egyptian civilization developed along the Nile River.



Egypt's kings were considered gods, and people built huge pyramids in their honor.



Egyptians developed a writing system and created beautiful art.



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QuickTime and a
Sorenson Video 3 decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Click window above to start playing.



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