



*Map:
Ancient
Egypt*





Unit 3: Ancient Egypt

Essential Question: Why was Egypt the gift of the Nile?

I. Geography of Ancient Egypt

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- A. “Egypt is the gift of the Nile” – Greek Historian Herodotus
 - 1. Nile River = longest in world (4187 miles)
 - 2. 12 mile strip - straddles river east/west = most of Egypt’s population
 - 3. Heartland = 750 miles from 1st cataract to Nile Delta
 - B. Nile Floods = PERDICTABLE
 - 1. Spring and Summer rains cause the Nile to flood for approximately 1 to 3 months between June & October.
 - 2. ***Kemet*** = “black land”
 - C. Adapting to Environment - Nile
 - 1. Irrigation - reservoirs & canals
 - 2. Transportation Source = united Egypt.
 - 3. Northward current/Prevailing northerly winds (blowing southward)





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Essential Question: How did the geography of Ancient Egypt influence the culture & religion of its people?

II. Unification of Ancient Egypt

A. Menes = unites the two crowns of Upper and Lower Egypt.

1. (3100 B.C.) Memphis = capital – where Upper & Lower meet
2. Established 1st dynasty w/strong central government
- (31 dynasties over 2,600 yrs.)
3. Marks the beginning of the longest lasting civilization





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Essential Question: What was the role of pharaoh as God-King in the Ancient Egyptian Theocracy? How did they control their people?

III. The Old Kingdom (2700-2200 B.C.E.)

A. Vocabulary

1. dynasty (3rd - 6th) = *series of rulers who belong to same family*
2. pharaoh = *god-king*
3. theocracy = *the ruler is a divine figure, in charge of gov't & religion full responsibility for kingdom's well-being*

B. Pharaoh = Egyptian god-king, both human & God

1. Why did he enjoy unlimited power
 - a) G – grain
 - b) O – order
 - c) D – divinity
2. How did they differ from the rulers of Mesopotamia?

C. Pharaoh/Egyptian Government's Responsibilities:

1. Irrigation Works & Public Buildings
2. Army/Defense = organizing and training an army for defense.
3. Issuing laws and keeping the peace.





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C. Pharaoh/Egyptian Government's Responsibilities:

4. Trade & Economy
 - a) dominated by pharaoh – monopolized commerce & trade
 - b) Trading Network – water & ships
 - i. Nile = why was it easily navigable?
 - ii. Red Sea
 - iii. Mediterranean Sea
 - iv. Caravan to Mesopotamia & points east
5. Taxes – grain or service = human labor



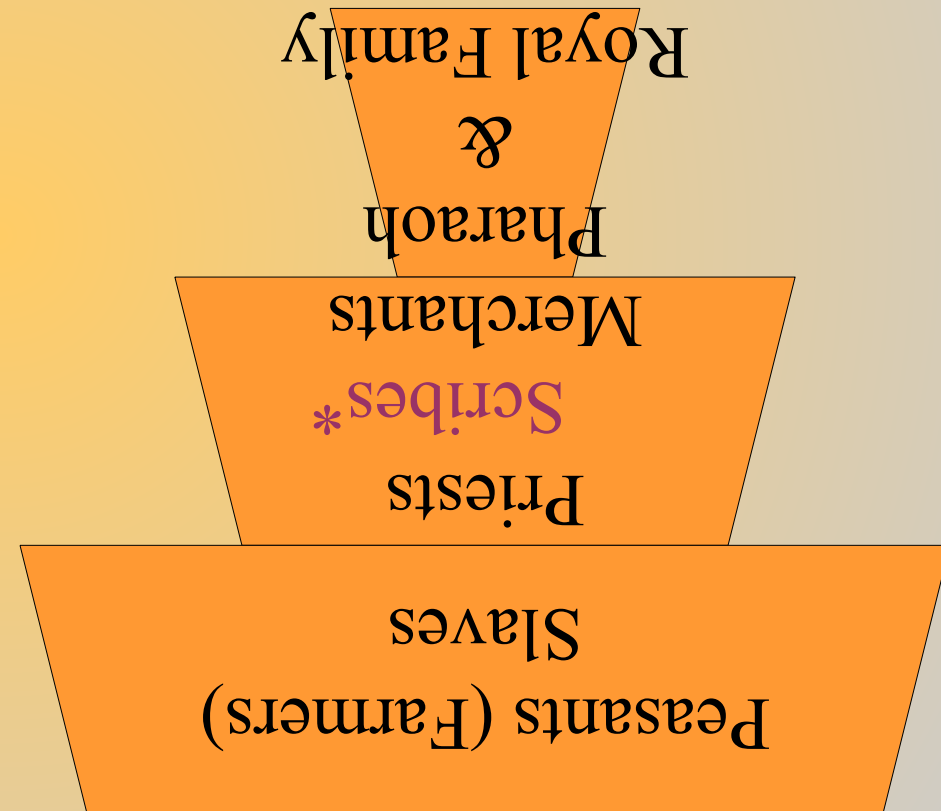
Unit 3: Ancient Egypt

Essential Question: What was the role of pharaoh as God-King in the Ancient Egyptian Theocracy? How did they control their people?

III. The Old Kingdom or Pyramid Age

D. Social Structure:

1. Pharoh/royal family
2. priests
3. scribes*
4. merchants
5. peasants/farmers
6. slaves





III. The Old Kingdom or Pyramid Age

Pharaohs, Builders of the Pyramids

E. Pharaohs: The Builders of the Pyramids – Lasting Contribution

1. Pyramids Purpose = final resting place
 - a) tombs & monuments to Pharaohs.
 - b) construction begins at the start of each Pharaohs reign
 - c) Primarily built b/w 3rd & 6th dynasties of the Old Kingdom period
2. Remarkable Engineering Achievement
 - a) The Great Pyramid at Giza = not surpassed as world's tallest structure until after the Eiffel Tower (1889)
 - b) Great Pyramid = 20 yrs. 40 stories, 4 sides 2 ½ football fields, four corners
 - c) No wheel – How where they built w/ no wheel? = _____
 - d) mostly copper tools
 - e) Who built them – slaves?
3. Why Egypt?
 - a) Gift of the Nile = food, transportation, flood?
 - b) Supply of stone quarries = granite & limestone
 - c) Pharaohs = leadership, economic strength, government organization



F. Egyptian Writing: Hieroglyphics

1. **Hieroglyphics** (3000 B.C.E.) = Greek for “sacred carving”.
2. Originally carved on slate or ivory → _____
3. Scribes =
 - a) schooled from age 5 to 17
 - b) practiced from sunrise to sunset memorizing and copying some 600 different characters.
 - c) Scribes were respected people in the community
4. Lay foundation for recorded history
5. Rosetta Stone = cracking the code



F. Egyptian Writing:

4. Rosetta Stone



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- a) Hieroglyphics – Simple pictographs
 - b) “Rosetta Stone”
 - i. 1799 C.E., Napoleonic conquests = French troops in Egypt discovered a tablet
 - ii. 3 different forms of writing (Greek, Hieratic and Hieroglyphics)



IV. From the Old to Middle Kingdom

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- A. Old Kingdom's Downfall = 1st Intermediate Period
1. During two periods in the history of Ancient Egypt, the Pharaoh did not control the entire country.
 2. From 2200-2000 B.C.E. Pharaoh's authority challenged =
 - a) Famine
 - b) Raids
 3. From 1800-1600 B.C.E., Lower Egypt was ruled by the Hyksos
 - a) Hyksos = Greek for: "Princes from a foreign land."
 - b) Introduced Egyptians to Bronze, Chariots, Bows, Spinning & Weaving.
 - c) It was during this period that the Hebrews came to live in Egypt.
- B. Middle Kingdom = sandwiched between the periods of disunity
1. Thebes = new capital
 2. Canal = dug from Nile to the Red Sea
 3. Valley of the Kings = became the final resting place of Pharaohs





V. New Kingdom (1570-1090): Height of Egyptian Power/Empire

A. New Kingdom Pharaohs - Achievements

1. defeated Hyksos
2. enslaved Hebrews
3. reunited country
4. conquered lands outside of traditional Egypt
 - a) The Egyptian Empire = Nubia (south) to Euphrates River (northeast)
 - b) Forced Countries to pay tribute in money, food and/or slaves

B. The following Pharaohs are studied for their notable impact on Egypt during the New Kingdom/Empire Age.

1. Hatshepsut
2. Thutmose III
3. Amenhotep IV / Akhenaton
4. Tutankhamen
5. Ramses II



Obituaries: Research, Analysis, Interpretation, and Presentation



★ History = What actually happens?



★ History = What we are told happens?



★ History = What we come to believe happens?

★ What is the most important kind of history?



EQ: How did the ancient Egyptians view death? How did this influence their culture/religion?

VI. Egyptian Religious

- A. Characteristics of Egyptian Religious
- B. Polytheism = Many different gods represented various natural forces (2,000 deities)



EQ: How did the ancient Egyptians view death? How did this influence their culture/religion?

VI. Egyptian Religious Mythos: Death & Final Judgment

Final Judgment = Hall of Truth (witnessed by Osiris and 42 gods)

1. Journeying Soul brought before the Scale of Justice.
2. Egyptian's heart was weighed against the feather of Maat
 - Maat = represented truth, justice, purity, and goodness
3. Lighter = the soul would join Osiris in the afterlife
4. Heavier = the soul was eaten by Sobek

Mummification: preserve the body

EQ: How did the ancient Egyptians view death? How did this influence their culture/religion?

VI. Egyptian Religious Mythos:

E. Mummification Process

1. 70 Days = most elaborate type of mummification
2. Brain = removed through the nose by a metal hook and discarded
3. Internal Organs = removed through an incision made in the left side of the body. The organs were then embalmed separately and placed into canopic jars.
4. Body:
 - a) Painted = w/ natron - *a salt based substance*
 - b) Stuffed = body cavity stuffed w/natron soaked rags - *draws out remaining fluid (40 days)*
 - c) Re-stuffed = with myrrh, cassia and other perfumes. Nostrils plugged with beeswax and gold rings were placed on each finger and toe
 - d) Wrapped = fine linen cloth (20x) - fine jewels were sometimes placed between the layers of wrapping.
5. Book of the Dead = scrolls & papyrus instructions on ...