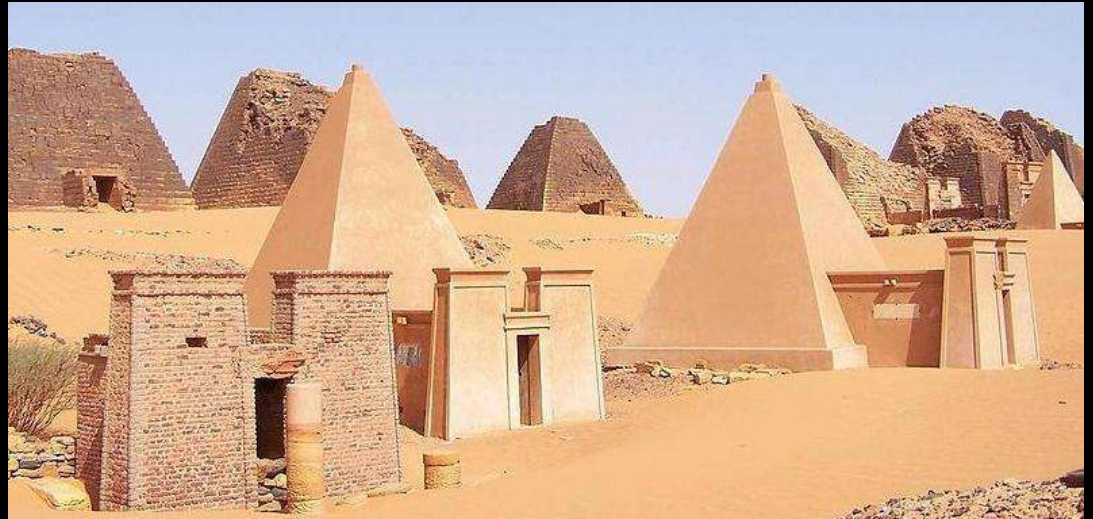


Ancient Kush



The Geography of Early Nubia

- Nubia is the land just south of Egypt
- It was home to one of the first great kingdoms in interior Africa
- The land was similar to Egypt with the Nile River and floods
 - Egyptians called the kingdom Kush
 - Very rich in minerals
 - Gold, copper, and stone



Early Civilization in Nubia

- Around 3500_{BCE} farming villages appeared in Nubia
 - Around 2000_{BCE}, the first kingdom begins in Kush
- The cataracts on the Nile provided protection for Kush
 - These kept them safe from invasion by Egypt
 - The capital city of Kush was Kerma



Ancient Kush



Egypt Conquers Kush

- Early on, Egypt and Kush were peaceful neighbors
 - They helped each other prosper through trading
 - Kush sent minerals, ebony, and ivory to Egypt
 - Kush continued to grow stronger
- Egypt becomes nervous about Kush's growing strength
- 1500's BCE Thutmose I conquers Kush
 - Destroys Kerma

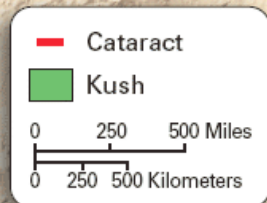


Kush and Egypt

- After the conquest, Kushites adopted Egyptian culture
 - Names, religions, language, etc.
- At the end of the Egyptian New Kingdom, Kush becomes independent
 - New capital - Napata
- Kush grows strong once again



Ancient Kush



Kush conquers Egypt

- Kashta – King of Kush
 - Conquers Upper Egypt – 751_{BCE}
- Kashta's son – Piankhi
 - Conquers all of Egypt – 716_{BCE}
 - Becomes Pharaoh – 25th Dynasty
 - Restores Egypt's culture
- Dynasty lasts 40 years before they are conquered by Assyrians



Later Kush

- Later on, Kush worked to rebuild itself
 - This time, the capital was at Meroe
- Kush learned how to make iron, which made it very powerful
 - Africa's first iron industry
- It helped that Kush had abundant forests for the fires of the forges

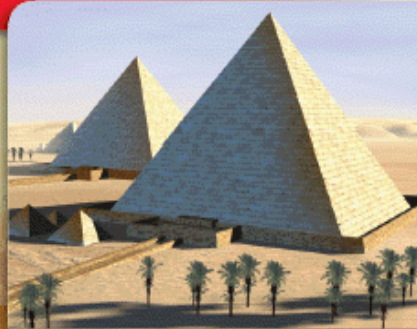


Kushite Trade

- Meroe became the center of a large trade network with many merchants
 - Trade Network – A system of people in different lands who trade goods
 - Merchants - Traders
- Kush had both imports and exports
 - Imports – Items brought in from other regions
 - Exports – Items sent out to other regions
- Exports = Gold, pottery, iron
- Imports = Jewelry and other luxury items

Kush's Trade Network

Ancient Kush was at the center of a large trading network with connections to Europe, Africa, and Asia. Kush's location and production of iron goods helped make it a rich trading center.



Goods from the Mediterranean came to Kush through trade with Egypt.

EGYPT

Mediterranean Sea

• Giza

• Luxor

Nubian Desert

KUSH

Red Sea

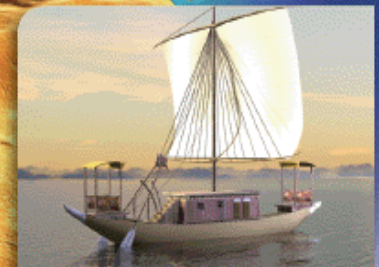
• Meroë



In Meroë, workers made iron tools and weapons, jewelry, pottery, and other goods.



Caravans from the south brought goods like leopard skins and ostrich eggs to Kush.



At ports on the Red Sea, merchants traded Kush's goods for luxury items like silk and glass.

Kushite Culture

- As merchants traded with other cultures, Kush adopted characteristics of other cultures
 - Egypt had the most influence on Kushite culture
 - People worshipped Egyptian and Kushite gods
 - Kushite rulers were even buried in small pyramids
 - And called pharaohs



Women in Kushite Society

- Women were expected to be active in society
 - Worked in fields, cooked, cared for the children
- Some Kushite women became powerful
 - Some women actually ruled Kush on their own
- The first woman to rule Kush was Queen Shanakhdakheto
 - She ruled for 20 years

History Close-up

Rulers of Kush

Like the Egyptians, the people of Kush considered their rulers to be gods. Kush's culture was similar to Egypt's, but there were also important differences.

Like the Egyptians, Kush's rulers built pyramids, but they were much smaller and the style was different.

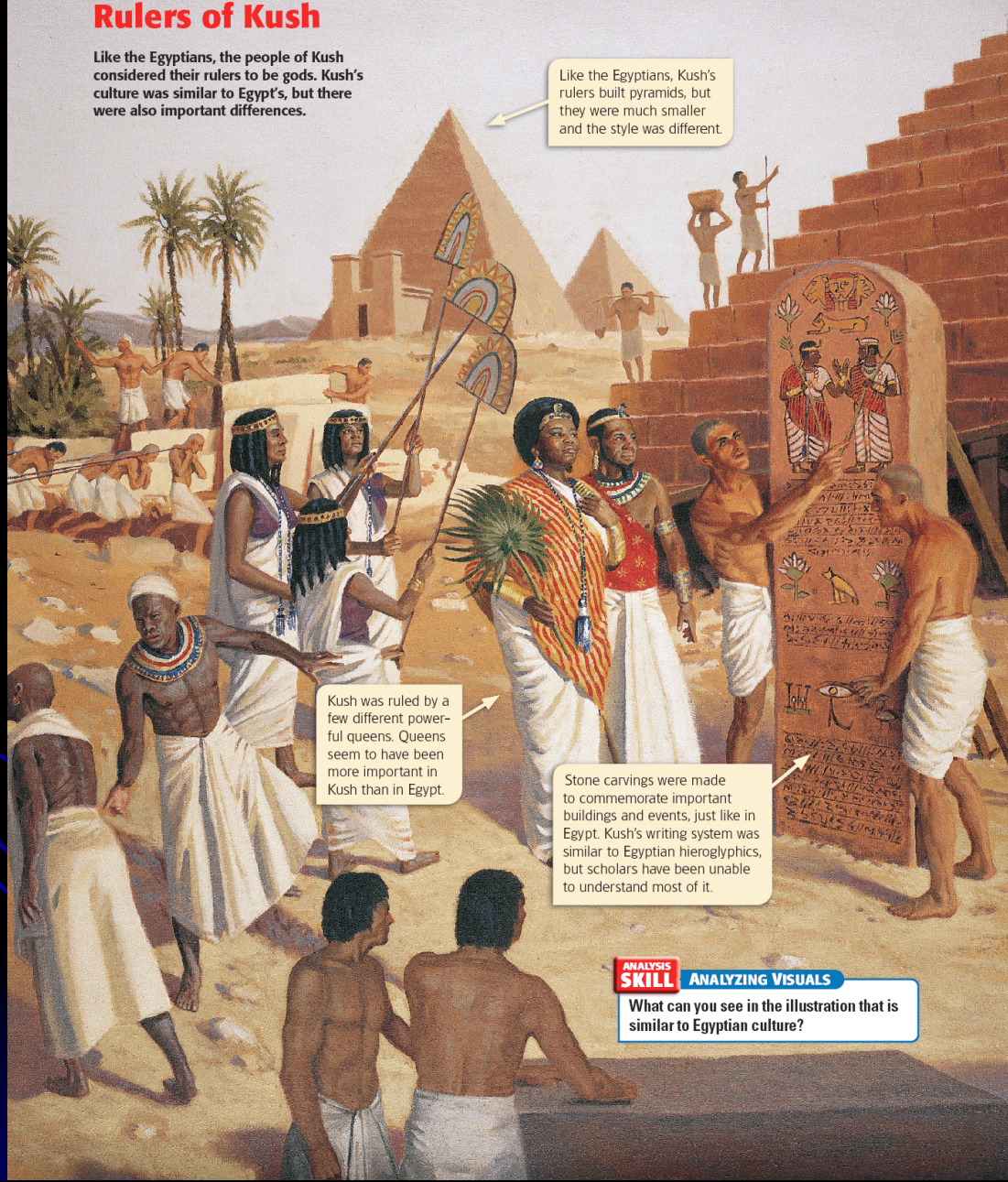
Kush was ruled by a few different powerful queens. Queens seem to have been more important in Kush than in Egypt.

Stone carvings were made to commemorate important buildings and events, just like in Egypt. Kush's writing system was similar to Egyptian hieroglyphics, but scholars have been unable to understand most of it.

ANALYSIS SKILL

ANALYZING VISUALS

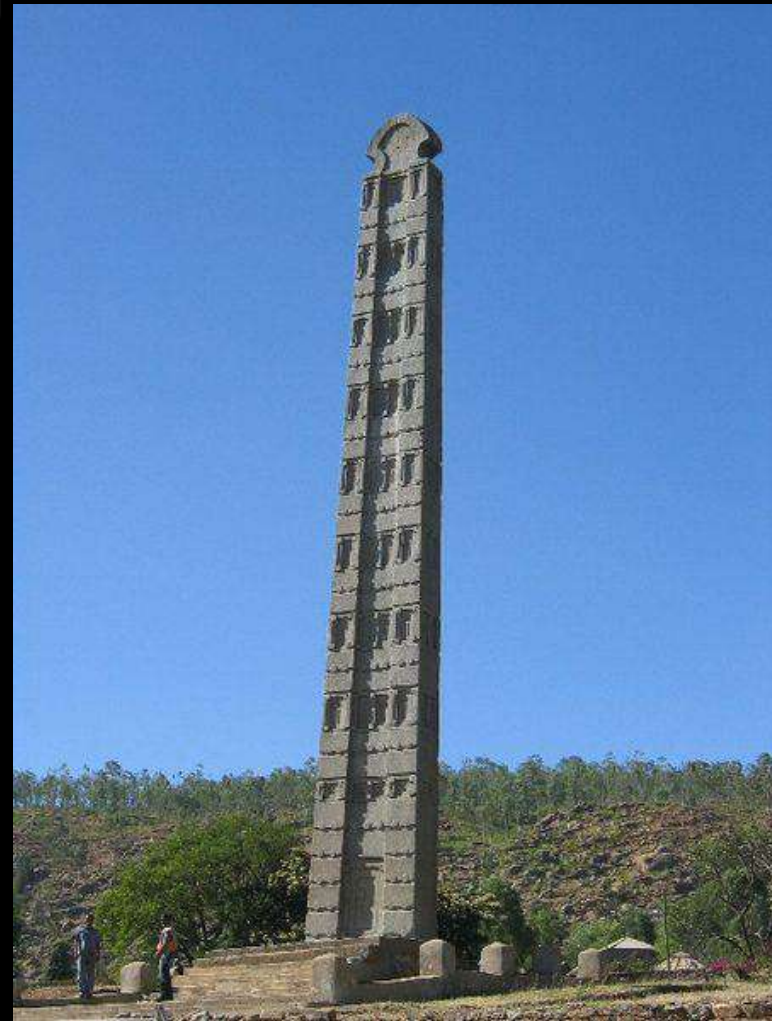
What can you see in the illustration that is similar to Egyptian culture?



The Decline of Kush

- As time continued, Kush started to decline in power
 - The cattle overgrazed, which destroyed the soil
 - Ironmakers used up the forests near Kush
 - Kush produced fewer goods for trading
 - New trade routes were built that went around Kush
- Eventually Kush was taken over by the kingdom of Aksum
 - King Ezana
- Once Christianity spread into the region, the last influence of Kush disappeared

Aksum



King Ezana's obelisk