

Ancient Egypt



Curriculum



Diagnostic Questions



Note Taking
Study Guide



The Big Idea

The water, fertile soils, and protected setting of the Nile Valley allowed a great civilization to arise in Egypt around 3200 BC.

Main Ideas

- Egypt was called the gift of the Nile because the Nile River gave life to the desert.
- Civilization developed along the Nile after people began farming in this region.
- Strong kings unified all of Egypt.



Main Idea 1:

Egypt was called the gift of the Nile because the Nile River gave life to the desert.

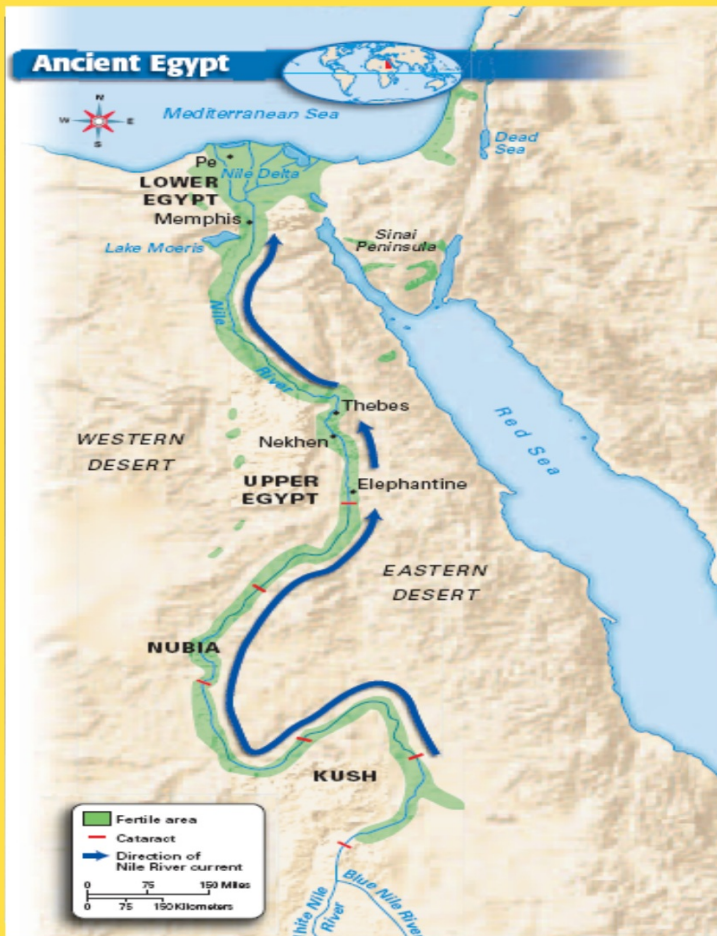
- The Nile River brought life to Egypt and allowed it to thrive.
- Biannual flooding of the Nile made farming possible.



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, that were 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.





Lower & Upper Egypt



Cataracts



The Nile River

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Nile Delta



The Floods of the Nile

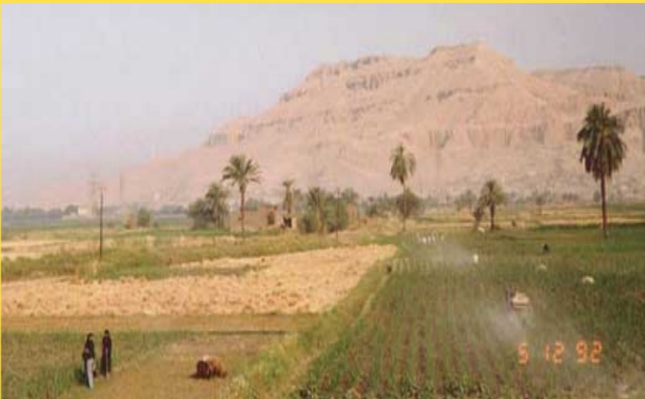
- Little rain fell in the Egyptian desert, but the Nile flooded every year in the summer and fall.
- The Nile's flooding coated the land around it with a rich silt that made the soil ideal for farming.
- Without the floods, people could never have farmed in Egypt.





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

- 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.



Nile Valley

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.

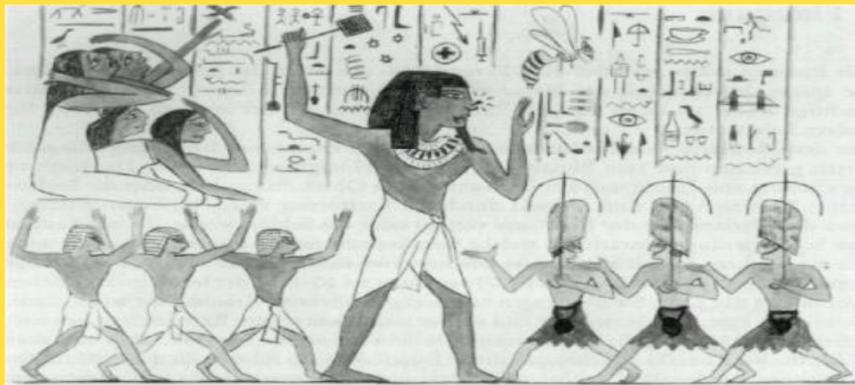
Farming in Egypt



Farmers in ancient Egypt learned how to grow wheat and barley. This tomb painting shows a couple harvesting their crop (left). Farmers in Egypt still use the fertile lands along the Nile River to grow food (above).

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 by marrying a Lower Egyptian princess.
- Menes was probably Egypt's first **pharaoh**, the title used by the rulers of Egypt.
- He also founded Egypt's first **dynasty**, or series of rulers from the same family.
- The First Dynasty lasted for about 200 years and extended Egyptian territory southward along the Nile.



Now lets read this excerpt form the text to help us learn more about Menes!



Around 3100 BC a leader named **Menes** (MEE-neeZ) rose to power in Upper Egypt. He sought to finish what an earlier king, called Scorpion, had started. He wanted to unify Upper and Lower Egypt.

The armies of Menes invaded and took control of Lower Egypt. Menes then united the two kingdoms. He married a princess from Lower Egypt to strengthen his control over the unified country. As Egypt's ruler, Menes wore both the white crown of Upper Egypt and the red crown of Lower Egypt. This symbolized his leadership over the two kingdoms. Later, he combined the two crowns into a double crown.

Historians consider Menes to be Egypt's first **pharaoh** (FEHR-oh), the title used by the rulers of Egypt. The title *pharaoh* means "great house." Menes also founded Egypt's first dynasty. A **dynasty** is a series of rulers from the same family.

Menes built a new capital city at the southern tip of the Nile Delta. The city was later named Memphis. For centuries, Memphis was the political and cultural center of Egypt. Many government offices were located there, and the city bustled with artistic activity.

The First Dynasty lasted for about 200 years. Pharaohs who came after Menes also wore the double crown to symbolize their rule over Upper and Lower Egypt. They extended Egyptian territory southward along the Nile and into southwest Asia. Eventually, however, rivals appeared to challenge the First Dynasty for power. These challengers took over Egypt and established the Second Dynasty.

The Old Kingdom

The Big Idea

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

- **Main Ideas**

- In early Egyptian society, pharaohs ruled as gods and were at the top of the social structure.
- Religion shaped Egyptian life.

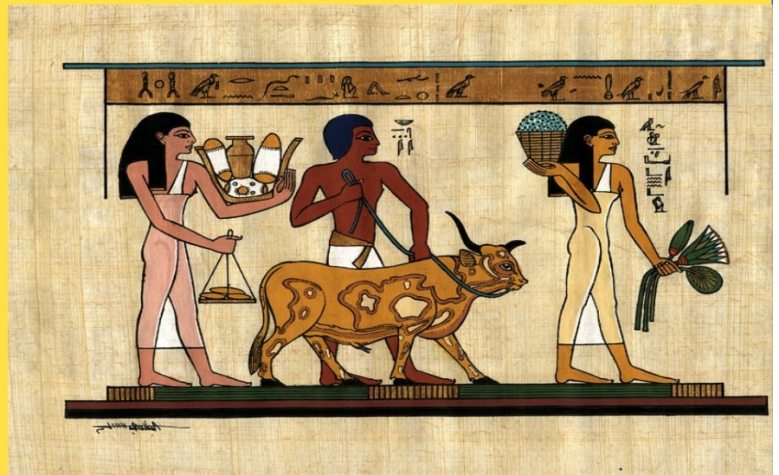
The pyramids of Egypt were built as tombs for the pharaohs.



Main Idea 1:

In early Egyptian society, pharaohs ruled as gods and were at the top of the social structure.

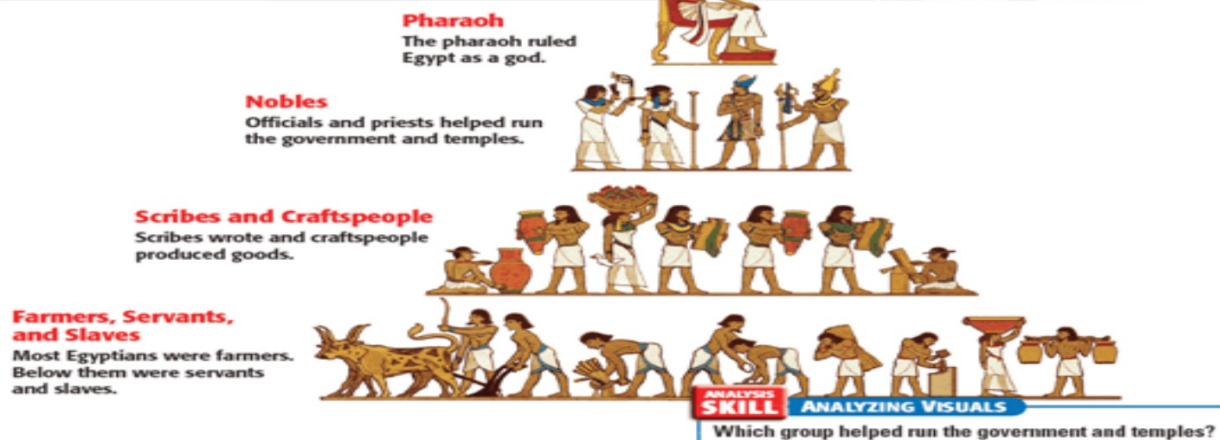
- The **Old Kingdom** was a period in which the Egyptians developed a system based on the belief that the pharaoh was both a king and a god.
- As the population grew, social classes appeared.
- Egypt began to trade goods with its neighbors.



Egyptian Society

- **Social classes**
 - Pharaohs ruled Egypt as gods.
 - Many **nobles**, or people from rich and powerful families, 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.

Egyptian Society



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.



Isis



Nephthys



Osiris



Horus



Hathor



Anubis

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.



Mummy Video 1



Mummy Video 2



Mummy Power Point

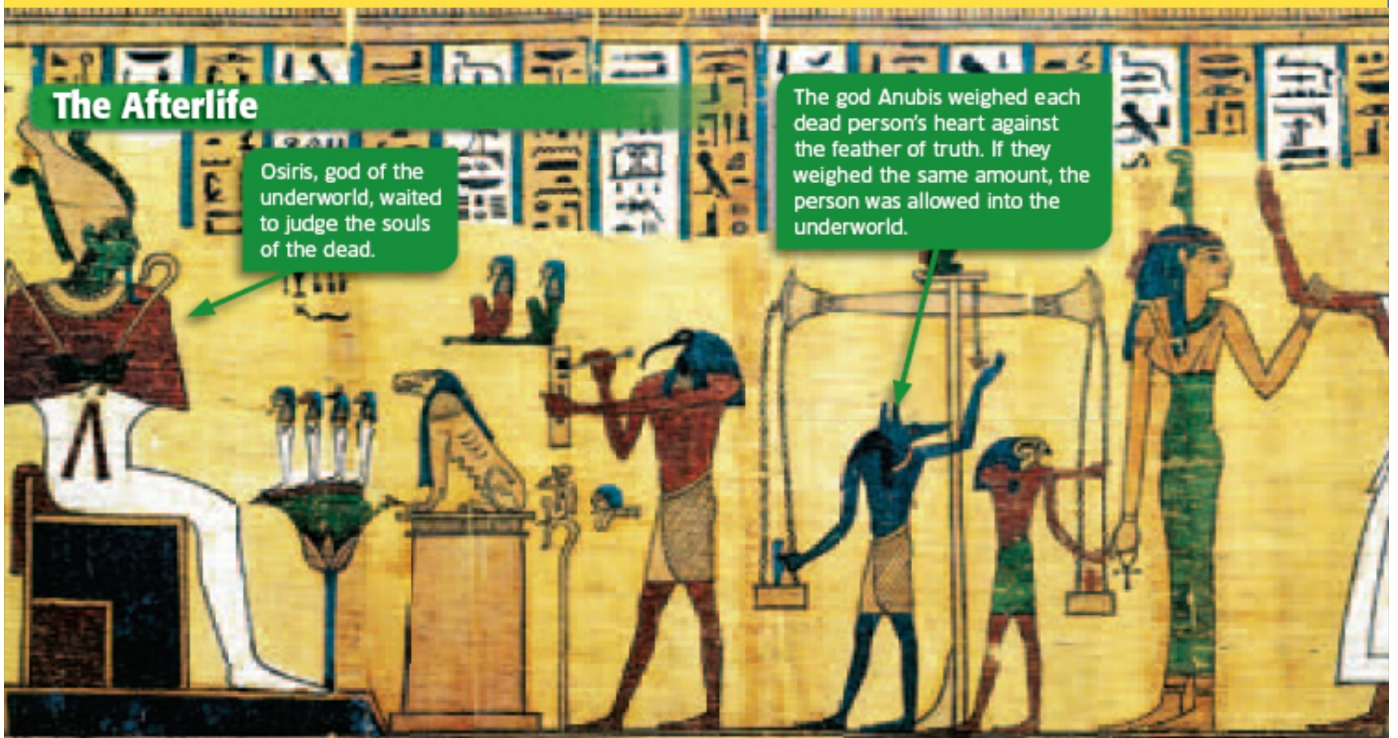


Egyptian religion focused on the afterlife, or life after death. They believed that when a person died, his or her *ka* left the body and became a spirit.

The Afterlife

Osiris, god of the underworld, waited to judge the souls of the dead.

The god Anubis weighed each dead person's heart against the feather of truth. If they weighed the same amount, the person was allowed into the underworld.



Main Idea 3:

The pyramids of Egypt were built as tombs for the pharaohs.

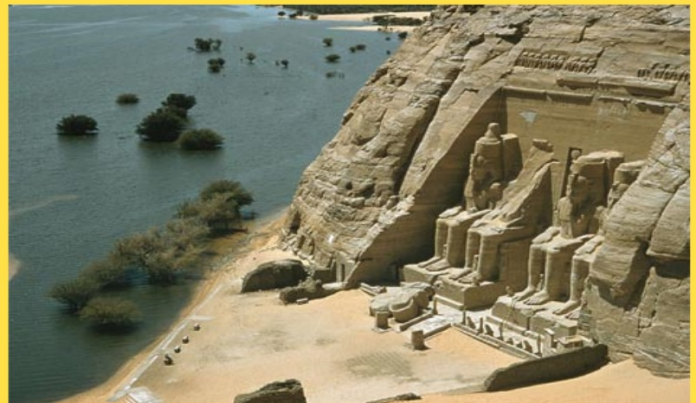


Pyramids are huge stone tombs with four triangular sides that meet at a point on the top. Historians are unsure how they were built.



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.

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



The Middle and New Kingdoms

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. In the New Kingdom, Egyptian trade and military power reached their peak, but Egypt's greatness did not last.

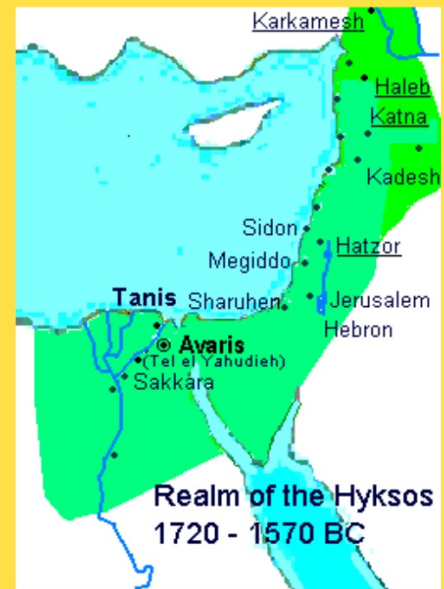
Work and daily life were different for each of Egypt's social classes.



Main Idea 1:

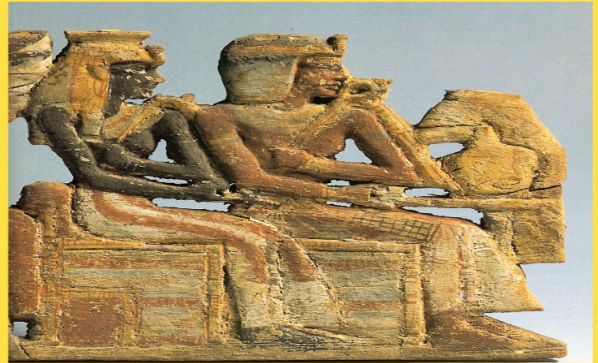
The Middle Kingdom was a period of stable government between periods of disorder.

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:

In the New Kingdom, Egyptian trade and military power reached their peak, but Egypt's 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.



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.

Temple of Hatshepsut



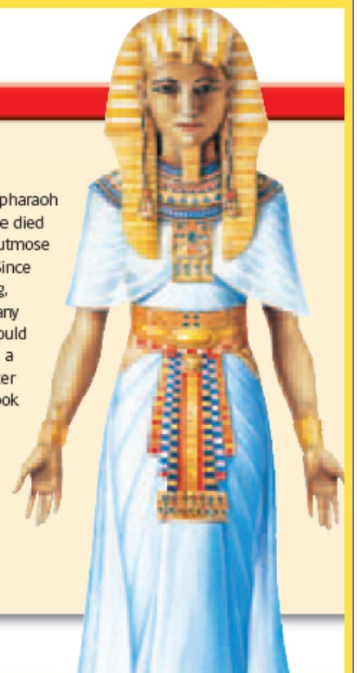
BIOGRAPHY

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?





High priest of god Amun wears a distinctive leopard skin.

The pharaoh waves a sekhem scepter over the offerings.

Hatshepsut wears the nemes headcloth with its sacred cobra.

Pharaonic regalia includes a false beard.

Thutmose III stands next to Hatshepsut, the proper place of a co-ruler on official occasions.

A royal scribe records each offering as it is presented.

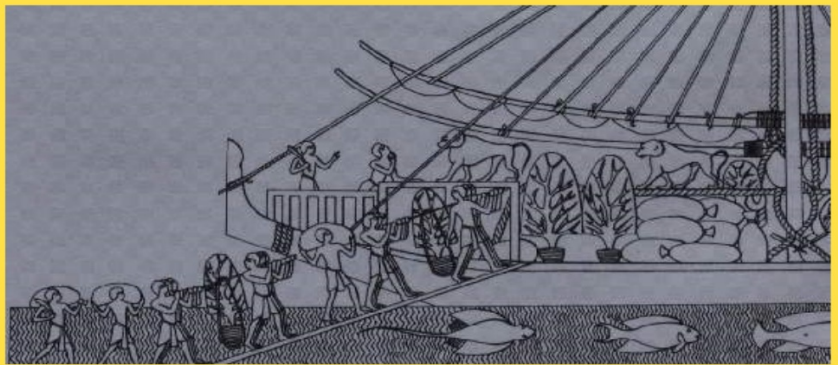
Imports from Punt include circular gold ingots (right), spices, tusks, ebony, myrrh trees for incense, panther skins, and live baboons.

Egyptian Trade, c. 1400 BC

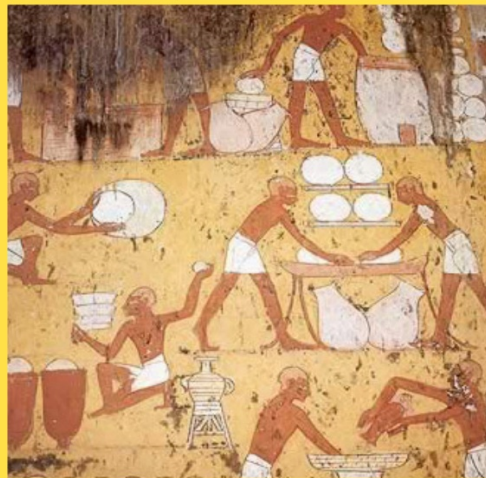


- GEOGRAPHY SKILLS INTERPRETING MAPS**
- 1. Location** Where was timber available?
 - 2. Movement** What city was the furthest north along the Egyptian trade routes?

Hatshepsut Caravan to Punt



Hatshepsut



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

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Invasions of Egypt

Despite its great successes, Egypt's might did not go unchallenged. In the 1200s BC the pharaoh Ramses (RAM-see) or **Ramses the Great**, came to power. Ramses, whose reign was one of the longest in Egyptian history, fought the Hittites, a group from Asia Minor. The two powers fought fiercely for years, but neither could defeat the other. Ramses and the Hittite leader eventually signed a peace treaty. Afterward, Egyptians and the Hittites became allies.

Egypt faced threats in other parts of its empire as well. To the west, a people known as the Tehenu invaded the Nile Delta. Ramses fought them off and built a series of forts to strengthen the western frontier. This proved to be a wise decision because the Tehenu invaded again a century later. Faced with Egypt's strengthened defenses, however, the Tehenu were defeated once more.

Soon after Ramses the Great died, new invaders called the Sea Peoples sailed from southwest Asia. Little is known about these people. Historians are not even sure who they were. All we know is that they were strong warriors who had crushed the Hittites and destroyed cities in southwest Asia. Only after 50 years of fighting were the Egyptians able to turn them back.

Egypt survived, but its empire in the east was gone. Shortly after the invasions of the Hittites and the Sea Peoples, the New Kingdom came to an end. Egypt once again fell into a period of violence and disorder. Egypt would never again regain its power.

Ramses the Great

How Could a Ruler Achieve Fame That Would Last 3,000 Years?

When did he live? the late 1300s and early 1200s BC

Where did he live? As pharaoh, Ramses lived in a city he built on the Nile Delta. The city's name, Pi-Ramesses, means the "house of Ramses."

What did he do? From a young age, Ramses was trained as a ruler and a fighter. Made an army captain at age 10, he began military campaigns even before he became pharaoh. During his reign, Ramses greatly increased the size of his kingdom.

Why is he so important? Many people consider Ramses the last great Egyptian pharaoh. He accomplished great things, but the pharaohs who followed could not maintain them. Both a great warrior and a great builder, he is known largely for the massive monuments he built. The temples at Karnak, Luxor, and Abu Simbel stand as 3,000-year-old symbols of the great pharaoh's power.

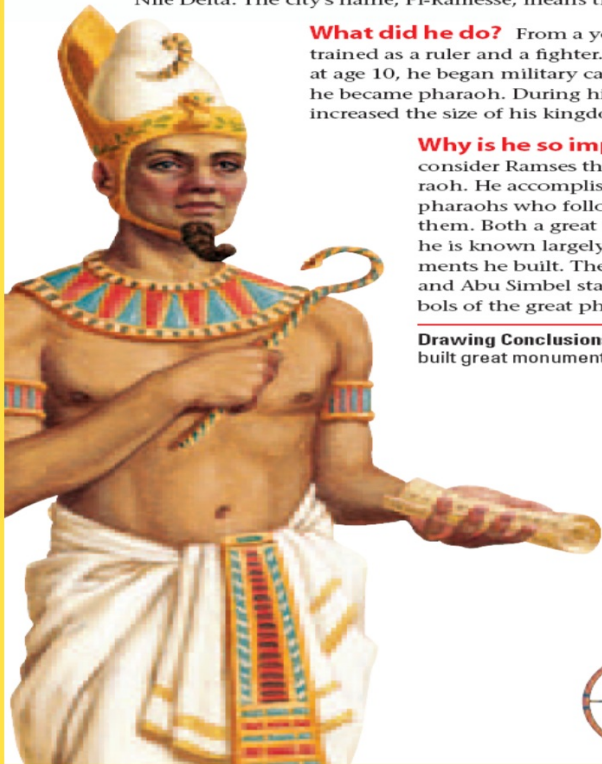
Drawing Conclusions Why do you think Ramses built great monuments all over Egypt?

KEY IDEAS

Ramses had a poem praising him carved into the walls of five temples, including Karnak. One verse of the poem praises Ramses as a great warrior and the defender of Egypt.

Gracious lord and bravest king,
savior-guard
Of Egypt in the battle, be our
ward;
Behold we stand alone, in the
hostile Hittite ring,
Save for us the breath of life,
Give deliverance from the
strife,
Oh! protect us Ramses
Miamun!
Oh! save us, mighty king!

—Pen-ta-ut, from *The Victory of Ramses over the Khita*, in *The World's Story*, edited by Eva March Tappan



This copy of an ancient painting shows Ramses the Great on his chariot in battle against the Hittites.



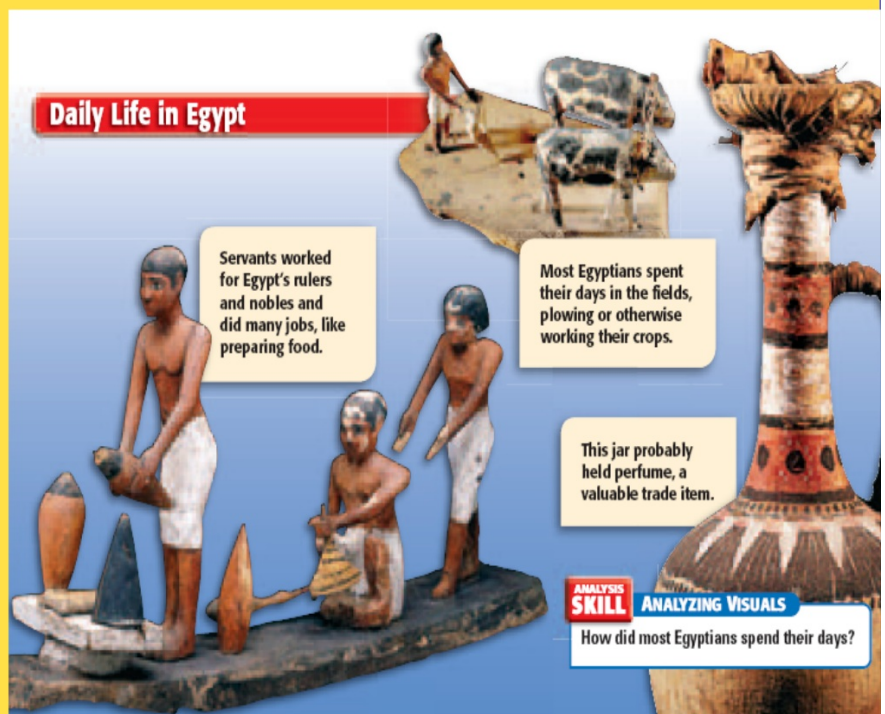


	Queen Hatshepsut	Ramses the Great
Challenges	<i>husband died, leaving the throne to his son by another wife; objections to rule by a woman</i>	<i>had to fight the Hittites, faced invaders from the west</i>
Accomplishments	<i>took over as ruler when her husband died, stayed in authority over many objections; increased trade; built many monuments and temples</i>	<i>kept the Hittites from conquering Egypt, built forts to strengthen western frontier, built monuments</i>

Main Idea 3:

Work and daily life were different for each of 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.



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

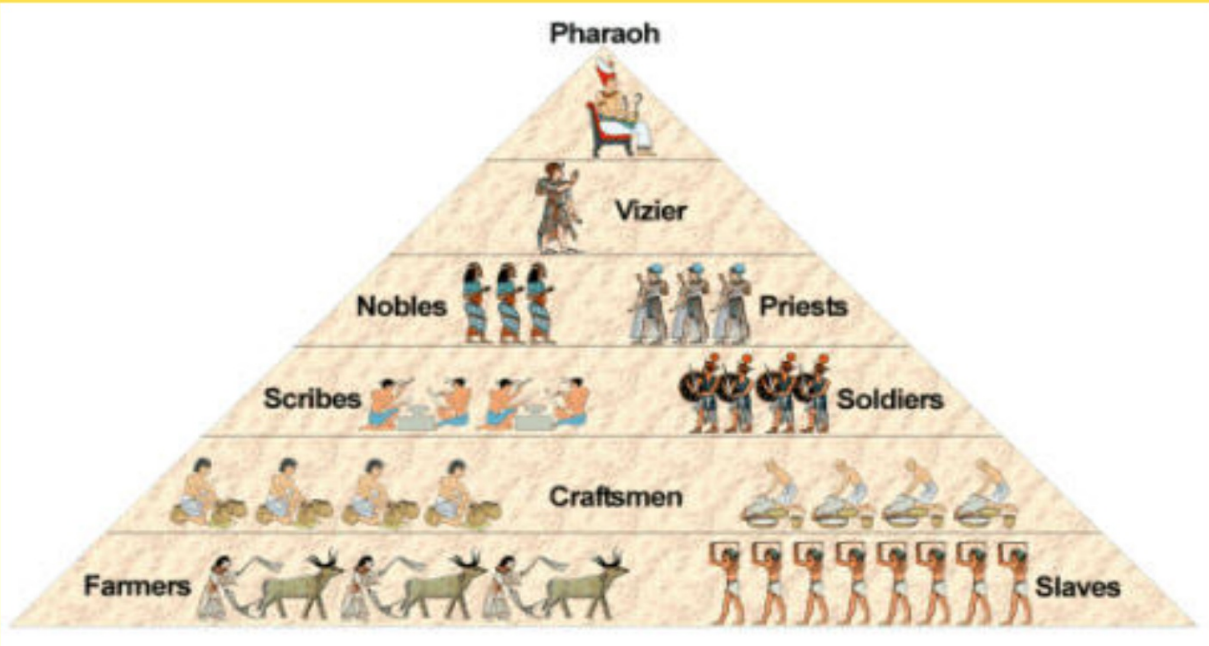
This group made up the vast majority of the population. They grew crops to support their families and to pay taxes.



Slaves

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





Egyptian Achievements

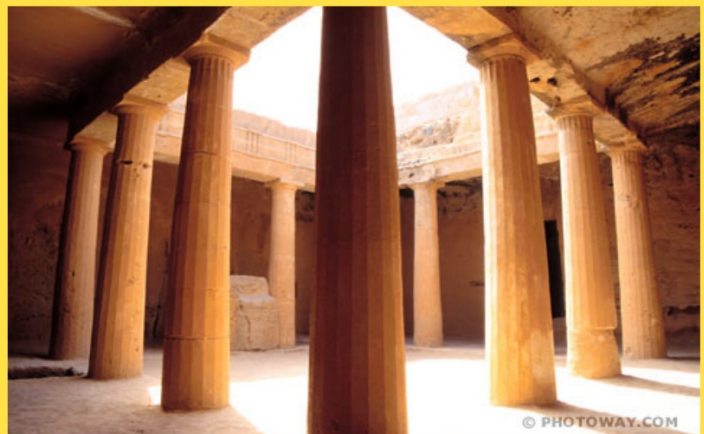
The Big Idea

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

- **Main Ideas**

- The Egyptians developed a writing system using hieroglyphics.

The Egyptians created magnificent temples, tombs, and works of art.



Main Idea 1: The Egyptians developed a writing system using 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**, which was written in three languages.

- Hieroglyphics
- A later form of Egyptian
- Greek



Main Idea 2:

The Egyptians created magnificent temples, tombs, and works of art.

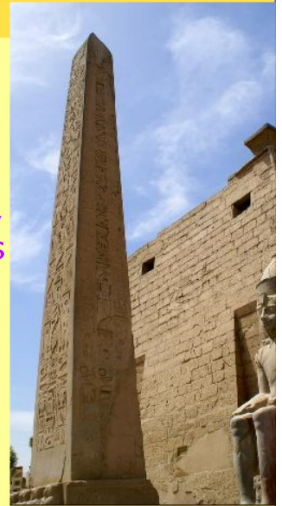
Egyptians
created the
massive temples
the homes of
gods.

People visited to
seek wisdom,
offer prayers
to the
gods, and ask
for favors.



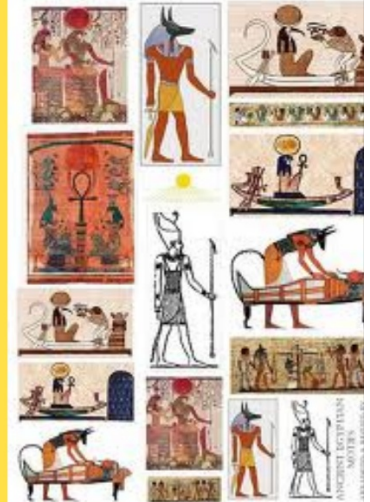
Temples had

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



Egyptian art filled tombs.

- Egyptian art was filled with lively, colorful scenes.
- Art showed historical events, everyday life, and religious events.
- Painting had a distinctive style in which people's heads and legs are always seen from the side, but upper bodies are shown straight on.





- Tombs contained work such as:
- Art and hieroglyphics on walls and columns
 - Stone statues and carvings
 - Egyptians were skilled stone workers.
 - Jewelry

