

AIM: How did geography affect the development of Egyptian culture?



Journal Entry

Describe why Egypt was called "The Gift of the Nile"?

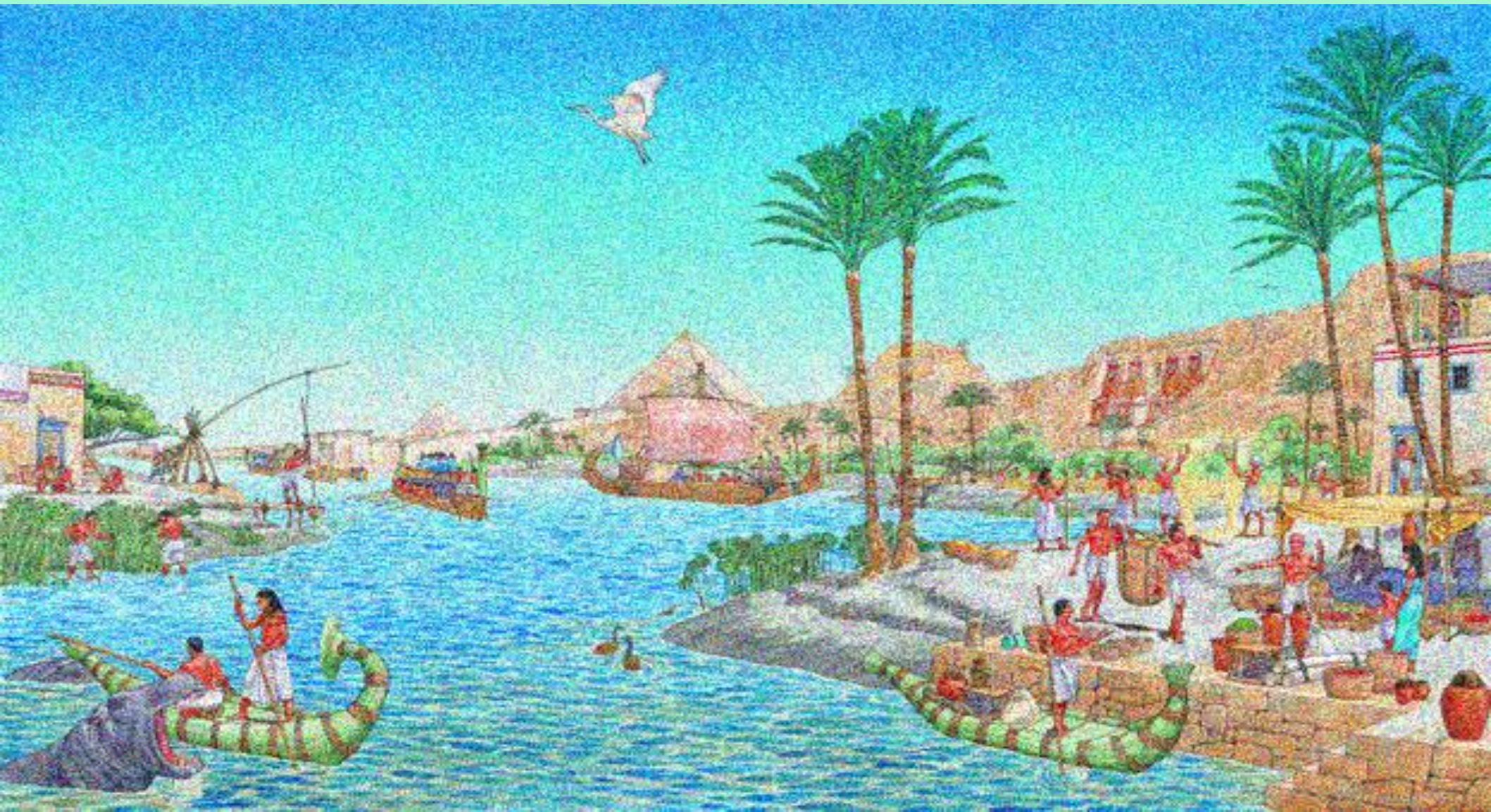


I. ANCIENT EGYPT

A. Egyptian civilization, formed by 3000 B.C.E. and it flourished for 2000 years before beginning to decline around 1000 B.C.E.

B. GEOGRAPHY

1. Farming had developed along the Nile River by 5000 B.C.E. Before 3200 B.C.E. the Egyptians, with **trade and commercial influence from Mesopotamia**, formed their very different civilization.





2. Largely because of the unifying influence of the desert surrounding the Nile, the Egyptians moved directly from sedentary agricultural communities to large governmental units without experiencing city states.



Q How did the lands to the east and west of the river help to protect Egypt from invasion?

3. Egypt's two main geographic features are the **Nile** and the **Sahara Desert**. Ancient Egypt was a long, narrow oasis along the river in the desert. The **Nile** was the **lifblood of the country**, and the **desert provided natural barriers to enemies** permitting ancient Egyptian civilization to last for 3,000 years, the longest in history (3100 BCE to 30 BCE).





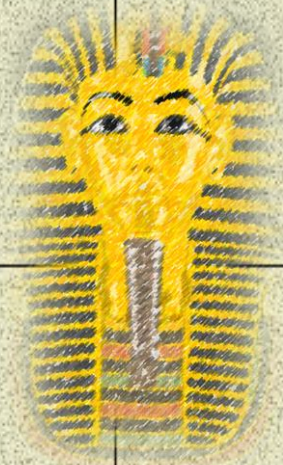


AIM: How did politics, social structure,
& religion shape Egyptian society?



Classification of Egyptian History

Period	Dates	Significant Events
Archaic:	3100-2600 BC	Unification of Egypt
Old Kingdom	2660-2180 BC	Construction of the pyramids
First Intermediate	2180-2080 BC	Political Chaos
Middle Kingdom	2080-1640 BC	Recovery and Political Stability
Second Intermediate	1640-1570 BC	Invasion of the Hyskos
New Kingdom	1570-1075 BC	Creation of an Egyptian Empire, King Tut/Religious Chaos.
Final Decline	1075-626 BC	Invasion of numerous groups, crushed by Assyrians.



A. POLITICAL SYSTEM

1. Political organization remained authoritarian and centralized. The unified state created in 3100 B.C.E. lasted for 3000 years.

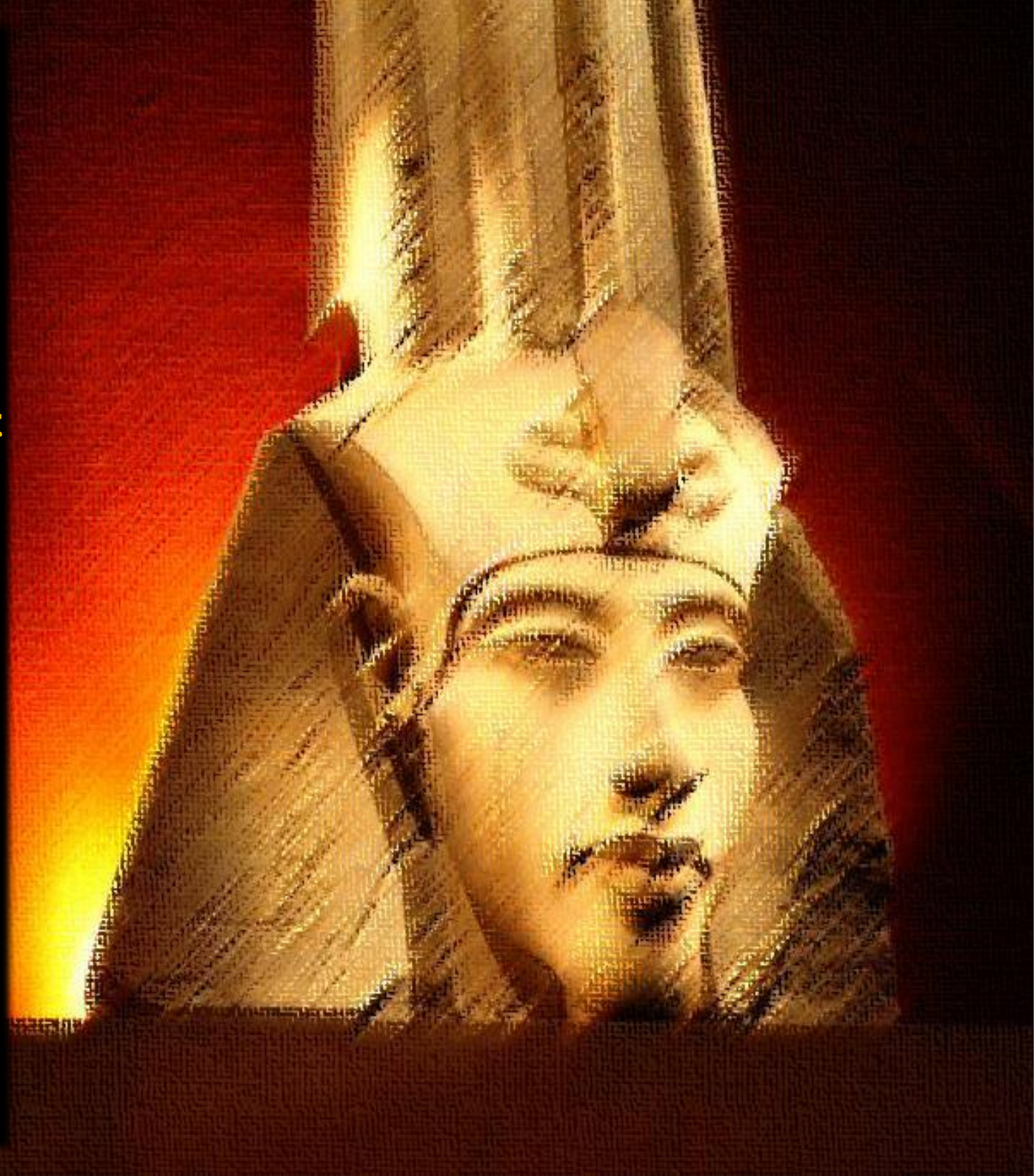
2. The three major periods, the *Old, Intermediate, and New Kingdoms*, were characterized by the power of a ruler descended from gods and regarded as a god, the pharaoh.

3. Pharaoh (king)/("Great House") believed to be god. Governed Egypt as an absolute ruler, commanded the army, & assured the prosperity of the Nile irrigation & agricultural(wheat)system.

❖ Rulers acquired extensive power and took the title pharaoh, and were believed to be the son of *Amon-Re*.



- ◇ An extensive bureaucracy trained in writing and law upheld his authority. Pharaoh appointed regional governors supervised irrigation and the building of great public works, like the pyramids, by drafted peasant workers.
- ◇ One pharaoh, Amenhotep IV, without success attempted to replace the many gods with a monotheistic religion under a single deity, Aton – hence his new name, Akhenaton.



PHARAOH

Earthly leader; considered a god

HIGH PRIESTS AND PRIESTESSES

Served gods and goddesses

NOBLES

Fought pharaoh's wars

MERCHANTS, SCRIBES, AND ARTISANS

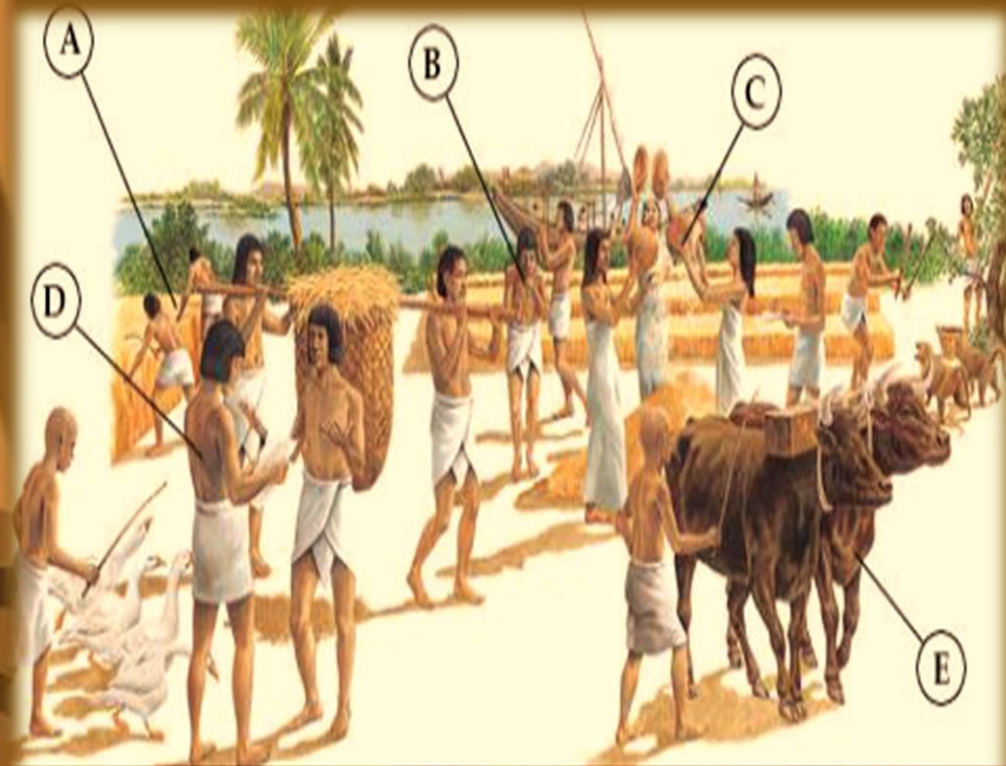
Made furniture, jewelry, and fabrics for pharaohs and nobles, and provided for other needs

PEASANT FARMERS AND SLAVES

Worked in the fields and served the pharaoh

B. SOCIAL CLASSES

What conclusions can we draw about Egyptian society based on this Social hierarchy?



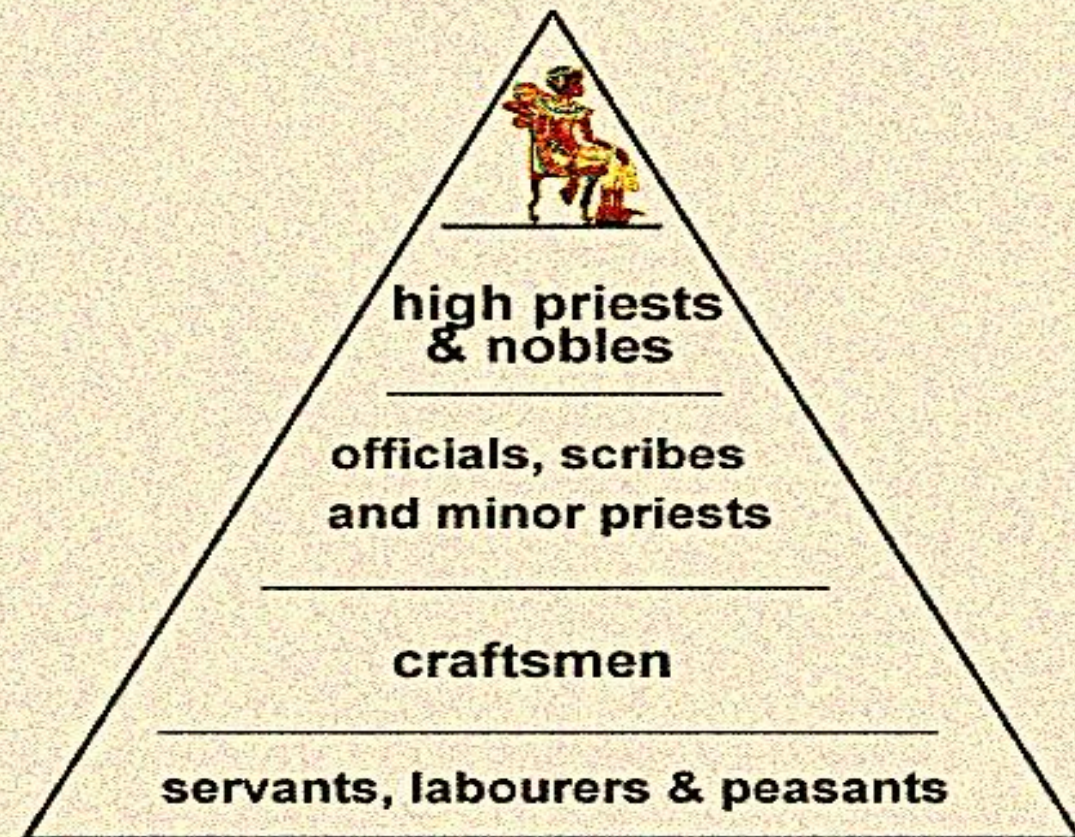
A. Harvesting grain; B. Musicians play for the workers in the fields; C. Women winnowing the grain; D. Scribes tally the farmer's taxes; E. The farmer's son tending the livestock / cattle

1. Egyptian society allowed upper class women more influence than they held in Mesopotamia, but they clearly remained a subordinate group. The decline in the status of women probably occurred because their labor became less important than it had been in hunting-and-gathering and early agricultural societies.

*"Greatness can be yours by your action,
if you have spent your life within the frame of your god"*

2. What does this primary source reveal about social mobility in Ancient Egypt?

Egypt treated its women better than any of the other major civilizations of the ancient world. While women could become Pharaoh only in very special circumstances, they were otherwise regarded as totally equal to men as far as the law was concerned. They could own property, borrow money, sign contracts, initiate divorce, appear in court as a witness, etc. Love and emotional support were considered to be important parts of marriage.



3. What was the role of women in Ancient Egypt? How is the role of women different in Ancient Egypt compared to Ancient Babylonia?

EGYPTIAN CULTURE AND SOCIETY STRUCTURE

2. **Women** had many of the same rights as men, could own property, could seek divorce.

Later we'll discover a couple of women who actually ruled Egypt!



Did you know...
Men and women wore makeup in Egypt.

The dark-lined eyes that look out at us from the artwork of ancient Egypt was the height of fashion and was called kohl – powdered minerals mixed with water and applied with a small stick. Both genders also wore lipstick – crushed red ocher (iron oxide) mixed with oil.

Read text p. 37 for more cool info.

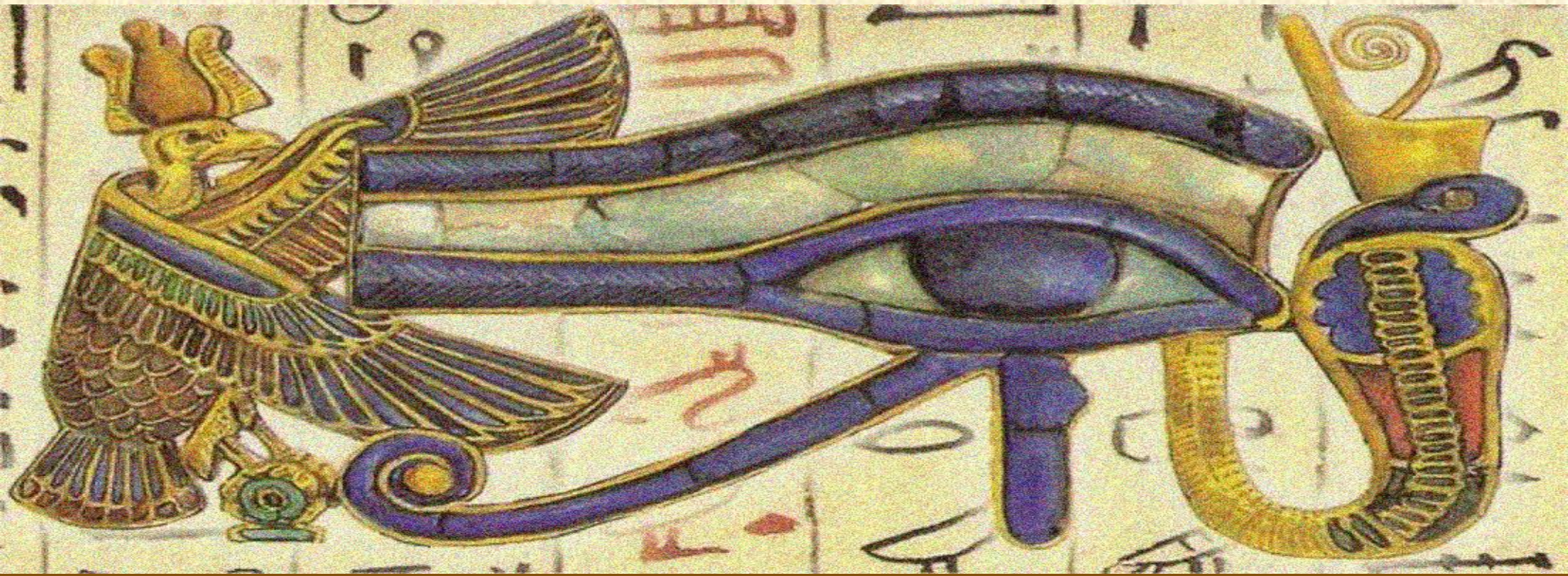


Egyptian religion had over 700 gods and goddesses with a variety of beliefs depending on the time period of Egyptian history that is being studied. Egyptians believed they had to obey their gods to have a good life. After their death, the gods would judge them at how well their commands were obeyed.

The three most important Gods and Goddesses were Amon-Re, Isis, and Osiris. Amon-Re was the chief God of the Egyptians. Isis was revered by the Egyptian people as the great mother-goddess and represents the maternal spirit in its most intimate form. Lastly, Osiris was the God of the Underworld. He was so important to the Egyptians, because they believed he controlled the flooding of the Nile, which made the land fertile.

1. How would you describe Egyptian religion?

2. Which God/Goddess do you think was most important and why?



1. Religion was the pillar of Egyptian culture. Many gods were worshipped (polytheism).

2. Gods controlled the forces of nature and had the power of life and death.



C. EGYPTIAN RELIGION



Amon



Anubis



Isis



Osiris



Horus



Set



Sobek



Ra

<Knock Knock>



Is this 3345 East Nile Boulevard?

Yes.

And you are Sotep? Son of Horkep and Wadet?

That's me.



Well, bad news and all, but you had some bad fish tonight, and I mean really bad. I'm the god Anubis, and you are dead.

What! That's impossible!

Well, it's true. I'm going to need you to come with me. We have to go weigh your heart.



This can't be right... I was still doing stuff and everything! I don't have time to be dead!

Well, we run a tight ship in the Underworld. I have the parchment right here. You're dead.



Wait, Isn't there some way for me to get out of this?

You mean, like a loophole, or an exception to the rule? Perhaps a contest or something you can challenge me to in order to win your life back? Is that what you are talking about?

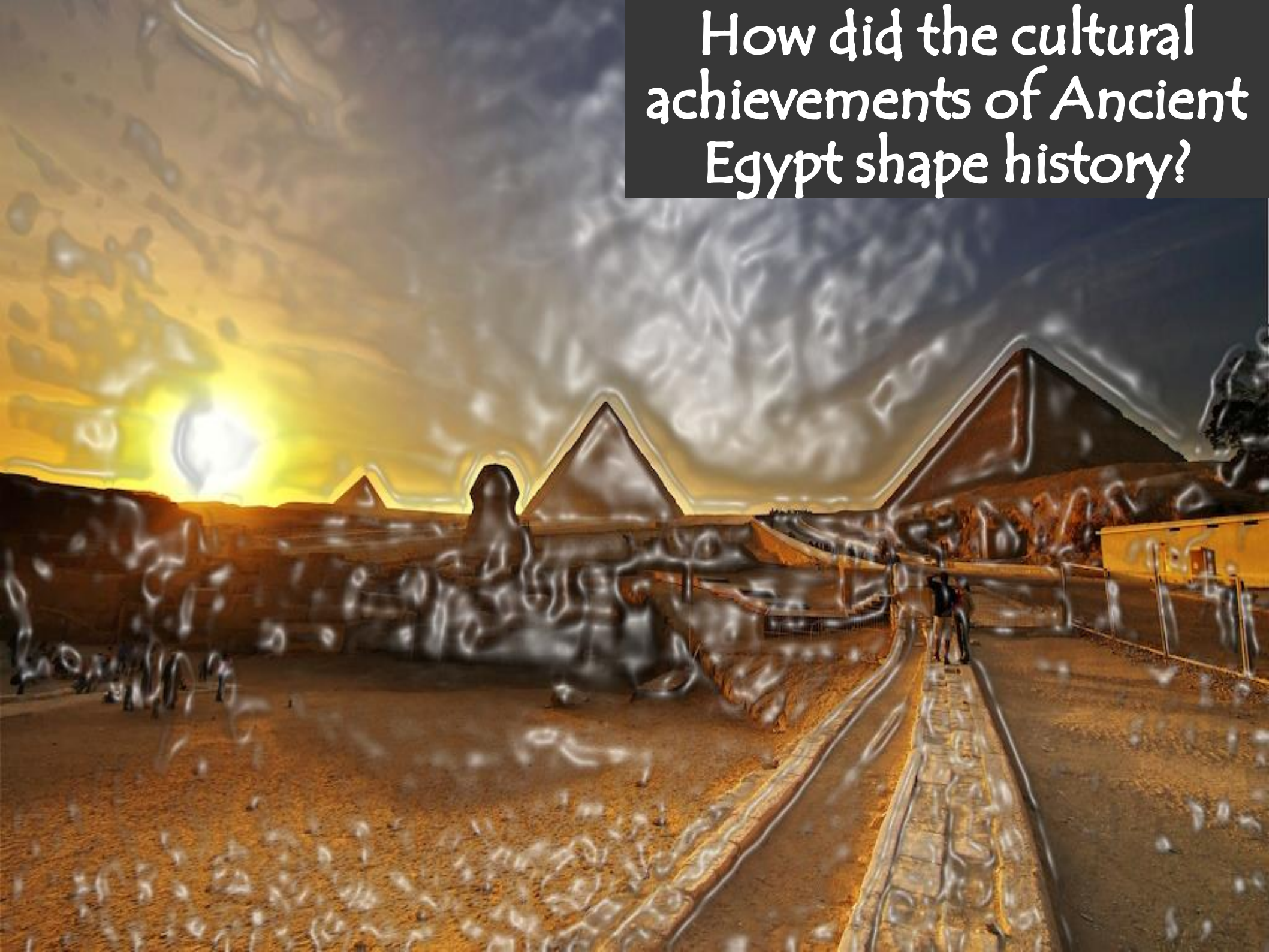


Yeah! Something like that!

Oh gods no. Of course not.


















How did the cultural achievements of Ancient Egypt shape history?



I. ACHIEVEMENTS

A. *Hieroglyphic Writing* (3000 BC) based on pictures.

1. *Hieratic Script*: simpler version of hieroglyphics used to keep records.

 A	 B	 B	 C	 D	 E
 F	 G	 H	 H	 I	 J
 K	 L	 M	 N	 N	 O
 P	 Q	 R	 S	 T	 T
 U	 V	 W	 X	 Y	 Z



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What ancient Egyptian artifact do you think this image illustrates?

Hieroglyphs and hieratic script on a fragment of an ancient Egyptian papyrus scroll.

Fragment of an ancient Egyptian papyrus scroll with hieroglyphs and hieratic script.

Fragment of an ancient Greek papyrus scroll with Greek text.

2. **1799**: the Rosetta Stone helped historians decipher hieroglyphics.

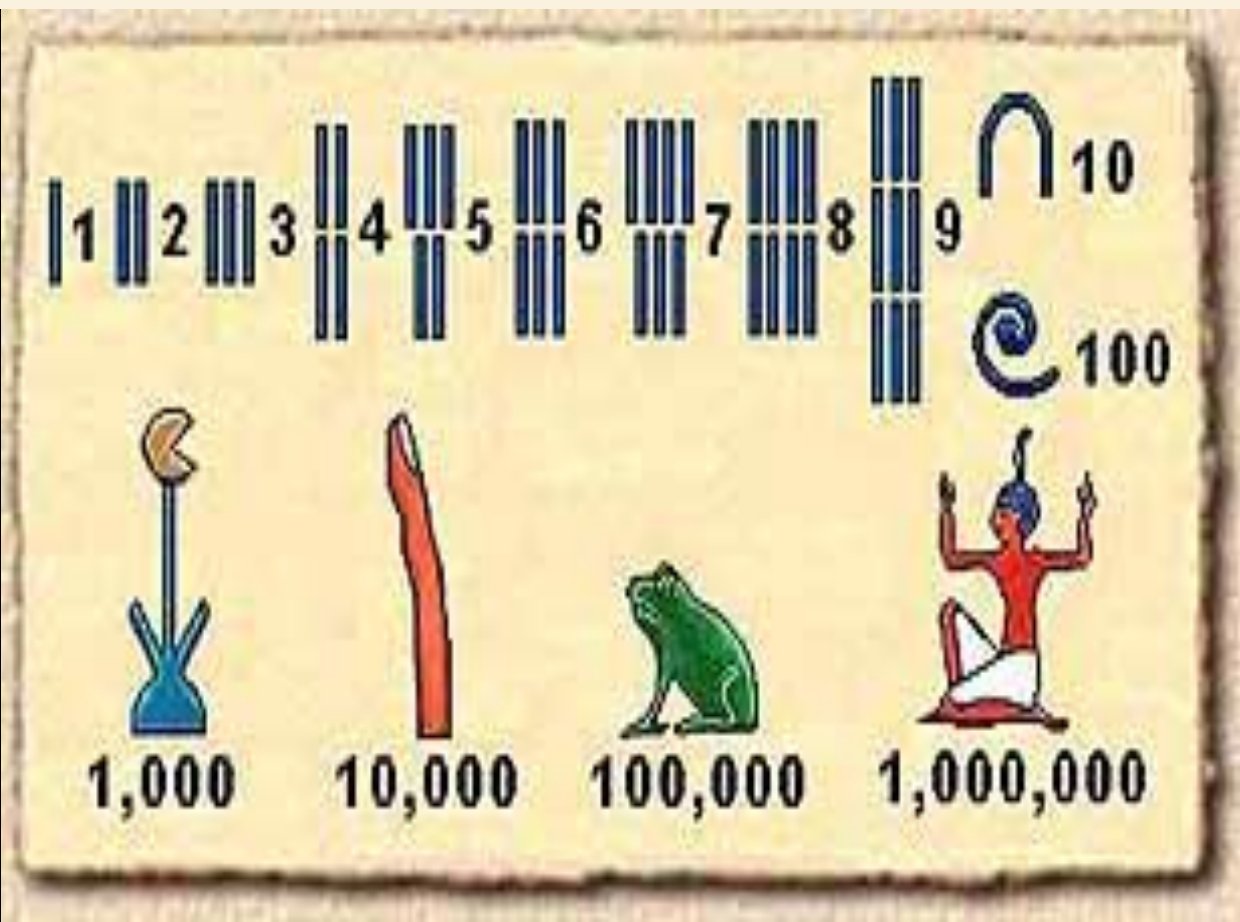
The following image is the Rosetta stone. The Rosetta stone has the same message carved in three different forms of script, one of which being hieroglyphics. By comparing these three versions of the same message, scholars were able to interpret the meaning of many hieroglyphic symbols.

3. What is the Rosetta stone? Why do you think the Rosetta stone was so important?



B. ADVANCES IN MATH AND SCIENCE

1. Utilized geometry to calculate area and volume.

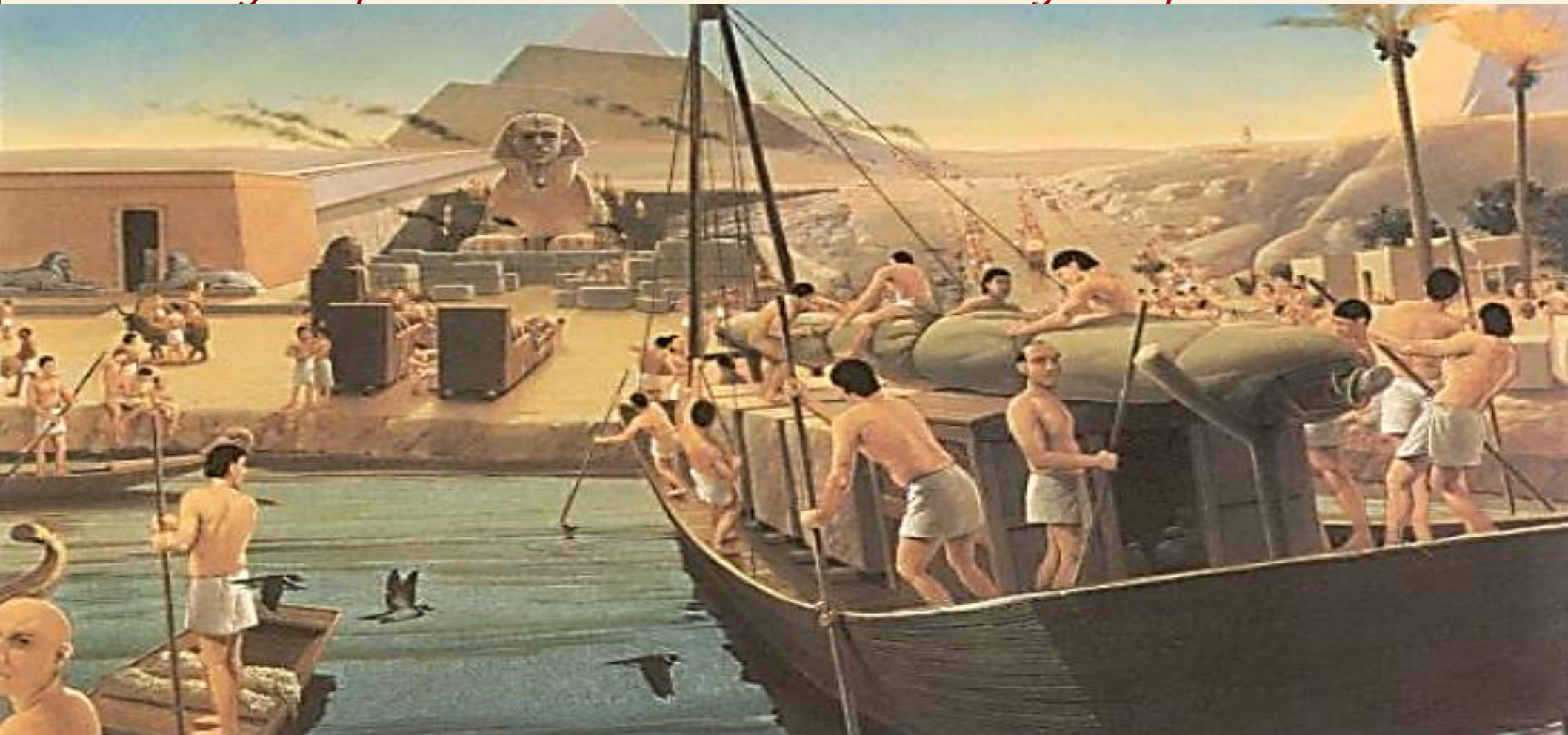


C. ART & ARCHITECTURE

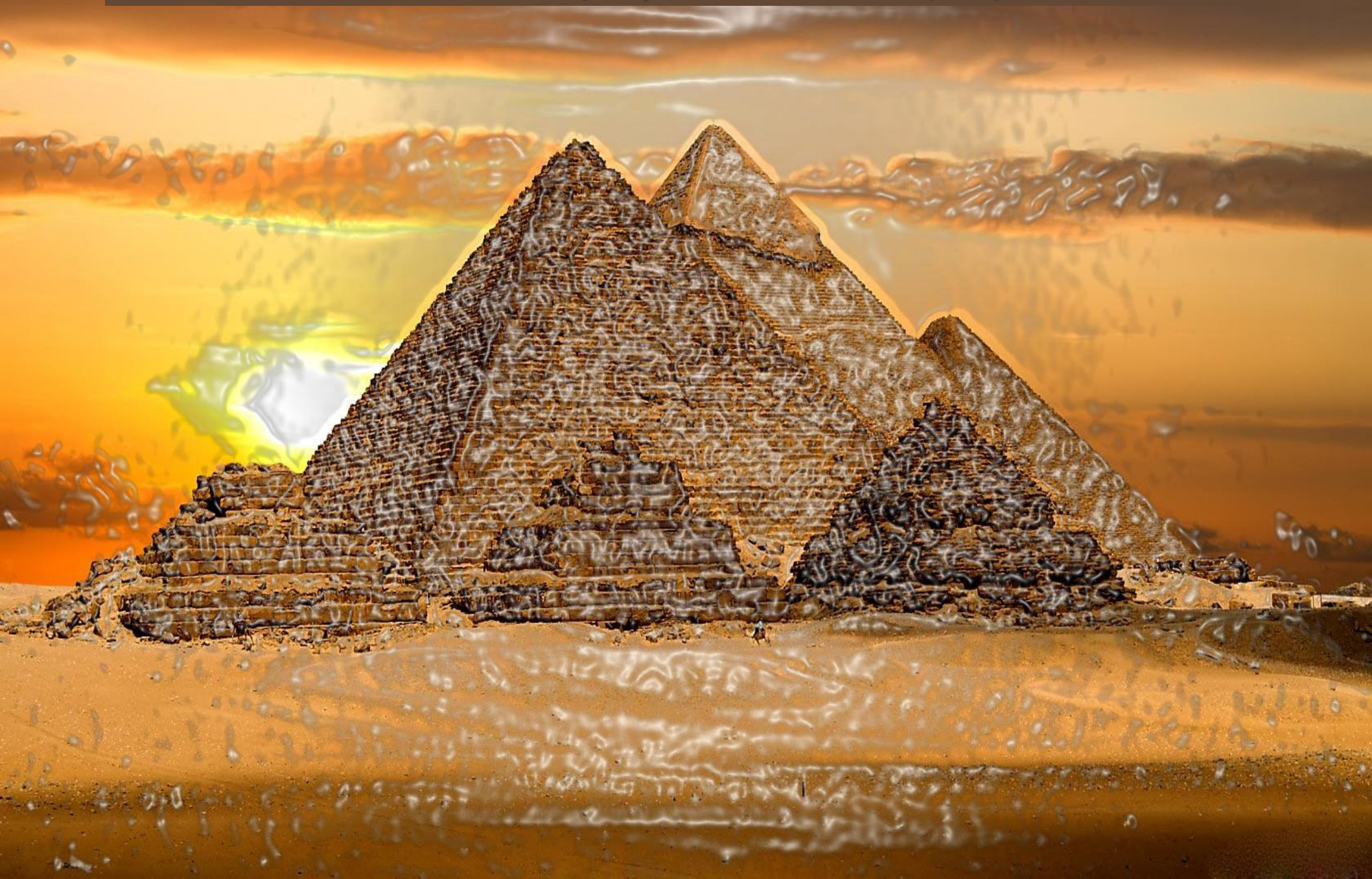
1. Pyramids (used to house dead pharaohs) and temples showed architectural skills.

◊ *The belief that the pharaoh was a god led to the practice of mummification and the construction of the pyramids—to preserve the pharaoh's embalmed body for eternity.*

◊ *The pyramid tombs of the Fourth Dynasty at Gizeh are well known and reflect the great power and wealth of the Old Kingdom pharaohs.*



Who made up the basic workforce that built the pyramids?
Why did these people willingly participate in the projects?
How did these projects benefit the people?

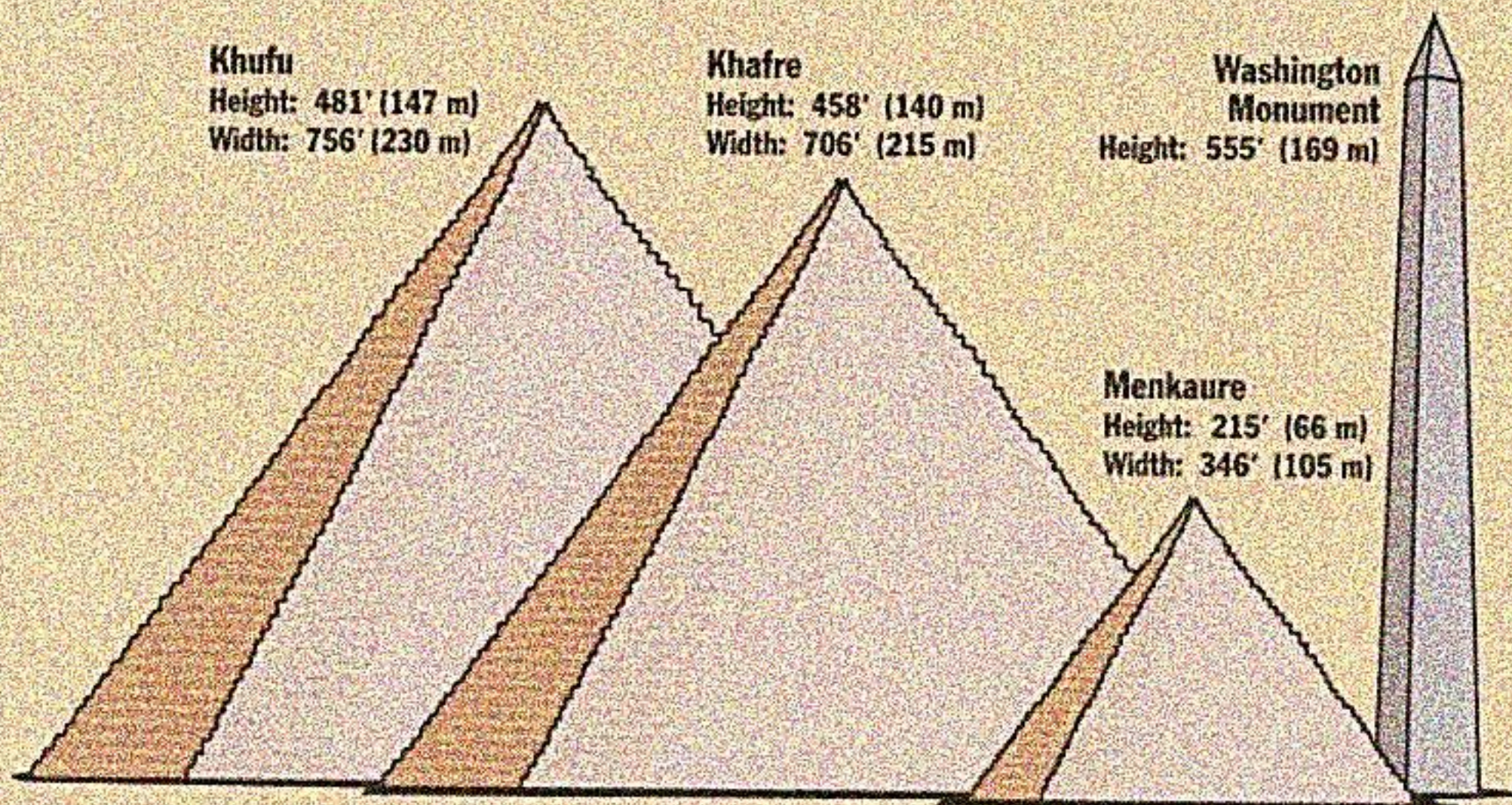


Egyptian Civilization: "The Gift of the Nile"

1 Which is the tallest pyramid?

2 Which is taller, Khufu or the Washington Monument?

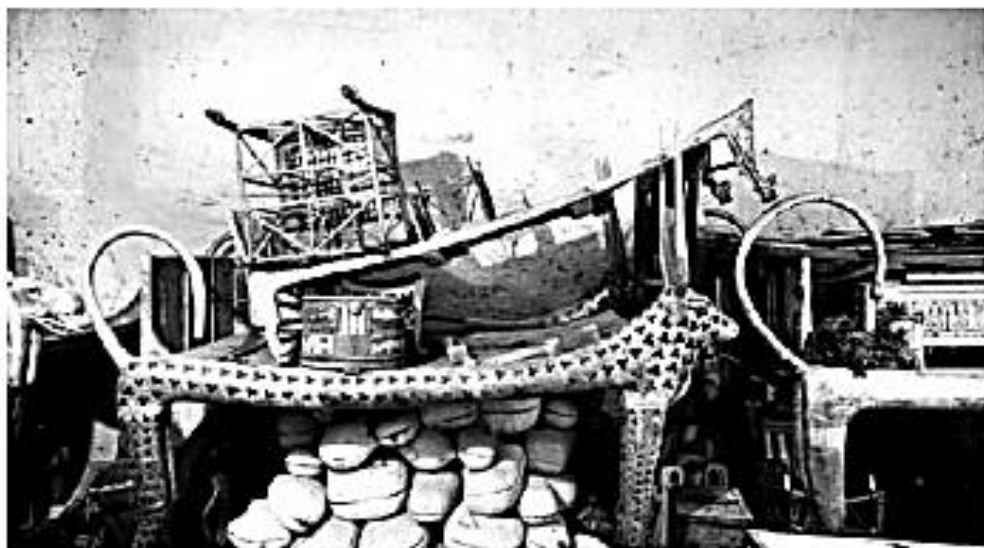
3 What is the length of a side of the Menkaure pyramid at its base?





Sketch of the tomb

Howard Carter suspected that Tutankhamun's tomb would be under the ruins of ancient builder's huts put up for the tomb of Ramesses VI in the Valley of the Kings.



View of the ritual beds in the antechamber

© Copyright Griffith Institute

The tomb consists of four underground chambers carved out of the rock.

Three of these tomb chambers are shown at the exhibition just as they were when Howard Carter discovered them. Around 700 objects were found in the antechamber. In the burial chamber, which was first opened in 1923, there was a golden shrine with three more shrines inside it.

The fourth shrine contained a sarcophagus made of quartzite. The removal of the shrines and the opening of the sarcophagus and the inner coffins took place between November 1923 and May 1924.

A further chamber was used primarily for burial goods and is known as the treasury. Among other things, a canopic shrine and an Anubis shrine were found there. The side chamber revealed a collection of different jugs, oil bottles, baskets with fruit and furniture.

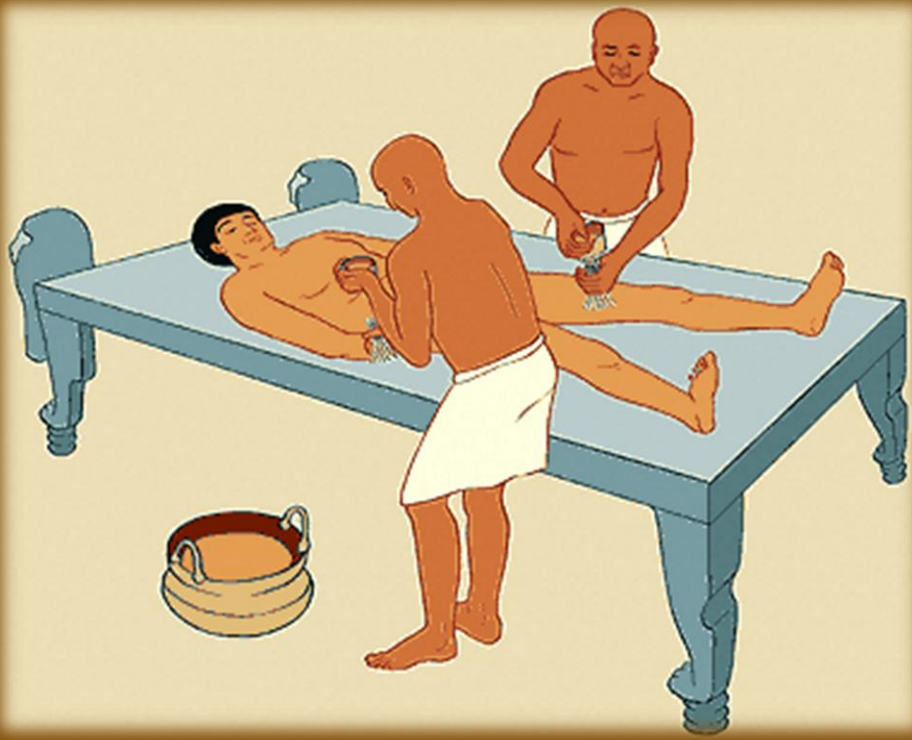


Anubis shrine

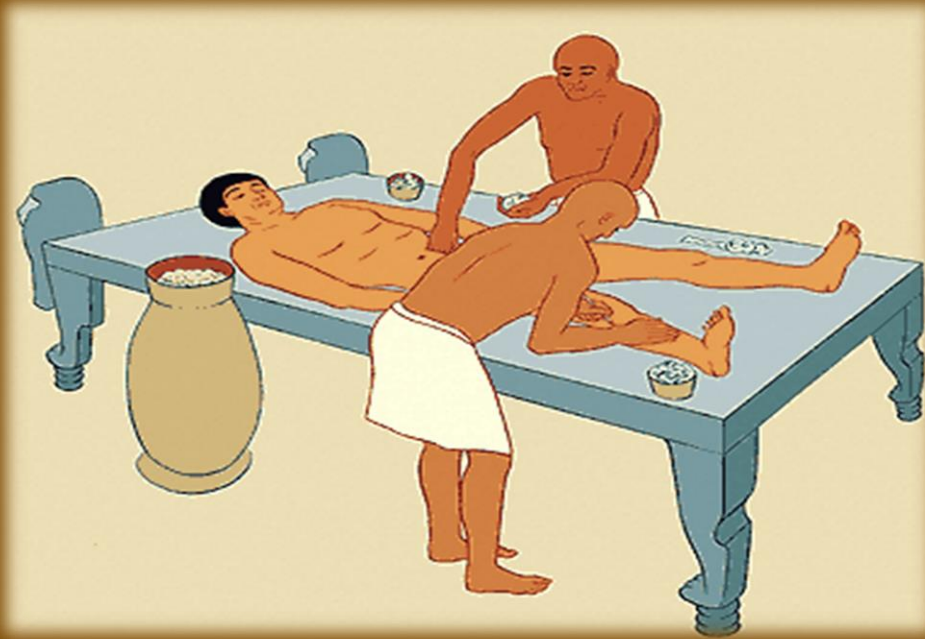
Mummification

- ❖ Preserved the body and kept organs in jars.
- ❑ Wrapped the body in linens.
- ❖ Gold, jewels, and gems went in the tombs.
- ❑ Peasants and slaves died with Pharaoh.
- ❖ Process took 70 days.





After forty days the body is washed again with water from the Nile. Then it is covered with oils to help the skin stay elastic.



Finally the body is covered again with good-smelling oils. It is now ready to be wrapped in linen.



The dehydrated internal organs are wrapped in linen and returned to the body. The body is stuffed with dry materials such as sawdust, leaves and linen so that it looks lifelike.



A priest reads spells out loud while the mummy is being wrapped. These spells will help ward off evil spirits and help the deceased make the journey to the afterlife.

D.MEDICINE

1. Doctors diagnosed & cured illnesses.



2. **Anatomy**: world's first autopsy.
3. Performed surgery.
4. Used herbs and minerals as medicines.

Bes Medicine Bottle

Late Period

27th-31st Dynasties, (525-332 BC)

H: 15.2 cm

Iron oxide pigment, Ceramic, Human hair

Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum

San Jose, California

The god Bes was the protector of children.

When a child was ill, it was believed that feeding it out of a Bes shaped bottle would cure the illness. If that was not effective, a physician would then be contacted.



Medicine and Magic: Amulets



Egyptian doctors were the best in the ancient world. Kings and emperors in Persia and other countries relied on them. The Greeks even praised Egyptian doctors in their poetry.

There were good reasons for this fame. Egyptian knowledge of medicine really was advanced for its time. One reason for this was the Egyptian belief in an afterlife beyond death. To enjoy the afterlife, the dead person's body needed to be kept safe. To keep the body safe, the Egyptians developed the process of embalming. Through embalming, they learned a lot about the human body.

Egyptian doctors didn't just learn from examining dead bodies. They also carefully observed the living. They noted the symptoms of diseases and experimented with drugs and treatments. When treatments worked—or seemed to work—they were written down on scrolls. New doctors could refer to these scrolls and learn from other doctors' experiences.

Some of the treatments Egyptian doctors used were very successful. They treated broken bones by splinting them with long wooden sticks padded with linen. They knew how to stitch wounds and how to draw the edges of a cut together to prevent scarring. They used drugs like opium as sedatives and made preparations from plants like castor berries, anise, and cassia. These plants are still used for medicinal purposes today. Egyptian doctors even performed surgery, including sawing through the skull to treat head wounds.

Some of their approaches were less successful. One treatment for blindness called for a paste made of pigs' eyes, honey, and red lead. It was injected into the patient's ear. Migraine headaches might be treated by rubbing the head with a fried fish head.

In many cases, doctors were able to recognize and describe the symptoms of a disease, but they had no idea what caused it or how it should be treated. In cases like this, the disease was often attributed to evil forces. When practical medicine failed, some practitioners turned to magic.

In fact, some physicians were also magicians. Lay physicians divided diseases into treatable and untreatable ones; these practitioners knew their own limits. Magician-physicians had no limits. They used magical spells and chants to cure their patients. The following spell was supposed to cure the common cold:

Flow out, poison nose, flow out, son of poison nose! You who breaks bones, destroys the skull, digs in the bone marrow, and makes the seven holes in the head ill!

Since magic was often called on to cure illness, it was natural to use it to try to prevent illness, too. People thought that certain signs and symbols were lucky, or would protect them from harm. These symbols were often worn as lucky charms, or amulets, to protect the wearer. Similar amulets were tucked into the wrappings of mummies, to keep the body safe in the afterlife.



Medicine and Magic: Amulets *(continued)*

Some charms were thought to give general protection, while some protected the wearer against specific dangers. Here are some common forms for amulets:



wedjat eye: used to protect against injury



djed pillar: sign of stability and peace



sa: general protection against unfriendly forces



fish: protection against drowning



ankh: the sign of life, a powerful protective charm



scarab beetle: promising new life, regeneration



Think about these symbols. Is there any symbol in your life that stands for similar ideas of strength and protection?