

Chapter Objectives

- Describe how the Nile River influenced Egyptian civilization and the reasons a united government arose along its banks.
- Discuss government and religion during the Old Kingdom.
- Learn about the accomplishments of the Middle and New Kingdoms.
- Describe the Nubian kingdom south of Egypt.

Chapter - Vocabulary

- Cataract
- Isis
- Savannas
- Memphis
- Khufu
- Upper Egypt
- Kemet
- Ramses II
- Hyksos
- Thebes

Chapter Test

- What is a dynasty?
- How did the Egyptians preserve bodies?
- What was Egyptian family life like?
- Know who the important Egyptian gods were.
- Know where the Egyptian capitals were.
- What happens with the Nile floods?
- Where was Nubia and what was it?
- Who was a pharaoh that was a woman?
- What did the Egyptians trade?

Chapter Test – Essay Questions

- Describe the influence of the Nile River on ancient Egyptian life.
- What did the conquerors of Egypt have that gave them an advantage over the Egyptians?

Ch. 2, Sec. 1 – The Nile Valley

- Much like the Euphrates and Tigris rivers, the Nile River valley was important in the development of an early civilization.
- The Nile is the world's longest river at over 4,000 miles long. It begins as two separate rivers. The Blue Nile begins in eastern Africa. The White Nile begins in marshes in central Africa.
- Look at the map on page 39.
- What physical features border the Nile River to the east and west?
- What is a cataract?
 - Wild rapids in a river.
- What is area of the river that flows into the Mediterranean Sea called?
 - Delta
- About how far is it from the first cataract to the second cataract? How did all the physical features of the Nile River valley help a civilization develop there?

Ch. 2, Sec. 1 – The Nile Valley

- How did the regular flooding of the Nile help the early Egyptians? How did it hurt them? What was the word, which means “the Black Land”, the Egyptians give to their land?
 - Kemet
- What did the Egyptians use to increase their food production?
 - Used irrigation
- What other technology did the Egyptians develop to move water through their irrigation system?
 - Shadoof – A bucket attached to a look pole used to left water from the Nile to the basins.



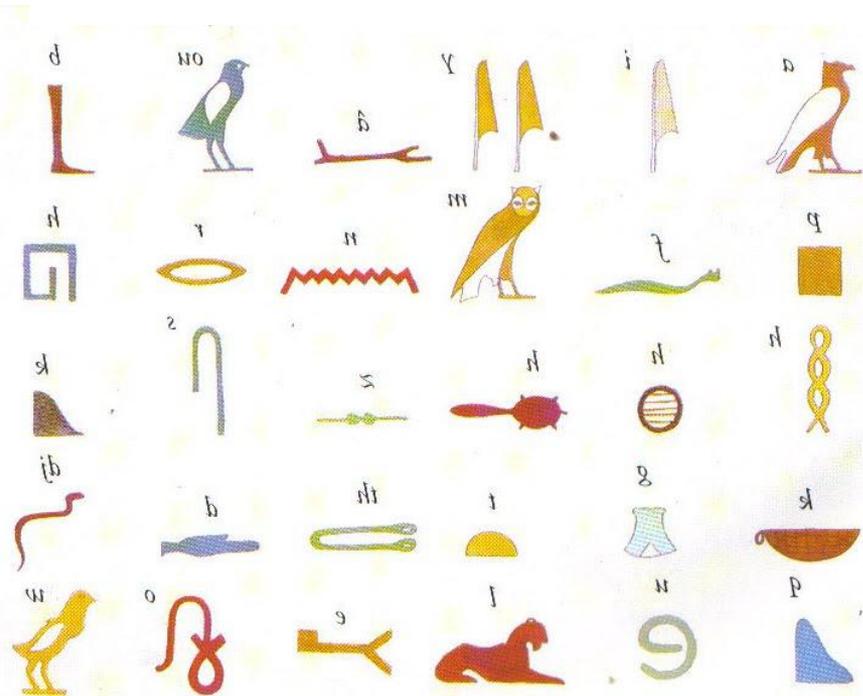
Ch. 2, Sec. 1 – The Nile Valley

- The Egyptians also invented an early type of paper from the reeds that grew along the Nile River. What was this paper called?

- **Papyrus**

- They developed their own system of writing called **hieroglyphics**. It is made up of hundreds of picture symbols.

- In ancient Egypt, few people could read and write. Some Egyptian men, however, went to special schools to study reading and writing. These men became **scribes** and kept records for rulers, priests, and traders.



Ch. 2, Sec. 1 – A United Egypt

- Just as in Mesopotamia, skill in farming led to an abundance of food. This allowed some people to specialize in making other crafts. As more goods became available, people began to trade with each other up and down the Nile.
- These advances led to the need to create a government in Egypt.
- The earliest rulers were the village chiefs. Later some of these merged into small kingdoms. The stronger kingdoms overpowered the weaker ones.
- By 4000 B.C. Egypt was made up of two large kingdoms. In the Nile delta was Lower Egypt and upriver was Upper Egypt.
- Around 3100 B.C. the two kingdoms were united under the ruler named **Narmer**. He was also known as **Menes**.
- Narmer ruled from a city he built on the border between the two kingdoms that he named **Memphis**.
- After Narmer's death, his family passed rule from father to son. Passing ruler in this was created a line of rulers called a **dynasty**. Egypt would be ruled by 31 dynasties. They were grouped by Old, Middle, and New Kingdoms.

Comparing Mesopotamia to Egypt

- Look at the chart on page 44. This chart will be on your test so you need to understand what it is showing you.
- Which civilization had greater natural defenses? Explain your answer.
 - Egypt did. The Nile delta, Sahara and Eastern Deserts, and Nile River cataracts isolated the area from outside invaders.
- Using information on the chart, compare the governments of the two civilizations.
 - Mesopotamia had city-states lead by kings and priests and empires eventually were formed.
 - Egypt had villages led by chiefs that were united into kingdoms and were eventually united by pharaohs.

Ch. 2, Sec. 1 – Early Egyptian Life

- Egyptian society was divided into social groups based upon wealth and power.
- Who was at the top of the Egyptian social classes?
 - The Pharaoh
- What group was at the bottom?
 - Unskilled workers
- Which group would have been considered the “Middle Class”.
 - People who ran business or produced goods. Artisans formed an important group within the middle class.
- Which group made up the largest group of early Egyptians?
 - Farmers. Some farmers rented their land from their ruler but most just worked the land and were given a small portion of what they grew.
- Egyptian women had more rights than those in other civilizations of the time. They could own property and perform religious ceremonies. Egyptian girls could also attend school.

Ch. 2, Sec. 2 – Egypt's Old Kingdom

- Around 2600 B.C. the period known as the Old Kingdom began in Egypt. During this time Egypt grew and prospered. The Egyptians built cities and expanded trade.
- Egyptian kings were called Pharaohs. They and their families lived in grand palaces. The pharaoh was an all-powerful ruler who guided Egypt's every activity. His word was law, and it had to be obeyed without question.
- Why did ordinary Egyptian people do whatever the pharaoh told them to?
 - They believed that he was the son of Re (RAY), the sun god.
- The pharaoh would carry out certain rituals or ceremonies that the people thought would keep the soil rich and ensure good crops. What was one of these rituals?
 - He drove a sacred bull around the streets of Memphis.

Ch. 2, Sec. 2 – Egypt's Religion

- Religion was very important in Egyptian culture. They worship many different deities or gods and goddess. They believed that these deities controlled the forces of nature and human activities. These gods included:
 - Re – The sun god.
 - Hapi – The ruler of the Nile.
 - Isis – A goddess that represented the loyal wife and mother.
 - Osiris - King of the dead. He was married to Isis.
- Egyptians believed in life after death. An important collection of spells and prayers that Egyptians had was called the *Book of the Dead*.
- For centuries Egyptians believed that only the pharaohs and the elite could get into the afterlife. They also believed that the pharaoh's spirit would need a body in which to make the journey to the afterlife.

Ch. 2, Sec. 2 – Egypt's Medicine

- To protect the pharaoh's body the Egyptians developed a process called what? What did this process create?
 - Embalming
 - Mummy
- Because they spent so much time examining the human body during the embalming process, the Egyptian became very knowledgeable about the human body.
- Egyptian doctors used herbs and drugs to treat illness. They learned how to sew up wounds and to set broken bones.
- They also wrote some of the first medical books.

Ch. 2, Sec. 2 – Pyramids

- To protect the pharaoh's body Egyptians built mountain like structures called pyramids.
- Each pyramid had a square base with an entrance that faced to the north.
- The process of building a pyramid required the Egyptians to make advancements in mathematics. They needed a method for calculating the amount of stone needed for the pyramid, as well as the angles necessary for the walls.
- They invented a system of written number based upon 10. They also created fractions.

Ch. 2, Sec. 2 – Pyramids

- Once the site for a pyramid was chosen, workers would gut stone and haul it to the building site. Workers would use copper and stone tool so cut the stones into the proper shapes and sizes.
- To get the stones to proper location they used wooden sleds to move the stones to the Nile and floated them down the river. They then dragged or pushed the blocks up ramps to be set in place on the pyramid.
- The largest and grandest of the pyramids is called the Great Pyramid. It stands on the west bank of the Nile in and area called Giza. Who was built for?
 - King Khufu

Ch. 2, Sec. 3 – The Egyptian Empire

- Around 2300 B.C. the pharaohs and other nobles battled with one another for control of Egypt.
- After about 200 years a new generation of pharaohs came to power and moved the capital of Egypt to Thebes.
- This was the begin of what is now know as the Middle Kingdom. During this time Egypt enjoyed a “Golden Age” of stability and achievement.
- The Egyptians took control of more land by invading the kingdom of Nubia to the south. These also expanded their empire to the north into what is known today as Syria.
- The areas captured by Egypt were force to pay tribute to the pharaohs. Within Egypt the pharaohs added more dams and increased the amount of land being farmed.

Ch. 2, Sec. 3 – The Egyptian Empire

- Because there was an abundance of food, people had more time to spend developing new art, literature, and architecture. Tombs that have been found from this period are decorated with colorful scenes of deities and daily life.
- Instead of Pyramids, the pharaohs started having tombs cut into the cliffs along the Nile river in what became known as the Valley of the Kings. Why do you think they stop building Pyramids?
- In about 1670 B.C. the nobles had started fighting with each other again. This weakened the Egyptian army.
- Egypt was invaded and conquered by a mighty group of warriors from western Asia. These invaders made great use of horse-drawn chariots and used weapons made of bronze and iron. The Egyptians only had weapons of copper and stone. What was the name of these invaders?
 - **The Hyksos**

Ch. 2, Sec. 3 – The Egyptian Empire

- After being ruled by the Hyksos for about 150 years, an Egyptian prince named Ahmose led an uprising that drove out the Hyksos.
- Ahmose's reign began the Egyptian Empire that is known as the New Kingdom.
- During the New Kingdom, Egypt became even more powerful and richer. Pharaohs during this time expanded the empire north into Greece and south along the Nile river.
- In about 1473 B.C. a queen named Hatshepsut came to power in Egypt. Her husband had been pharaoh. When he died his nephew took over but because he was so young, Hatshepsut ran Egypt. When the nephew died she named herself pharaoh. Let's read more about her on page 63.

Ch. 2, Sec. 3 – The Egyptian Empire

- When Hatshepsut died her nephew, Thutmose III came to power. He used Egypt's armies to conquer lands north into Mesopotamia and south into Nubia.
- Under his reign Egypt increased the amount of trading they did with other people.
- In about 1370 B.C. Amenhotep IV became pharaoh. Amenhotep and his wife Nefertiti introduced a new type of religion to Egypt. He felt that the various priests had gained too much power. To reduce their power he introduced a religion that had only one god called Aton.
- Amenhotep became so involved in his religious changes that he failed to take care of other problems. When Egypt was attacked by the Hittites from the west and north Egypt lost most of their lands in western Asia.

Ch. 2, Sec. 3 – The Egyptian Empire

- Upon Amenhotep death his son-in-law inherited the throne. The new pharaoh was named Tutankhamen. He was only 10 years old when he became pharaoh.
- King Tut, as he is now known as, restored the old religion. After ruling for only 9 years he died. Some people believed he was murdered.
- IN 1922, King Tut's tomb was discovered almost entirely intact. Much of what we know about the riches that were placed in the tombs of pharaohs comes from what was found in the tomb of King Tut.
- During the 1200's B.C. several pharaohs tried to make Egypt great again. The most well known of these was Ramses II. He reigned for almost 66 years. During his reign Egypt again expanded the empire and also built many new major temples.

Ch. 2, Sec. 3 – The Egyptian Empire

- After Ramses II's death Egypt's power begin to fade.
- They were attack by several group from different areas. The Egyptian's did not have access to iron ore and could not make their own iron weapons.
- Among the groups that took over Egypt were the Libyans from the west, the people of Kush from the south, finally the Assyrians.

Ch. 2, Sec. 4 – The Kush

- The Egyptians were not the only group that settled in the Nile River valley. What other civilization started there? What was that area called?
 - **The Kush civilization in Nubia.**
- The original people who settled in Nubia were probably cattle herders who arrived in 2000 B.C. They grazed their cattle on the grassy plains called **savannas**. They were also expert hunters and skilled at using bows & arrows.
- As they settled into villages, some of the stronger ones took over the weaker villages and formed a kingdom called what?
 - **Kerma**

Ch. 2, Sec. 4 – The Kush

- Kerma was a wealthy kingdom and the Egyptians traded with them and hired their warriors to train their armies. They also buried their kings in tombs.
- In the 1400s B.C. Thutmose III sent armies into Nubia and defeated Kerma.
- Egypt ruled Nubia for 700 years and during that time the people of Nubia adopted many Egyptian ways.
- As Egypt declined toward the end of the New Kingdom, the Nubians were able to form their own kingdom once again. Powerful leaders ruled from the city of Napata on the upper Nile.

Ch. 2, Sec. 4 – The Kush

- In 750 B.C. a Kushite king named Kashta went north into Egypt with a powerful army to begin a conquest of Egypt.
- IN 725 B.C. Kashta's son Piye completed the defeat of the Egyptians and begin a dynasty the ruled both Numbia and Egypt from Napata.
- During this time the kings of Kush also built pyramids and other temple in the same style that the Egyptians had.
- In the 600 B.C. the Assyrians invaded Egypt from the north. Armed with iron weapons, they were able to drive the Kushities back in to Nubia.
- Although defeat, the Kushities did learn how to make iron from the Assyrians.

Ch. 2, Sec. 4 – The Kush

- The Kush used the new knowledge of iron to make better tools for farming and weapons soon became a rich and powerful civilization again.
- The Kush rulers left Napata and moved their capital further south to the city of Meroe. Because to the rich iron ore deposits in this area, Meroe also became a trading and iron making center.
- Meroe was decorated much like an Egyptian city with temples and small pyramids.
- Meroe was a important trading center for about 600 years.
- By 200 A.D. the kingdom started to weaken and they were taken over by people from the area of Ethiopia. Meroe was burned to the ground. What group took over?
 - **The kingdom of Axum**