

Objectives



- ✦ Learn about the history of kingship in ancient Egypt.
- ✦ Find out about Egypt's accomplishments during each of three kingdom periods.
- ✦ Understand what characterized the rule of Egypt during the New Kingdom period.

Key Terms



- ✦ pharaoh – the title of the kings of ancient Egypt
- ✦ dynasty – a series of rulers from the same family or ethnic group
- ✦ absolute power – complete control over someone or something
- ✦ regent – someone who rules for a child until the child is old enough to rule

Egyptian Kingship



- ✦ Mostly men, but a few were women
 - ✦ Queen Hatshepsut was one of a few women (seven total) who eventually took the position of Pharaoh – title used by the rulers of Egypt.
 - ✦ Like all Egyptian pharaohs, Hatshepsut controlled Egypt's large wealth and power.

From Dynasty to Dynasty



- ✦ The history of ancient Egypt is categorized by its dynasties. A dynasty – is a series of rulers from the same family or ethnic group.
- ✦ Egypt had 31 dynasties from 3100 BC until it was conquered in 332 BC by Alexander the Great.

✦ Historians group Egypt's dynasties into 3 major time periods.

1. Old Kingdom

2. Middle Kingdom

3. New Kingdom

✦ The time in between each Kingdom were times of war, trouble, invasion, or weak rulers.

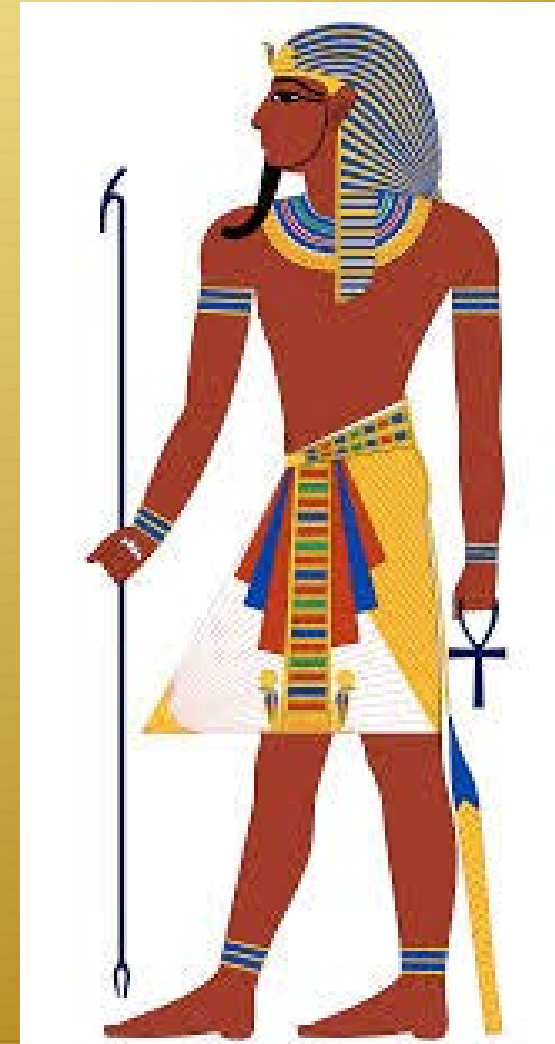
Egypt Is Unified



- ✦ According to legend, Egypt's first dynasty began when a king named Menes united Upper and Lower Egypt.
- ✦ Menes built the city of Memphis near present day Cairo to rule from. After unification, Egypt became one of the most stable civilizations in history.

All-Powerful Pharaohs

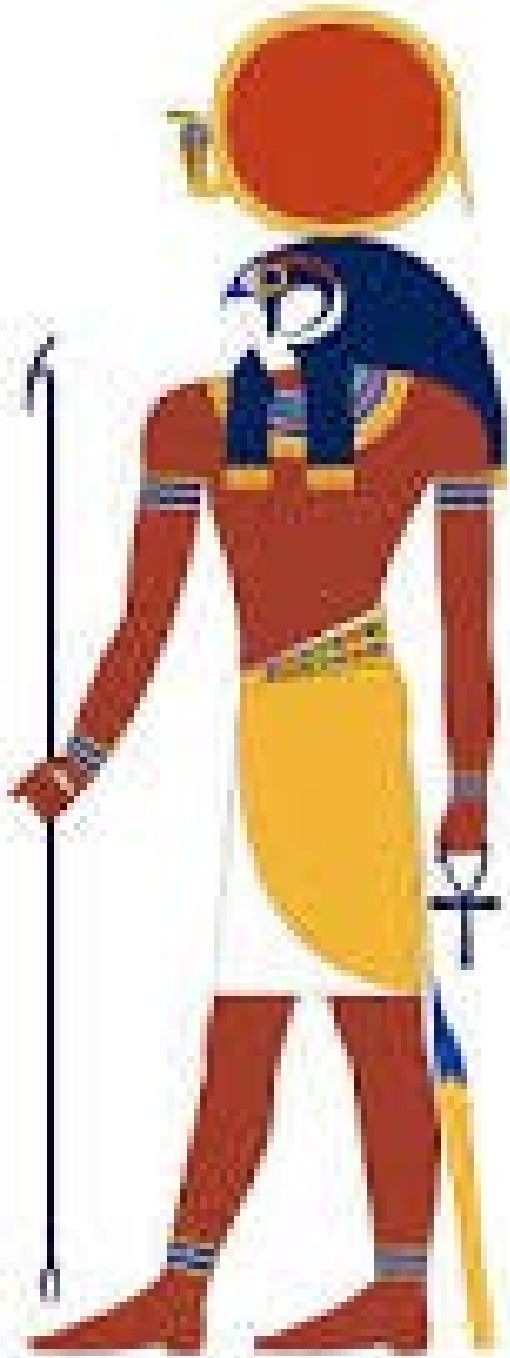
- ✦ A pharaoh had absolute power – complete control over their people.
- ✦ Whatever the pharaoh decided became law.



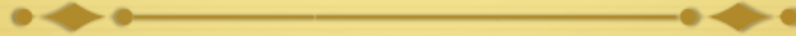
The Egyptian people thought that their pharaohs were the earthly form of Horus, the falcon god.

Over time, the pharaohs were also connected to the sun god Re.

It was the pharaoh, Egyptians thought, who provided the yearly floods and the harvest.



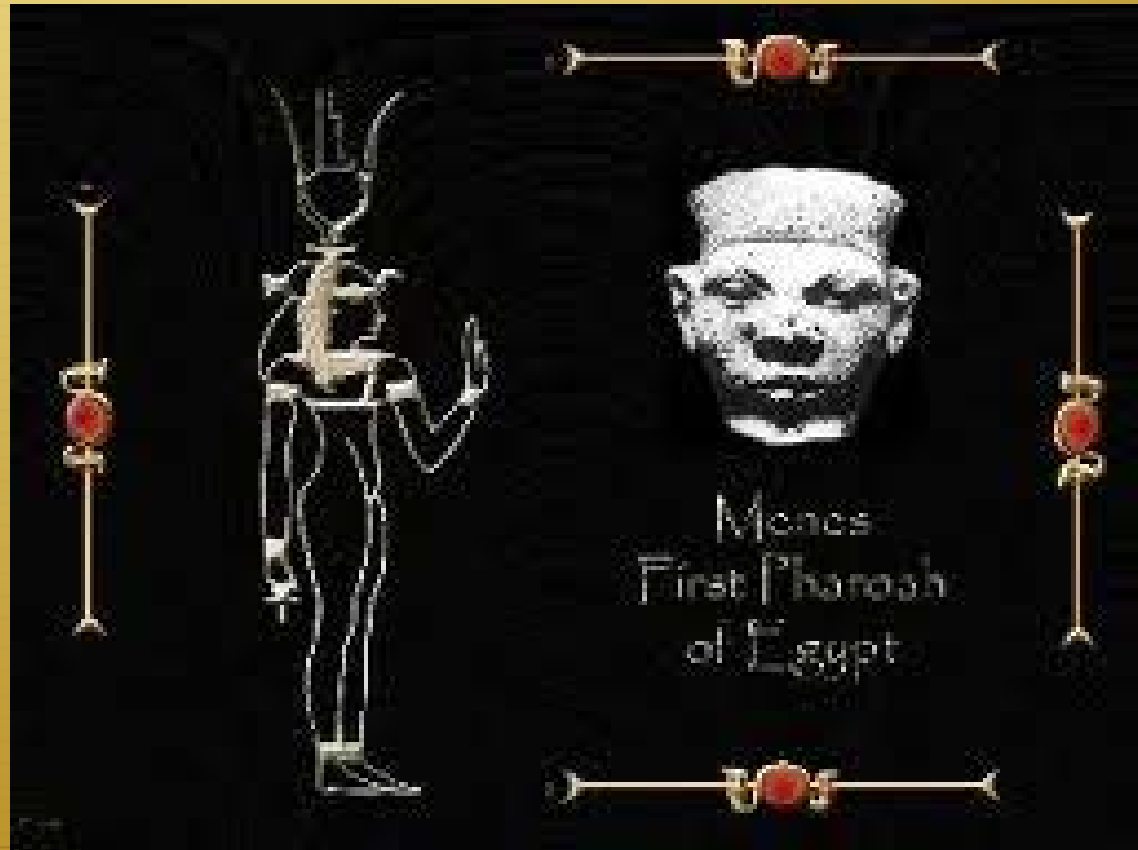
Reading Check



Who was Menes and what did he accomplish?

Menes was the first leader of Egypt's first dynasty.

He united Upper and Lower Egypt.



The Three Kingdoms



- ✦ Each kingdom had important events and achievements.
- ✦ The Old Kingdom had a well run system of government.

The Old Kingdom

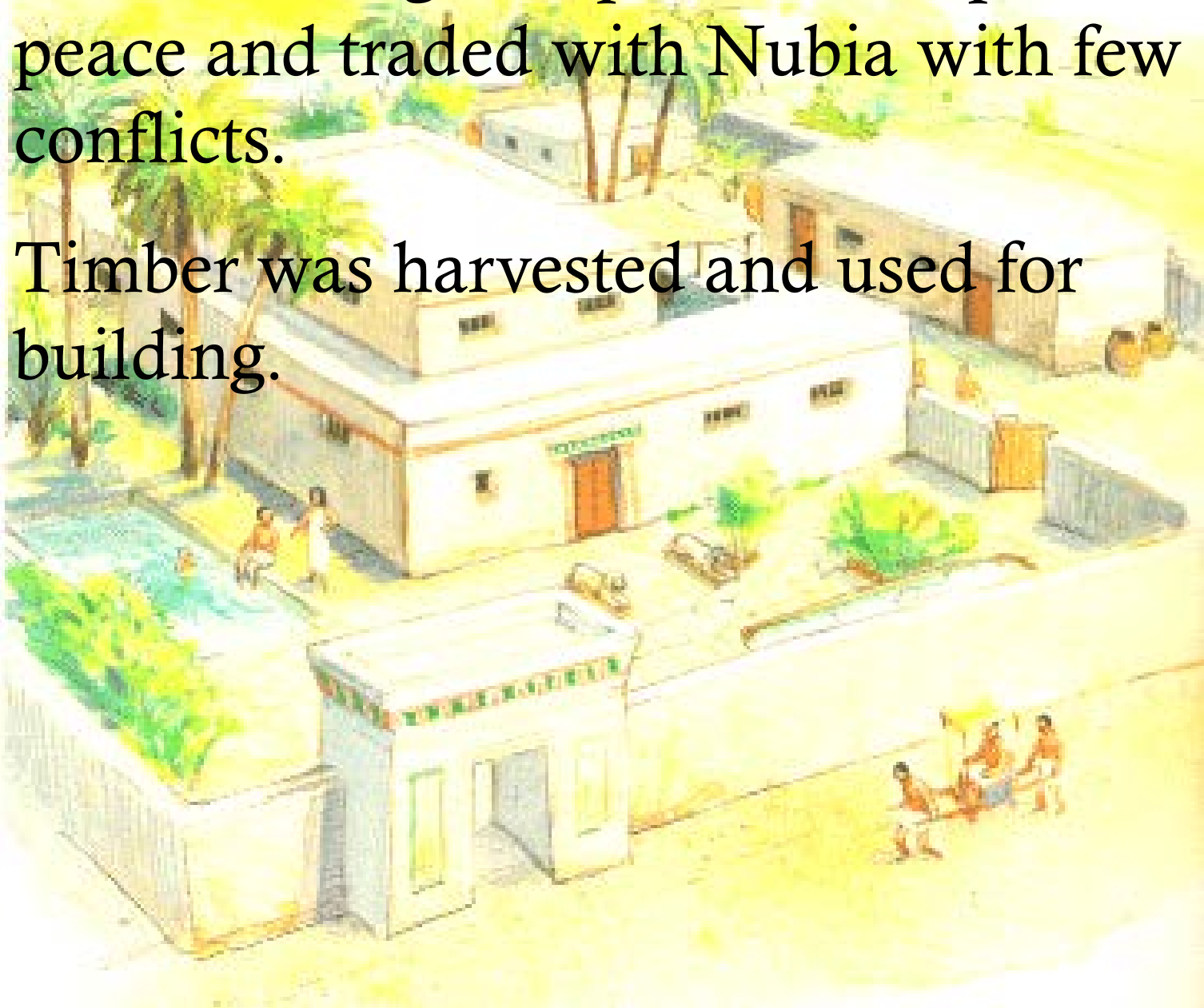
Menes

- ✦ United Upper/Lower Egypt
- ✦ Built Memphis, near Cairo
- ✦ Shown wearing crown
 - ✦ White crown = Upper Egypt
 - ✦ Red crown = Lower Egypt



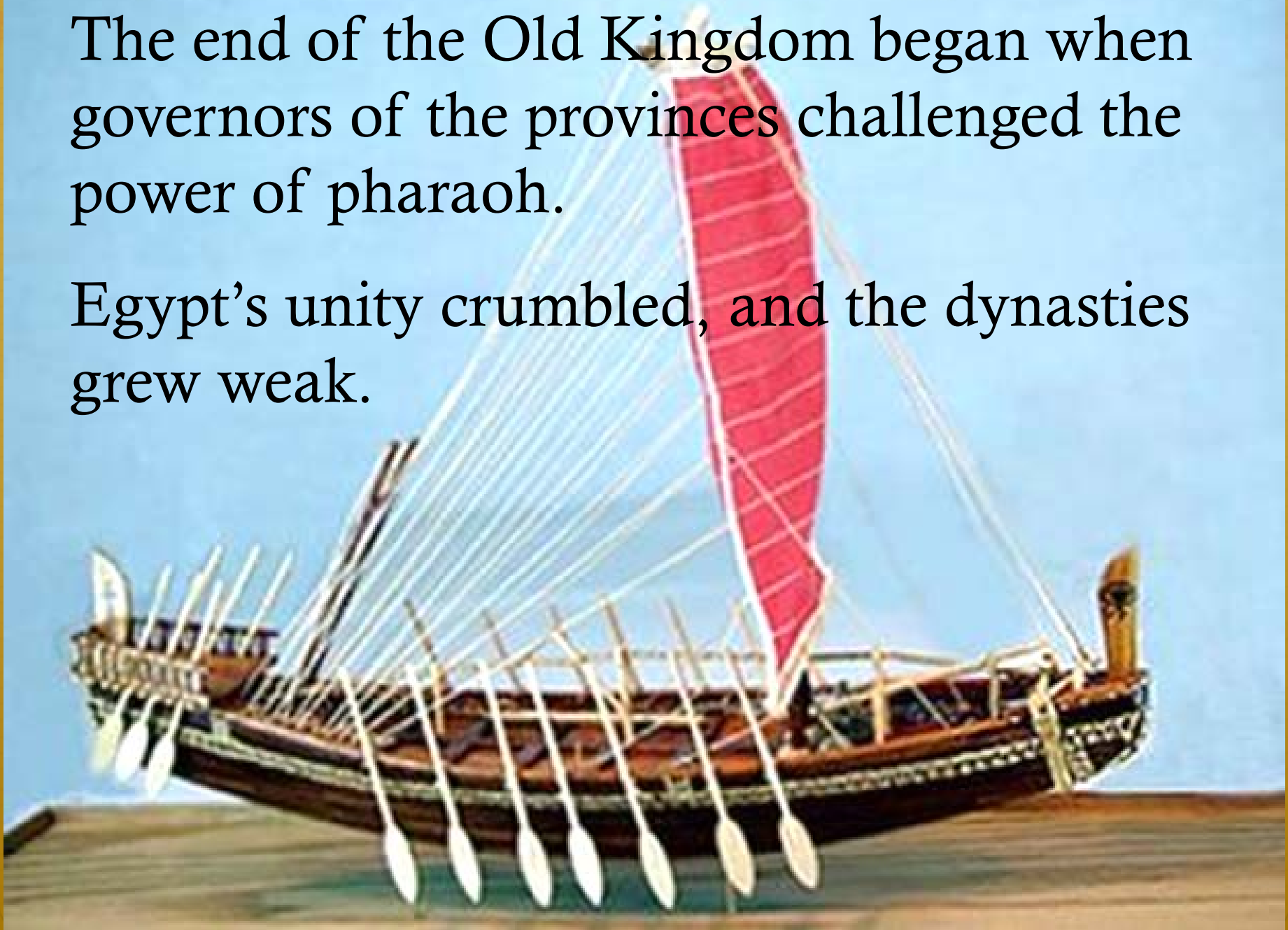
The Old Kingdom pharaohs kept peace and traded with Nubia with few conflicts.

Timber was harvested and used for building.



The end of the Old Kingdom began when governors of the provinces challenged the power of pharaoh.

Egypt's unity crumbled, and the dynasties grew weak.



The Middle Kingdom



The early rulers of the Middle Kingdom restored order and reunited Egypt.

The pharaohs of the Middle Kingdom spent money on public works projects such as building construction and irrigation.

Middle Kingdom dynasties faded out because of foreign invaders.



The New Kingdom

Egyptian princes became strong enough to drive out invaders which signaled the start of the New Kingdom in 1567 BC.

The pharaohs wanted to build an empire and began to recruit soldiers.



EGYPTIAN SOLDIERS

Their warriors and charioteers were armed with bronze swords and body armor.



The bronze was nearly unstoppable.

Reading Check

What characterized each of the three kingdoms?



- ✦ The Old Kingdom was characterized by peace and trade with Nubia and the overthrow of the pharaoh by his governors.
- ✦ The construction of buildings and irrigation projects and invasions by outside forces took place during the Middle Kingdom.
- ✦ The New Kingdom was marked by the building of its army and the creation of armor and weaponry.

Rule During the New Kingdom



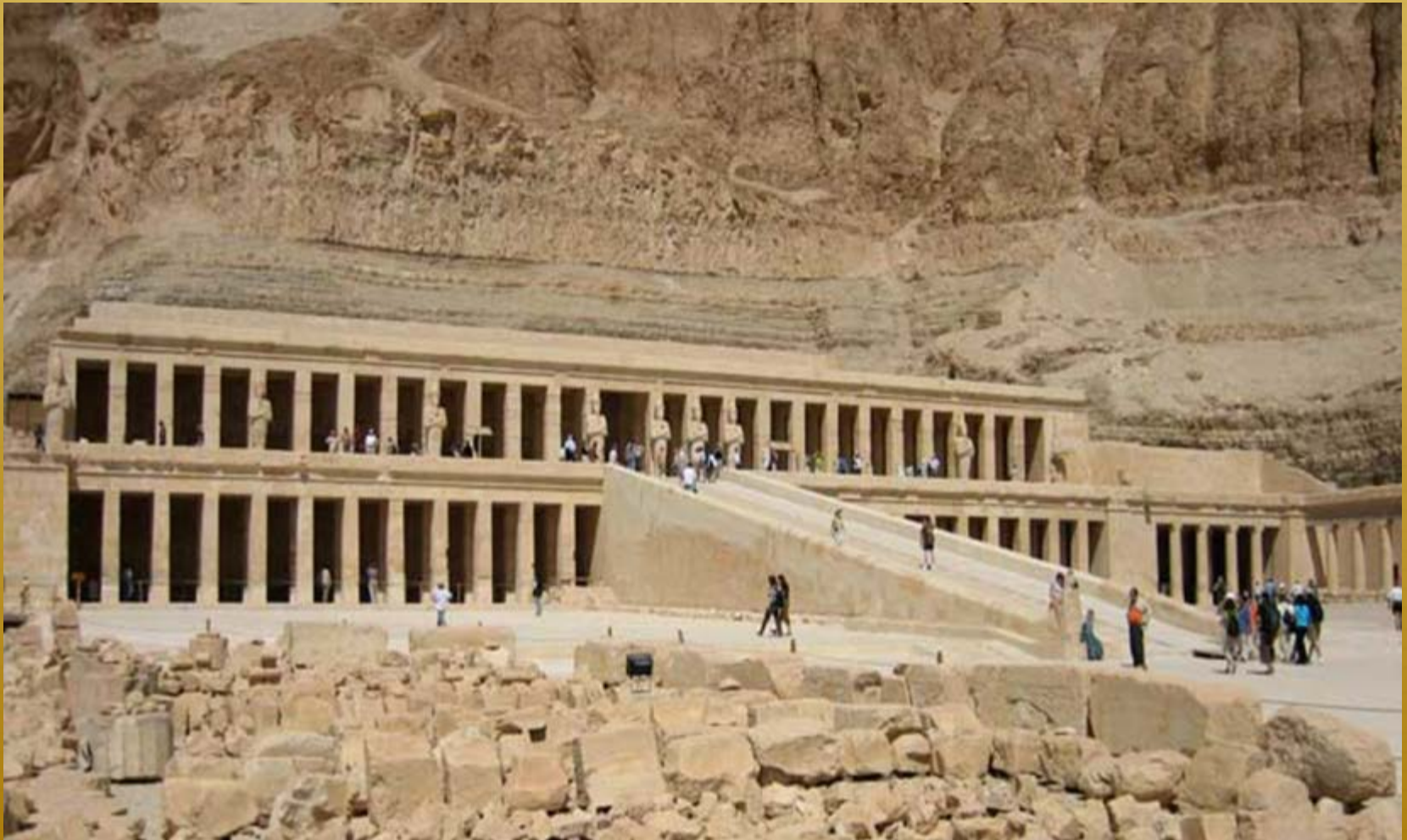
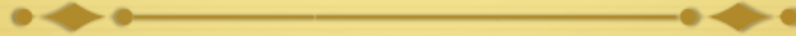
- ✦ In 1504 BC, a child named Thutmose III began his reign.
- ✦ His stepmother was appointed regent – someone who rules for a child until the child is old enough to rule.
- ✦ Hatshepsut had herself named pharaoh and ruled for 15 years.

Hatshepsut

- ✦ Step mother of Thutmose III
- ✦ She ruled for him in 1504 B.C. because of her son's age.
- ✦ Time of peace and great success.
- ✦ Traded with Nubians
 - ✦ Ivory, leopard skins, trees



Hatshepsut's Temple



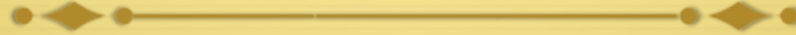
The Pharaoh Queen



When Thutmose III was old enough to rule, Hatshepsut refused to give up the throne.

After her death Thutmose III became pharaoh and destroyed all her statues.

Thutmose III



- ✦ Possibly killed his mother for the throne
- ✦ Lead in wars against Syria, Phoenicia, Nubia
- ✦ Educated man loved to study plants
- ✦ Treated those he defeated with mercy



Ancient Egypt after New Kingdom

- ✦ Civil war left Egypt weak and poorly defended. In 332 BC, Egypt fell to Alexander the Great of Macedonia.
- ✦ The Macedonians ruled Egypt for the next 300 years.
- ✦ In 51 BC, Queen Cleopatra became the last Macedonian to rule Egypt until it finally fell to the Romans. Fearing humiliation, she committed suicide in 30 BC.

Alexander III – “The Great”



Reading Check



What caused the decline of Egypt during the New Kingdom period?

- ✦ Civil war in Egypt left the country weak and poorly defended.

Section 2 Assessment



- ✦ 1. (a) Identify
 - ✦ What unusual powers did Egyptians believe their kings had?
 - ✦ The Egyptians believed that their kings had the power to provide floods and the harvests that followed, as if they were gods.

✦ 1. (b) Link Past and Present

- ✦ Explain why Egypt's rulers had more authority than most rulers have today.
- ✦ Egyptian rulers had more authority than today's leaders because the Egyptians thought rulers had god-like powers and therefore hesitated to question their authority.

✦ 2. (a) Recall

✦ Describe some of the accomplishments of each of the three Egyptian kingdoms.

✦ Old Kingdom – pharaohs kept the peace and trade with Nubia

✦ Middle Kingdom – irrigation and public works

✦ New Kingdom – huge, powerful armies

✦ 2. (b) Compare

- ✦ What characteristics did all three kingdoms have in common?
- ✦ The characteristics the three kingdoms had in common were making progress and prosperous times. They were also led by pharaohs.

✦ 3. (a) Generalize

✦ Describe the New Kingdom under Thutmose III and during its later decline.

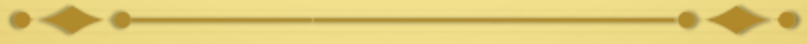
✦ Thutmose III conquered many lands. The conquered were treated with mercy. The New Kingdom declined after civil war left Egyptians defenseless against foreign invasion. Egypt fell to Alexander the Great.

✦ 3. (b) Analyze Information

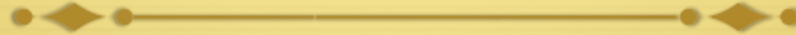
✦ Why do you think the pharaohs of Egypt were so successful for so long? What factors led to the decline of Egypt?

✦ The pharaohs of Egypt were successful because the people believed their pharaohs were god-like. Fertile land and access to the Nile allowed Egypt to grow and prosper.

✦ But, as it grew, the pharaohs lost power. Civil war ensued.



Gods of Early Egyptians



When Making decisions

- ✦ **Ma'at** = Goddess of Truth
- ✦ **Horus** = falcon God
- ✦ **Re (Ray)** = Sun God
- ✦ Speak to advisors
- ✦ Pray to God
- ✦ Pharaoh's word is LAW



King Tutankhamen

- ✦ Became ruler as a child
- ✦ Died and buried at 18
- ✦ Tomb discovered in 1922
- ✦ Taught us a great deal about Egyptians



End of Egypt

✦ Civil war left Egypt weak, poorly defended.



1. Alexander the Great (Macedonia) 332 B.C
2. Queen Cleopatra VII (Macedonia) 51 B.C.
3. Roman Empire 31 B.C.
4. Egypt doesn't govern itself for 2,000 years.