

*World History*  
Topic 3  
**Ancient Egypt and Kush**  
*3,000 BCE-600 BCE*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

I. Egypt Under the Pharaohs

A. The Nile River Valley

1. one of the world's first big civilizations developed here
2. world's longest river from East Africa to the Mediterranean Sea
3. the White Nile feeds it from Lake Victoria
4. the Blue Nile feed it feeds it from the highlands of Ethiopia
5. meet in Sudan (northern Sudan was known as Nubia or Kush)
6. flows through the Sahara Desert of northern Africa
7. flowed through six **cataracts** – groups of rocky rapids
8. couldn't travel upstream from Egypt

B. Upper and Lower Egypt

1. then flows through a narrow valley with cliffs through Upper Egypt
2. carries silt – fine mineral particles that forms fertile soil
3. slows down and fans out, dropping its silt
4. formed a **delta** – an area of sediment deposited at the river's mouth
5. the delta is called Lower Egypt

C. Floods and the Black Land

1. fertile soil lines both banks and covers the delta
2. called their country Kemet or “the Black Land” because of the soil
3. flooded yearly
  - a. heavy rainfall during summers in East Africa
  - b. Egypt's rivers flooded
  - c. drained away and left fresh silt behind
  - d. unpredictable and too much rain could wash away soil
  - e. too little water caused draught and hunger
4. “the Red Land” beyond were deserts of hot, burning sands

D. Development of the Egyptian Civilization

1. farming along the Nile started 7,000 years ago
2. farming techniques
  - a. crop irrigation
    - 1.) built earthen walls to trap flood waters
    - 2.) water soaked into the soil to water crops
    - 3.) watered crops when there was no rain
  - b. created a surplus – more food than the family needed
  - c. powerful people and families in the region collected crops as taxes
3. cities developed
  - a. used the surplus of crops to buy rich cloth, jewelry, and luxury goods
  - b. supplied by merchants and **artisans** – skilled workers who practice a handicraft
    - 1.) weavers, potters, etc.
    - 2.) settled around ruler's home
    - 3.) grew into cities
    - 4.) attracted wealthy and skilled people
    - 5.) became centers of culture and power
    - 6.) architects and artists built and decorated impressive buildings

## E. Kingdoms of Egypt

1. two Kingdoms in Egypt united under Narmer
  - a. first **pharaoh** – king
  - b. wore red and white crown (for Lower Egypt and Upper Egypt)
  - c. first Egyptian **dynasty** – ruling family
2. Old Kingdom
  - a. time of prosperity, political strength, and culture
3. Middle Kingdom
  - a. dealt with flooding, an **environmental** challenge – having to do with natural surroundings
  - b. built canals to control flood water and water crops
4. New Kingdom
  - a. following civil wars and invasions
  - b. conquered lands in Asia and Africa
  - c. high point
  - d. declined, fell apart, and faced invasion
  - e. conquered by Persians and then the Greek Alexander the Great
5. political order
  - a. pharaoh
  - b. **bureaucracy** – system of offices and officials that handle government
  - c. vizier – head of bureaucracy
  - d. collected taxes (crops) and distributed to the bureaucracy, priests, pharaoh, artisans, and merchants

## F. Egyptian Society

1. societal pyramid to control Egypt through loyalty and labor
  - a. pharaoh – a god king that deserved loyalty
  - b. nobles, priests, officials, and scribes (kept records)
  - c. merchants and artisans – painters and stonecutters and builders that built temples and tombs
  - d. farmers – biggest group and helped with projects when not farming
  - e. **devotion** – dedication, loyalty (to be rewarded after death)
  - f. slaves – prisoners of war or debtors

## G. Egyptian Religion

1. gods controlled everything
2. kind or dangerous
3. built temples and offered prayers and gifts to please them
4. many gods
  - a. worshiped hundreds of gods
  - b. statues and art portrayed them with animal features
  - c. Amon-Re – the sun god, died and was reborn each day
  - d. Osiris – god of the underworld, was chopped into pieces by Seth
  - e. Isis – mother goddess, wife of Osiris and brought him back to life
    - 1.) moved heaven and earth for him
    - 2.) represented love, caring, and protection
  - f. Horus – son of Isis and Osiris who battled Seth and united Egypt
5. people obeyed the pharaoh and priests to please the gods
6. believed in the afterlife
  - a. life after death was decided by Osiris
  - b. prepared by living a good life
  - c. the sinful would be destroyed
7. preserving the dead
  - a. spirit needed to recognize the preserved body
  - b. poor were buried in the desert and quickly dried out

- c. wealthy became **mummies** – body preserved by a special process
- d. teach us much about ancient Egypt

## H. Great Rulers

### 1. Hatshepsut

- a. one of few women to rule
- b. daughter of one pharaoh and wife to another
- c. her son, Thutmose III, was too young to take over
- d. carried out king's rituals to gain the people's support
- e. dressed as a king and wore a false beard that symbolized strength and power
- f. ruled peacefully and built wealth and power through trade
  - 1.) traded in Punt in East Africa
  - 2.) brought back wood, ivory, gold, and perfumes
  - 3.) recorded this history on stone walls of a huge temple

### 2. Thutmose III

- a. took over when she died
- b. used war to get stronger and grow
- c. conquered land in Africa, Syria, and the Fertile Crescent
- d. gained wealth, power, and prestige

### 3. Ramses II

- a. also used war to build wealth and power
- b. fought Canaan and Syria
- c. fought Hittites in Kadesh (Syria) and lost many men
- d. made peace after agreeing on a border
- e. a great builder – built the most monuments of all pharaohs

## II. Achievements of Egyptian Civilization

### A. Writing and Literature

#### 1. **hieroglyphics**

- a. a drawing or symbol that represents a word or sound
- b. one of the world's first writing systems
- c. preserved records and literature
- d. may have swapped ideas with the Sumerians
- e. both used phonemes and logograms – signs for sounds or words
- f. scribes
  - 1.) officials who knew how to write
  - 2.) extremely valued
  - 3.) keeping records and preserving knowledge helped them grow

#### 2. **papyrus**

- a. material similar to paper made from reeds that grew along the Nile
- b. where we got the word *paper*
- c. wrote in ink on easy-to-transport sheets
- d. medical books, calendar, stories, poems, and prayers
- e. **survived** the heat – lasted, continued to live
- f. showed us what was in their hearts and minds

#### 3. literature

- a. teachings, stories, poems, religious texts, and histories
- b. on papyrus, stone monuments, and painted coffins
- c. *The Book of the Dead* – guide to the afterlife
- d. *The Tale of Sinuhe* – tale of an Egyptian official that flees out of fear after the death of the pharaoh

### B. Architecture and Art

#### 1. temples and tombs

- a. for gods and pharaohs
- b. Karnak is the biggest, built with massive stone blocks

#### 2. pyramids

- a. tombs in underground chambers
- b. contained items for the ruler in the afterlife
- c. Imhotep designed the step pyramid
- d. later designed a true **pyramid** – structure with triangular sides
- e. pyramids of Giza
  - 1.) Old Kingdom
  - 2.) built for King Khufu, son Khafre, and grandson Menkaure
  - 3.) Khufu's was the tallest building in the world for 4,000 years
- f. the Sphinx – famous statue guarding the road to Khafre's pyramid
- g. shows mathematical and building skills
- h. thousands of laborers (farmers) built by hand
- i. later pharaohs carved tombs from cliffs along the Nile

#### 3. painting and sculpture

- a. painted on tomb walls
- b. not decorative – showed work and play for the afterlife
- c. **sculpture** – a statue or other free-standing piece of art made of clay, stone, etc.
- d. placed in the tomb for the spirit in case the mummy was destroyed

### C. Science and Math

#### 1. calendar

- a. lunar, or moon-based, year of about 354 days
- b. caused seasons to be off because a real year is a solar, or sun-based, year of 365 days

- c. watched for Sirius star just above the horizon at sunrise to know when the Nile would flood
- d. added an extra month to their calendar to match the seasons
- e. every year had a different number of days
- f. developed a solar calendar instead
- g. Greeks added leap year when they ruled Egypt

2. mathematics

- a. **construct** – to build or put together
- b. had to know arithmetic (+, -, x, /) and geometry (measurement of dimensions) to build the pyramids

3. science, technology, and medicine

- a. astronomy – study of the stars and other objects in the sky
- b. engineering – built huge structures
- c. chemistry – invented glass, mortar, and cosmetics
- d. irrigation – to control waters
- e. **anatomy** – study of the structure of the body and its organs
- f. skilled surgeons
- g. studied diseases and developed medicines to treat and cure them

### III. Egypt and Kush

#### A. Kush

1. south up the Nile
2. also called Nubia

#### B. trade

1. Egypt lacked forests, minerals, horses, etc.
2. **commerce** – buying and selling goods and services
3. Egyptians wanted luxury goods
  - a. expensive goods you don't need but make life more enjoyable
  - b. precious stones, perfumes, etc.
  - c. accessible because of trade
4. eastern Mediterranean
  - a. Snefru sent merchants and officials to promote trade
  - b. crossed the Red Sea to buy cedar wood in Lebanon
  - c. also bought olive oil, tin, and copper
  - d. New Kingdom pharaohs signed peace treaties with enemies and married princesses for more trade
5. Nile Valley and Kush
  - a. gold and **ivory** – hard white material made from elephant tusks
  - b. incense and **ebony** – dark, black wood
  - c. sold grain, cloth, papyrus, glass, and jewelry
  - d. **relied** on one another – depended on, trusted
  - e. created **interdependence** – dependence by each country or group on the other
  - f. the Kushites adopted elements of Egyptian culture like religion

#### C. Development of Kush

1. geography
  - a. upper Nile Valley
  - b. a lot of rainfall, farmland, and land for cattle
  - c. depended on the Nile floods
  - d. **generated** a surplus – produced, created
  - e. supported cities of artisans and merchants
  - f. traveled by foot through the desert because of cataracts in the river
  - g. less land than Egypt so traded gold and iron for Egypt's grain
  - h. also traded with Africa
2. archaeology
  - a. shows evidence of a powerful kingdom and trade with Egypt
  - b. saw kings as gods (the belief maybe started in Africa and moved north)

#### D. Kush and Egypt

1. Egypt conquered Kush
  - a. Egyptians used gold from Kush to trade for goods in the Mediterranean
  - b. conquered Kush during both the Middle Kingdom and New Kingdom
  - c. had to pay tribute – gold, cattle, ivory, ostrich feathers, and slaves
  - d. regained independence when Ramses II died
2. Kush conquered Egypt
  - a. Kushite king conquered Thebes
  - b. Piye, or Piankhi, expanded by conquering more
  - c. declared himself pharaoh of both Egypt and Kush
  - d. ruled Egypt for almost one hundred years
  - e. promoted Egyptian ways they had learned
  - f. created painted pottery
  - g. lost to the Assyrians and retreated to Kush

## E. Kush's Accomplishments

1. continued for another thousand years
2. developed a writing system, economy, and government
3. Egyptians destroyed the capital, Napata
4. moved the capital south to Meroe
  - a. easier to defend
  - b. located near iron deposits
  - c. close to a trade route from Central Africa
  - d. received a lot of rain for wood
  - e. used the wood to smelt, or melt out, iron from rock (iron ore)
  - f. became an ironworking center
  - g. iron tools and weapons were stronger than Egypt's bronze
  - h. made jewelry and other objects from gold
5. pyramids
  - a. built hundreds at Napata and Meroe
  - b. built at steep angles
  - c. held tombs of kings and queen-mothers
  - d. *candaces* – queen-mothers, sometimes more powerful than kings
6. **Meroitic script** – one of the world's first alphabets
  - a. scholars can read it but don't understand the words
7. links to Africa
  - a. traded iron goods, cloth, and gold with Africa
  - b. bought ebony and ivory
  - c. sold African slaves to Egyptians
8. links to Greek and Roman Egypt
  - a. sold ebony, ivory, gold, and iron goods
  - b. bought grains and cloth
  - c. used irrigation but still had to trade for food
9. using the Red Sea, traded metalwork as far away as India
10. weakened
  - a. war with the Romans
  - b. raids by desert people
  - c. conquered by Axum (Ethiopia)
11. their traditions continue in the region today