

Ancient Egypt and Kush



Essential Question

How was the success of the Egyptian civilization tied to the Nile River?

CONNECT **Geography & History**

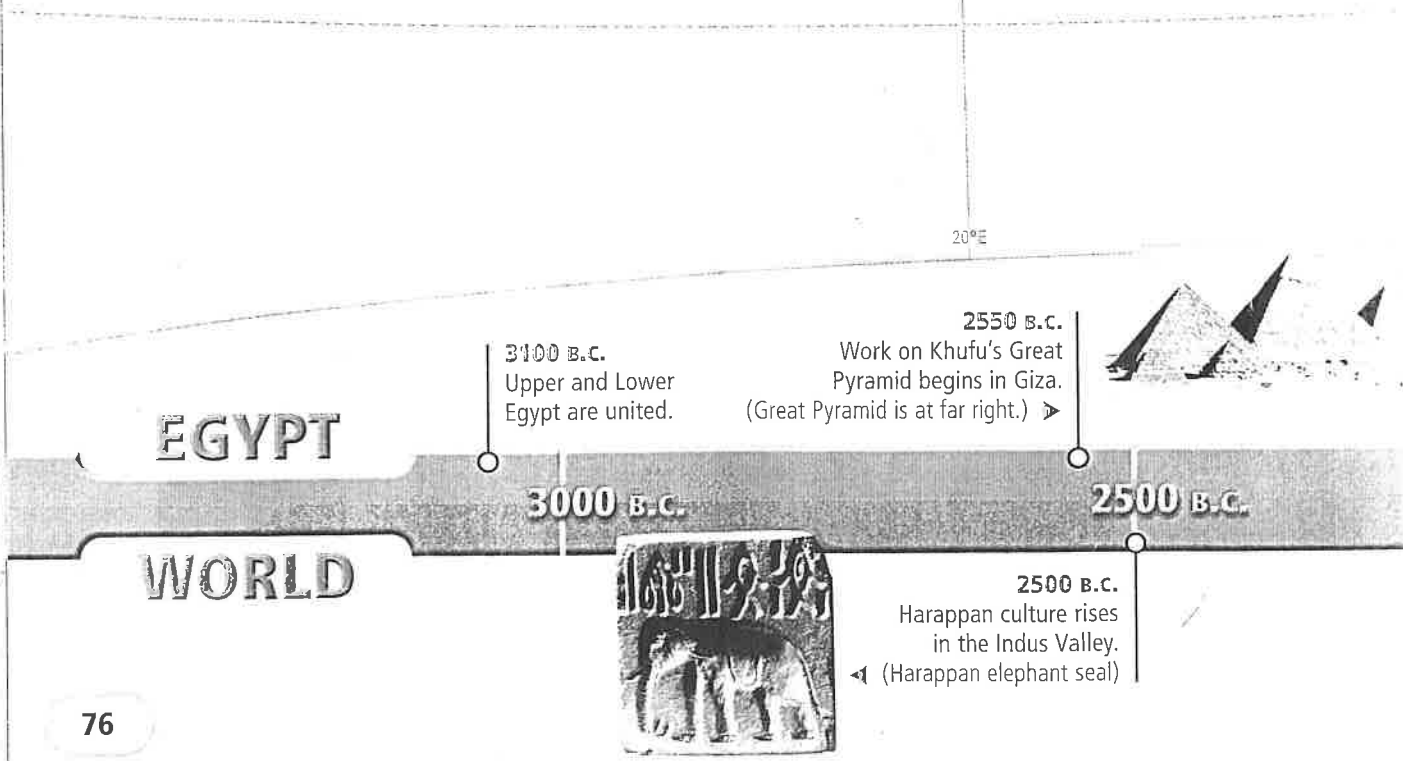
Use the map and the time line to answer the following questions.

1. Around what geographical feature does most of Egypt's fertile land lie? Why do you think this is so?
2. In what year did the pharaoh who built a temple at Abu Simbel begin his reign?

	Desert
	Fertile area
	Cataract
	Direction of Nile River current
	Direction of wind
	City

0 75 150 miles
0 75 150 kilometers

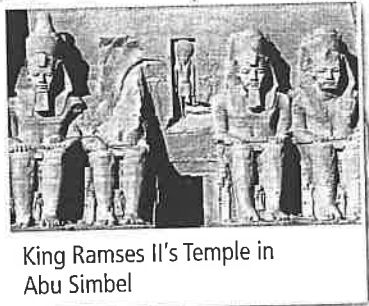
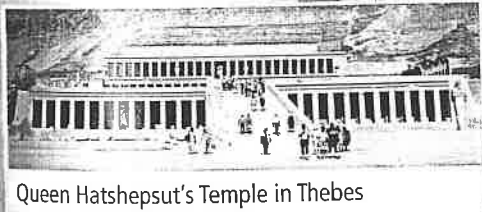
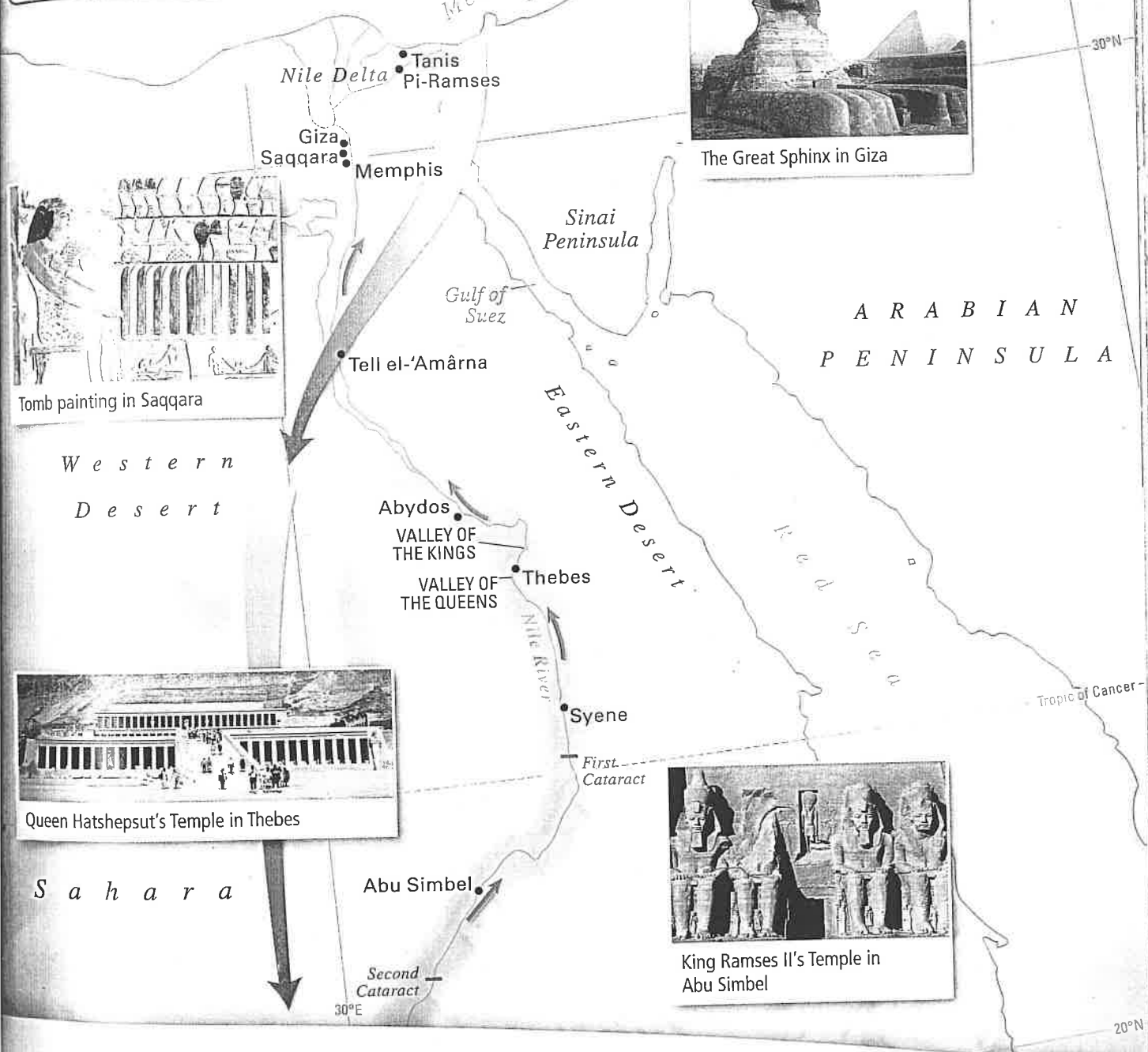
AFRICA



Ancient Egypt 3100–1200 B.C.

Click here to take a journey down the Nile River @ ClassZone.com

ASIA



1630 B.C. Hyksos conquer Egypt.

1472 B.C. Hatshepsut, first woman pharaoh, comes to power.

1279 B.C. Ramses II begins his 66-year reign.

2000 B.C. **1500 B.C.** **1000 B.C.**

1790 B.C. Hammurabi's Code is issued in the Babylonian Empire.

1760 B.C. Shang Dynasty comes to power in China.



1200 B.C. Olmec rise in Mexico. (Olmec giant stone head)

Section
1

Reading for Understanding

▶ Key Ideas

BEFORE, YOU LEARNED

The civilizations of Mesopotamia relied on the yearly flooding of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers to support their agriculture.

NOW YOU WILL LEARN

Egyptian civilization relied on the Nile River, which provided water for transportation and farming and even mud for bricks to build houses.

▶ Vocabulary

TERMS & NAMES

cataract (KAT•uh•RAKT) high waterfall or rapids

delta triangle-shaped deposit of rich soil near a river's mouth

silt fine, fertile soil carried by rivers and deposited on nearby lands

fertile favorable for the growth of crops and other plants

linen fabric woven from fibers of the flax plant

BACKGROUND VOCABULARY

plateau flat land area that is raised sharply above other nearby land

quarried obtained stone by cutting, digging, or blasting

REVIEW

irrigation watering of dry land by using ditches, pipes, or streams



Visual Vocabulary delta

▶ Reading Strategy

Re-create the chart shown at right. As you read and respond to the **KEY QUESTIONS**, look for the effects of each event listed in the chart. Record the effects on your own chart.



See Skillbuilder Handbook, page R7.

ANALYZE CAUSES AND EFFECTS

Causes

Effects

Floods

New agricultural techniques

Many natural resources



GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS

Go to Interactive Review @ClassZone.com

Gift of the Nile



Connect to What You Know Have you ever received a gift that was very important to you? The Nile River was so important to Egypt that 2,500 years ago, an ancient Greek historian called Egypt “the gift of the Nile.”

△ **Fish Bottle** This glass bottle in the shape of a tilapia, a common Nile River fish, is about six inches long. Bottles of this type often held precious oils or cosmetics.

Geography of Ancient Egypt

▽ **KEY QUESTION** How did the Nile’s yearly flood benefit Egypt?

The Greek historian knew what he was talking about. The Nile River has fed Egyptian civilization for over 5,000 years.

The Longest River The Nile is 4,160 miles long—the world’s longest river. It begins near the equator in Africa and flows north to the Mediterranean Sea. In the south it churns with cataracts. A **cataract** (KAT•uh•RAKT) is a waterfall. Near the sea, the Nile branches into a delta. A **delta** is an area near a river’s mouth where the water deposits fine soil called **silt**. In the delta, the Nile divides into many streams.

The river begins in the south and flows north, emptying into the Mediterranean Sea. For this reason, the Upper Nile is in the south and the Lower Nile is in the north. For centuries, heavy rains on the Ethiopian **Plateau** caused the Nile to flood every summer. The floods deposited rich soil along the Nile’s shores. This soil was **fertile**, which means it was good for growing crops. In fact, it was the most fertile soil in all of Africa. Fortunately for Egyptian farmers, the Nile River flooded at about the same time every year, so farmers could predict when to plant their crops.

The Nile Valley Fertile land in Egypt stretches along the Nile and then gives way to desert. As a result, Egypt was a narrow country. ▼



Black Land, Red Land The ancient Egyptians lived in narrow bands of land on each side of the Nile. They called this region the black land because of the fertile soil that the floods deposited. The red land was the barren desert beyond the fertile region.

Weather in Egypt was almost always the same. Eight months of the year were sunny and hot. The four months of winter were sunny but cooler. Most of the region received only an inch of rain a year.

The parts of Egypt not near the Nile were deserts. The harsh desert acted as a barrier to keep out enemies. The Mediterranean coast was swampy and lacked good harbors. For these reasons, early Egyptians stayed close to home.

▲ **SUMMARIZE** Identify the benefits of Nile River floods for Egyptians.

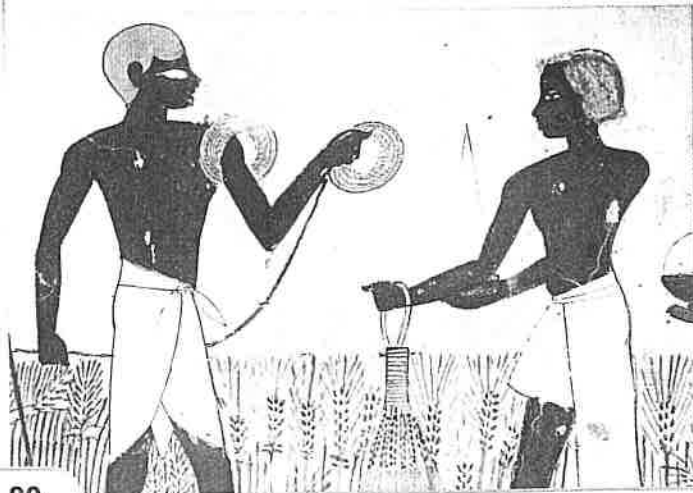
Land of Plenty

▼ **KEY QUESTION** How did Egyptians use the land around the Nile?

Each year, Egyptian farmers watched for white birds called ibises (EYE•bihs•uhz), which flew up from the south. When the birds arrived, the annual flood waters would soon follow. After the waters drained away, farmers could plant seeds in the fertile soil.

Primary Source

Background Poetry celebrating the Nile dates back about 5,000 years. The flooding of the Nile each year was a joyous occasion and a mystery. Ancient Egyptians had no knowledge of the natural events that brought the yearly flood. Very simply, they knew it was good, and they gave thanks for their good fortune, as in the following poem.



▶ from "Hymn to the Nile"

Praise to thee, O Nile, that issueth forth from the earth and comest to nourish the dwellers in Egypt. . . . That maketh barley and createth wheat, that maketh the temples to keep festival. . . .

When he arises earth rejoices and all men are glad; every jaw laughs and every tooth is uncovered. Bringer of nourishment, plenteous of sustenance, creating all things good.

Lord of reverence, sweet of savour, appeasing evil. Creating herbage for the cattle, causing sacrifice to be made to every god.

He is in the Underworld, in heaven, and upon earth, Filling the barns and widening the granaries; giving to the poor.

Causing trees to grow according to the uttermost desire, So that men go not in lack of them.

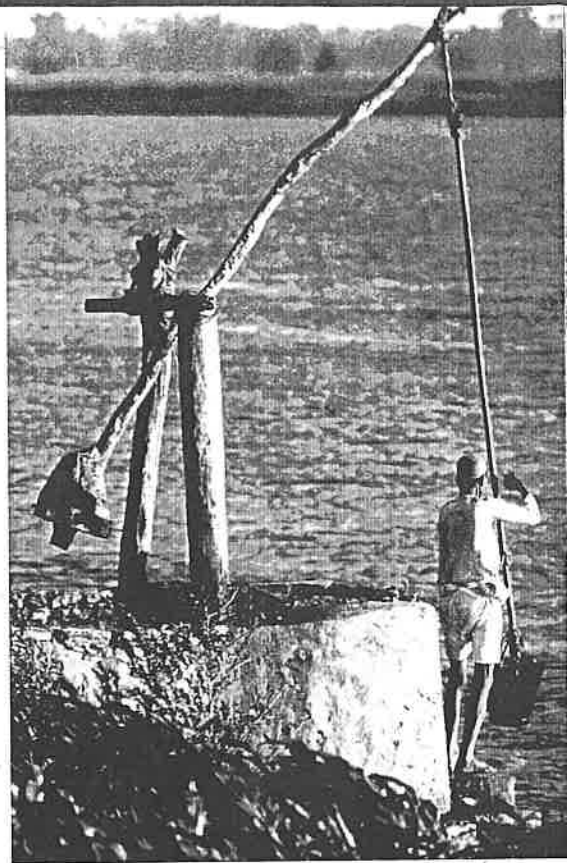
▶ Two surveyors measure the wheat crop before it is harvested.

DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTION

What did the Nile do for which the ancient Egyptians gave thanks?

Agricultural Techniques Controlling the yearly flood of the Nile for agricultural use must have been a community effort. To make use of the water, early Egyptian farmers had to work together. Mostly, they had to move earth. **Irrigation** canals had to be dug to divert water to dry areas. Catch basins, areas where water would pool to be used at a later date, also needed to be dug. Much of the earth removed for canals and basins could be used to build embankments to protect other areas from the flood.

Later, around 1600 B.C., a tool called the shadoof (shah•DOOF) was introduced from Southwest Asia. Egyptian farmers used it to move water between the Nile and a canal, a canal and a catch basin, or a catch basin and a field. The shadoof greatly improved Egyptians' ability to use water efficiently.



Egyptian Crops Ancient Egyptians grew a large variety of foods. Grains, such as wheat and barley, were the Egyptians' staple crops. They were the first to grind wheat into flour and to mix the flour with yeast and water to make dough rise into bread. They grew vegetables such as lettuce, radishes, onions, and cucumbers. Fruits included dates, figs, and grapes.

Egyptians also grew the materials for their clothes. They were the first to weave fibers from flax plants into a fabric called **linen**. Lightweight linen cloth was perfect for hot Egyptian days. Men wore linen wraps around their waists. Women wore loose, sleeveless dresses. Egyptians also wove marsh grasses into sandals.

Egyptian Houses Egyptians built houses using bricks made of mud from the Nile mixed with chopped straw. They placed narrow windows high in the walls to reduce bright sunlight. Egyptians often painted walls white to reflect the blazing heat. They wove sticks and palm branches to make roofs. Inside, woven reed mats covered the dirt floor. Most Egyptians slept on mats covered with linen sheets. Wealthy citizens enjoyed bed frames and cushions.

Egyptian nobles had fancier homes with tree-lined courtyards for shade. Some had pools filled with lotus blossoms and fish. Poor Egyptians simply went to the roof to cool off after sunset. They often cooked, ate, and even slept outside.

CONNECT to Today

▲ **Shadoof** A shadoof is a bucket on a lever. It was used to lift water from the Nile or canals. Some Egyptians still use shadoofs today. **Why might this ancient technology still be used in modern Egypt?**

▲ **SUMMARIZE** Explain the different ways that ancient Egyptians used the land near the Nile.

Geography Shapes Egyptian Life

▼ **KEY QUESTION** What economic activities developed in Egypt?

Egypt's economy depended on farming. However, Egyptians also used other natural resources to provide for their everyday needs and develop economic activities.

Mining The Egyptians mined and **quarried** many different metals and minerals for a wide range of activities that were important to their society. For example, they mined copper as early as 4000 B.C. and used it to make tools and weapons. Later, because of its superior strength, iron became the metal of choice. Copper and iron were mined in the Eastern Desert and on the Sinai Peninsula.

Gold was also mined in both of these extremely hot and harsh areas. Egyptians prized gold highly, and their goldsmiths were among the best in the ancient world. The Egyptian word for gold was *nub*. As a result, they called the area south of the second cataract of the Nile—another region with rich gold deposits—Nubia (NOO•bee•uh).

Many types of stone were also worked throughout Egypt. Egyptians used fine white limestone, quarried near Memphis, for special projects such as temple and tomb walls. Just north of the first cataract, granite was quarried at Aswan. Workers loaded it onto boats for transport to important religious and artistic centers, such as Thebes or Memphis. It was an important raw material for builders and sculptors.

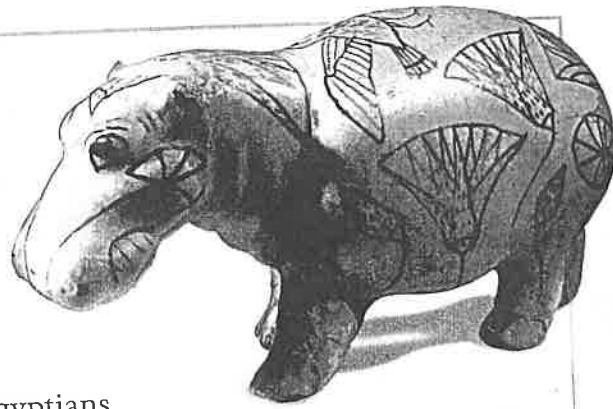
Egyptians mined precious stones as well. They were probably the first people in the world to mine turquoise (TUR•KWOYZ). Turquoise and another kind of precious stone, emerald, were mined in the Eastern Desert. Both were used to make jewelry for royals and nobles.

Fishing and Hunting The Nile had fish and other wildlife that Egyptians wanted. To go on the river, Egyptians made lightweight rafts by binding together reeds. They used everything from nets to harpoons to catch fish. One ancient painting even shows a man ready to hit a catfish with a wooden hammer.



▲ **Hunter** This wall painting from a tomb shows a man hunting marsh birds.

More adventurous hunters speared hippopotamuses and crocodiles along the Nile. Egyptians also captured quail with nets. They used boomerangs to knock down flying ducks and geese. (A boomerang is a curved stick that returns to the person who threw it.)



▲ Hippopotamus This ceramic hippo figurine has a turquoise glaze. Its bird, reed, and lotus flower decorations show it is a river dweller.

Transportation and Trade Eventually, Egyptians equipped their reed boats with sails and oars, and the Nile became a highway. The river's current was slow, so boaters used oars to go faster when they traveled north with the current. Going south, they raised a sail and let the winds push them.

The Nile provided so well for Egyptians that they often had surpluses, or more goods than they needed. They began to trade with each other. Ancient Egypt had no money, so people traded their surplus goods. This method of trade is called bartering. They also traded with other nearby peoples. Trade with Nubia brought exotic animals, gold, ivory, and incense to Egypt. Egypt also traded northeast across the Mediterranean with what are today Lebanon and Syria.

Egyptians found ways to put their surroundings to use. Their clever adaptations to their environment allowed them to build a complex society, as you'll see in Section 2.

▲ **SUMMARIZE** Explain the economic activities that developed in Egypt.

1

Section Assessment

ONLINE QUIZ
For test practice, go to
Interactive Review
@ClassZone.com

Terms & Names

1. Explain the importance of

- cataract silt linen
- delta fertile

Use Your Reading Notes

2. Analyze Causes and Effects Use your completed chart to answer the following question:

How did new agricultural techniques make the Egyptians more prosperous?

Causes	Effects
Floods	
New agricultural techniques	
Many natural resources	

Key Ideas

3. Why did Egypt develop along the Nile?
4. How did irrigation canals expand farmland in Egypt?
5. What made it possible for Egyptians to begin trading among themselves and with neighboring societies?

Critical Thinking

6. **Make Inferences** How did climate affect the daily lives of Egyptians?
7. **Draw Conclusions** What innovations did Egyptians apply to the gifts that the Nile provided?

Activity

Make a Sketch Create a sketch showing the different types of economic activities that took place in ancient Egypt.

Section
2

Reading for Understanding

► Key Ideas

BEFORE, YOU LEARNED

The Nile River supplied the people of Egypt with a surplus of the important goods needed for survival.

NOW YOU WILL LEARN

The prosperity of Egypt encouraged advances in the arts, religion, mathematics, and the sciences.

► Vocabulary

TERMS & NAMES

scribes people who specialized in writing and record keeping

hieroglyphs (HY•uhr•uh•GLIHFS) pictures that stand for words or sounds

papyrus (puh•PY•ruhs) paper-like material made from the stems of the papyrus reed

afterlife a life believed to follow death

embalm to preserve a body after death

mummy body prepared for burial according to ancient Egyptian practice

BACKGROUND VOCABULARY

artisans skilled workers; craftspeople

rituals sets of ceremonies or rites used in a place of worship

geometry mathematical study of the properties, measurement, and relationships of points, lines, angles, surfaces, and solids

REVIEW

specializations skills in certain types of work

polytheism belief in many gods and goddesses

► Reading Strategy

Re-create the web diagram shown at right. As you read and respond to the **KEY QUESTIONS**, look for three categories of Egyptian culture and details about them. Record the information in the diagram.



See Skillbuilder Handbook, page R6.

CATEGORIZE



GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS

Go to Interactive Review @ClassZone.com

Life in Ancient Egypt

Connect to What You Know As you have seen, Egypt prospered along the Nile. This prosperity made life easier and provided greater opportunities for many Egyptians.

Work and Family Life

▼ **KEY QUESTION** How did work and social roles affect people in ancient Egypt?

When farmers produce food surpluses, the society's economy begins to expand. Cities emerge as centers of culture and power, and people learn to do jobs that do not involve agriculture. For example, some ancient Egyptians learned to be **scribes**, people whose job was to write and keep records.

Specialized Jobs As Egyptian civilization grew more complex, people took on jobs other than that of a farmer or scribe. Some skilled **artisans** erected stone or brick houses and temples. Other artisans developed their own **specializations**. They made pottery, mats, furniture, linen clothing, sandals, or jewelry.

A few Egyptians traveled to the upper Nile to trade with other Africans. These traders took Egyptian products such as scrolls, linen, gold, and jewelry. They brought back exotic woods, animal skins, and live beasts.



▲ **Cat Mummy** Some Egyptians made their dead pets into mummies and gave them a formal burial. Cats were especially honored in Egypt.

Luxor, Egypt Skilled artisans helped to build this temple and the shafts with pointed tops, which are called obelisks. ▼



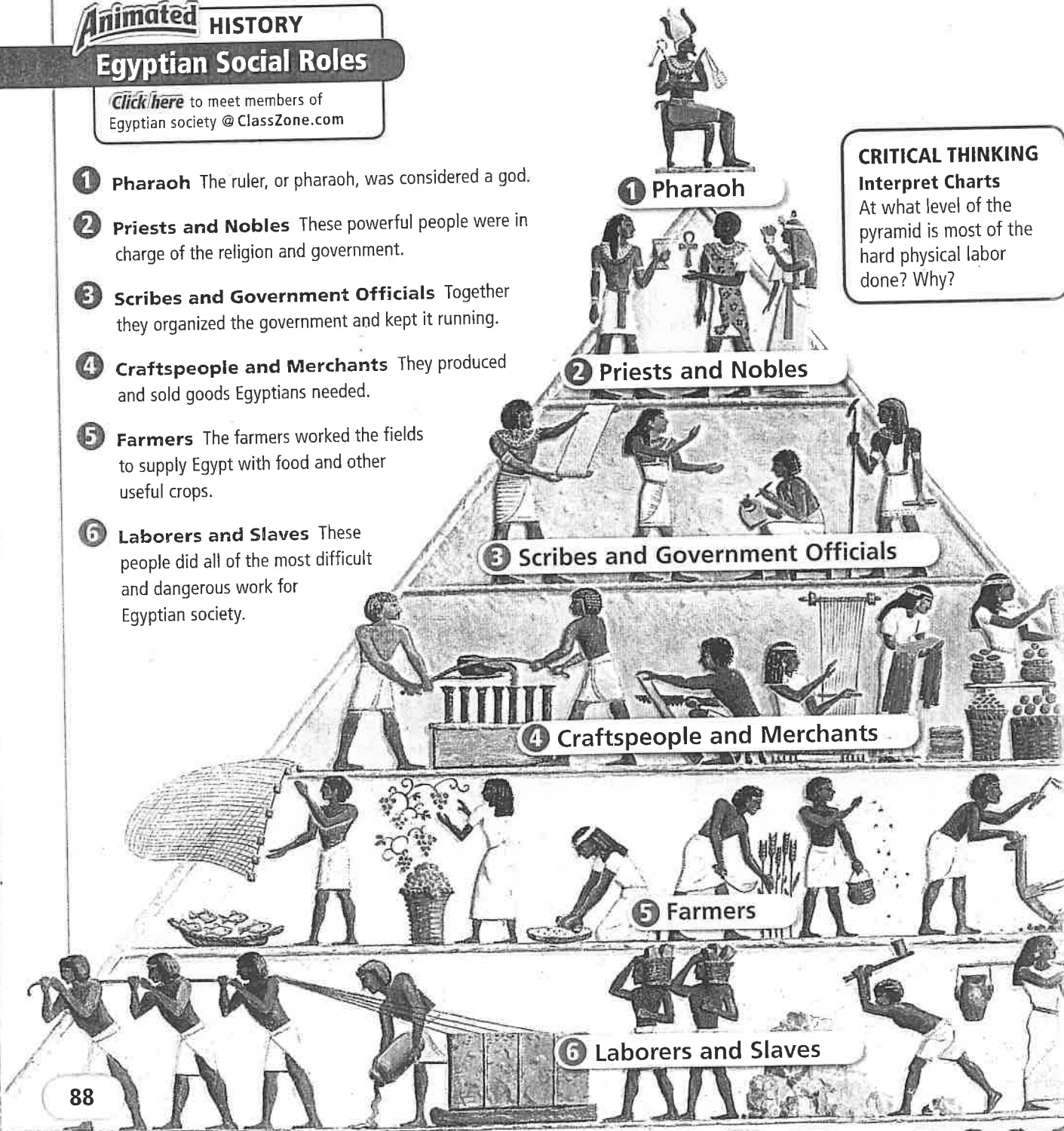
Rulers and Priests As Egypt grew, so did its need to organize. Egyptians created a government that divided the empire into 42 provinces. Many officials worked to keep the provinces running smoothly. Egypt also created an army to defend itself.

One of the highest jobs in Egypt was to be a priest. Priests followed formal **rituals** and took care of the temples. Before entering a temple, a priest bathed and put on special linen garments and white sandals. Priests cleaned the sacred statues in temples, changed their clothes, and even fed them meals.

Animated HISTORY
Egyptian Social Roles

[Click here](#) to meet members of Egyptian society @ClassZone.com

- 1 **Pharaoh** The ruler, or pharaoh, was considered a god.
- 2 **Priests and Nobles** These powerful people were in charge of the religion and government.
- 3 **Scribes and Government Officials** Together they organized the government and kept it running.
- 4 **Craftspeople and Merchants** They produced and sold goods Egyptians needed.
- 5 **Farmers** The farmers worked the fields to supply Egypt with food and other useful crops.
- 6 **Laborers and Slaves** These people did all of the most difficult and dangerous work for Egyptian society.



CRITICAL THINKING
Interpret Charts
 At what level of the pyramid is most of the hard physical labor done? Why?

Together, the priests and the ruler held ceremonies to please the gods. Egyptians believed that if the gods were angry, the Nile would not flood. As a result, crops would not grow, and people would die. So the ruler and the priests tried hard to keep the gods satisfied. By doing so, they hoped to maintain the social and political order.

Slaves Slaves were at the bottom of society. In Egypt, most of the slaves were captured in war. Some were captured soldiers, and others were just unlucky enough to be on the losing side.

Many of these enslaved people worked on public building projects, such as pyramids or temples. As difficult as this work was, it was preferable to working in the mines and quarries of the Eastern Desert and the Sinai. Assignment to these work sites was often a one-way trip. Shortages of slave labor were remedied quickly and cruelly. For instance, when the pharaoh Ramses II needed more labor for one of his major building projects, he sent soldiers into the Western Desert to kidnap Lybians. (You'll read more about Ramses in Section 4.)

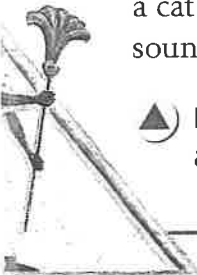
Slaves who were domestic servants were comparatively lucky. They worked in less dangerous circumstances, lived in more comfortable housing, and ate more and better food. They could also rise to fairly important, trusted positions within the household.

Women and Children Egypt was one of the best places in the ancient world to be a woman. Unlike other ancient African cultures, in Egyptian society men and women had fairly equal rights. For example, they could both own and manage their own property.

The main job of most women was to care for their children and home, but some did other jobs too. Some women wove cloth. Others worked with their husbands in fields or workshops.

Children in Egypt played with toys such as dolls, animal figures, board games, and marbles. Their parents made the toys from wood or clay. Boys and girls also played rough physical games with balls made of leather or reeds. Boys and some girls from wealthy families went to schools run by scribes or priests. Most other children learned their parents' jobs. Almost all Egyptians married in their early teens.

Pets Ancient Egyptians kept many different kinds of pets. Dogs were kept to take on hunting trips, as they sometimes are today. There was also a popular breed (resembling a dachshund) that was more of a lapdog. The cat, however, was the most favored pet. There was even a cat goddess, Bastet. The Egyptian word for cat was *miw*, after the sound a cat makes.

 **DRAW CONCLUSIONS** Explain the roles of people at different levels of ancient Egyptian society.

Expanding Knowledge

▼ **KEY QUESTION** How did learning advance in ancient Egypt?

As in many ancient societies, much of the knowledge of Egypt came about as priests studied the world to find ways to please the gods. Other advances came about because of practical discoveries.

Writing Beginning about 3000 B.C., Egyptians developed a writing system using hieroglyphs. **Hieroglyphs** (HY•uhr•uh•GLIHFS) are pictures that stand for different words or sounds. Early Egyptians created a hieroglyphic system with about 700 characters. Over time the system grew to include more than 6,000 symbols.

The Egyptians also developed a paper-like material called **papyrus** (puh•PY•ruhs) from a reed of the same name. Egyptians cut the stems into strips, pressed them, and dried them into sheets that could be rolled into scrolls. Papyrus scrolls were light and easy to carry. Using these scrolls, Egyptians created some of the first books.

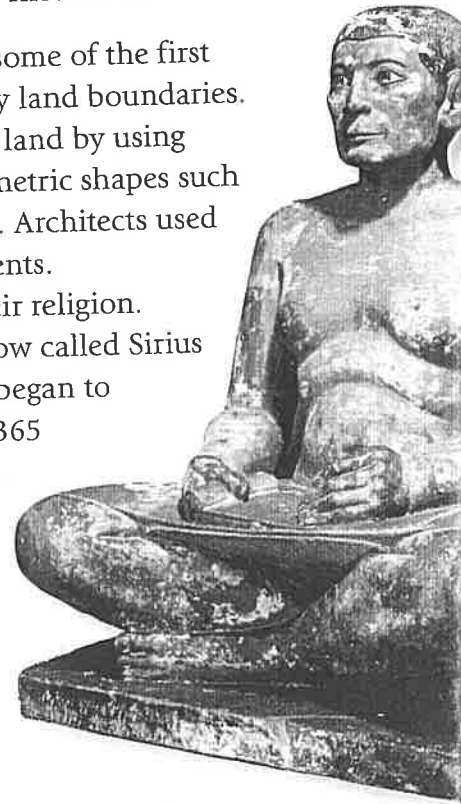
Math and Science The Egyptians developed some of the first **geometry**. Each year the Nile's floods washed away land boundaries. To restore property lines, surveyors measured the land by using ropes that were knotted at regular intervals. Geometric shapes such as squares and triangles were sacred to Egyptians. Architects used them in the design of royal temples and monuments.

Egyptian priests studied the sky as part of their religion. About 5,000 years ago, they noticed that a star now called Sirius (SIHR•ee•uhs) appeared shortly before the Nile began to flood. The star returned to the same position in 365 days. Based on that, Egyptians developed the world's first practical calendar.

Medicine Egyptian medics often prepared dead bodies for burial, so they knew the parts of the body. That knowledge helped them perform some of the world's first surgeries. One papyrus scroll, for example, contains instructions on how to stitch a serious cut.

Amazingly, another text even suggests putting pieces of moldy bread on wounds. Penicillin, an antibiotic that changed modern medicine, is made from mold. Egyptian doctors also used willow bark to create an effective pain reliever. Analysis shows that this bark contains a substance quite similar to aspirin.

▲ **SUMMARIZE** List and explain Egypt's advances in learning.



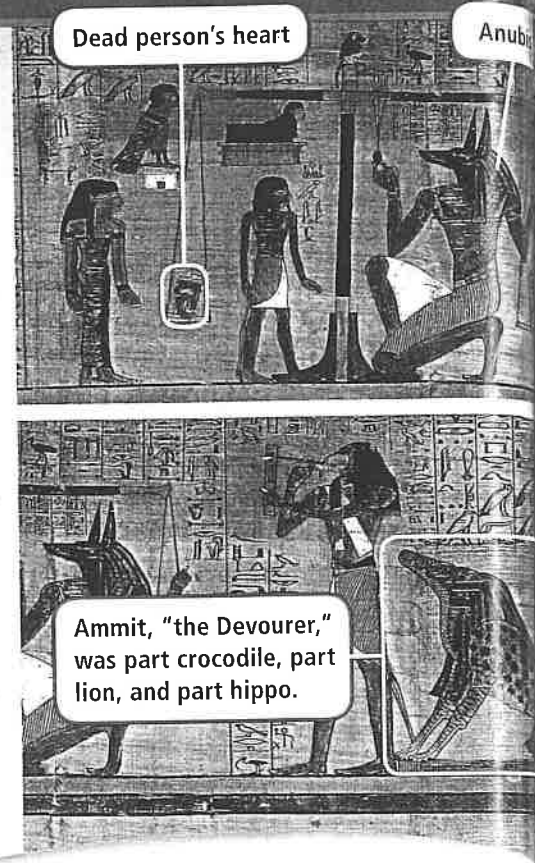
▲ **Scribe** A person who wanted to be a scribe had to study many years to learn all of the hieroglyphs.

The Book of the Dead

The Book of the Dead was a sacred text made up of magic formulas and charms designed to aid the deceased in their journey into the afterlife. The number of magic spells grew over time to about 200, although none of the surviving papyrus scrolls contains them all. Scribes wrote out the text, and artists added fantastic illustrations. The image at right illustrates Egyptians' belief that bad deeds made a heart heavy. According to the Book of the Dead, the god Anubis weighed each dead person's heart. If it was lighter than a feather, the reward was a happy afterlife. If not, Anubis fed the heart to the demon Ammit.

CRITICAL THINKING

Draw Conclusions How did the god Anubis know whether someone had committed bad deeds during his or her life?



Many Gods As you learned in Chapter 2, **polytheism** is a belief in many gods. The Egyptians worshiped gods that were related to the afterlife and to parts of nature, such as the sun or the river.

Many gods were worshiped in certain areas only. The god Amun began as a local deity—the chief god of Thebes. Later, Amun became much more important when a Theban family became a line of pharaohs. Some important Egyptian gods are shown in the chart at right.

Making Mummies Egyptians embalmed the bodies of their dead before they were placed in tombs. **Embalm** means to preserve a body after death. The practices that surround the process of embalming differed over time, but certain practices were common. First, embalmers removed all of the organs except the heart. Oddly, the brain was thought to be unimportant. While the other organs were kept and treated, the brain was simply removed and discarded.

The organs, other than the brain, were cleansed and put into separate jars. The embalmers washed and purified the empty body cavity. Next they packed and covered the body with natron—a natural drying agent and antiseptic that contained large amounts of salt.

God	Description
Re (ray)	the sun god (later called Amon Re)
Osiris (oh•SY•rihs)	a god who judged Egyptians after death
Isis (EYE•sihs)	a fertility goddess; Osiris' wife
Anubis (uh•NOO•bihs)	a god of the dead with the head of a jackal

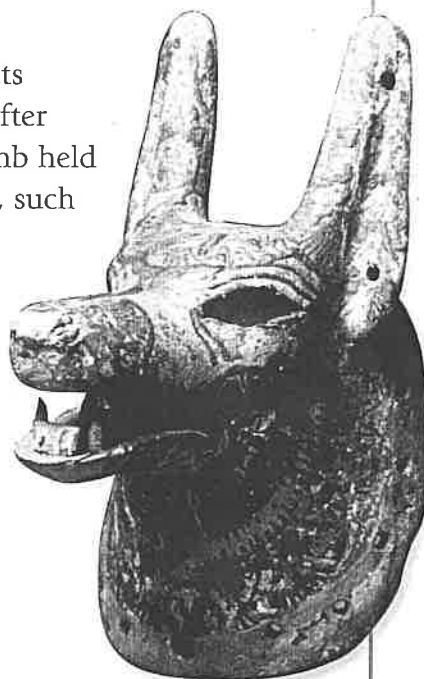
The drying action of the natron transformed the body into a **mummy**. A mummy is a body that has been dried so it won't decay. Linen pads or even sawdust were used to fill the body cavity. The mummy was wrapped in hundreds of yards of linen strips. The whole process of embalming and wrapping took about 70 days. Embalming was expensive, and not everyone could afford it.

Anubis Egyptians hoped that by appeasing the jackal-headed god, they could keep jackals from scavenging in graveyards. ▼

Egyptian Tombs The treatment of the body and the objects included in the tomb show that Egyptians believed that life after death was a kind of continuation of their earthly life. The tomb held many of the everyday objects any person might want or need, such as food, drink, tools, clothing, and furniture.

A person's living relatives were supposed to bring fresh food and drink to the tomb daily. Prayers for the dead person's soul were also to be said every day. Some wealthier families actually hired assistants to tend to the tomb and fulfill these duties.

Pyramids, the tombs of the pharaohs, have become the best-known symbols of ancient Egypt. You will learn about them and the pharaohs who built them in Section 3.



▲ **SUMMARIZE** Give a summary of Egyptians' religious beliefs.

2 Section Assessment

➔ **ONLINE QUIZ**
For test practice, go to
Interactive Review
@ ClassZone.com

Terms & Names

1. Explain the importance of

scribes	papyrus	embalm
hieroglyphs	afterlife	mummy

Use Your Reading Notes

2. **Categorize** Use your completed web diagram to answer the following question:

What jobs did Egyptians hold?



Key Ideas

- Why were some Egyptians able to become artisans?
- How were hieroglyphs used?
- What duties did priests have?

Critical Thinking

- Analyze Causes and Effects** Why were Egyptian discoveries in astronomy and medicine important?
- CONNECT to Today** How were the lives of children in ancient Egypt similar to and different from your life?

Activity

Write in Hieroglyphs Use the hieroglyphs shown on page 91 to write a few words. Share your hieroglyphs with a classmate and see if he or she can interpret them.

Section 3

Reading for Understanding

▶ Key Ideas

BEFORE, YOU LEARNED

Religion and learning were very important to Egyptian society.

NOW YOU WILL LEARN

Egyptians put their advances to use in building powerful societies during the Old and Middle kingdoms.

▶ Vocabulary

TERMS & NAMES

dynasty (DY•nuh•stee) family or group that rules for several generations

succession order in which members of a royal family inherit a throne

pharaoh (FAIR•oh) ruler of ancient Egypt

pyramid ancient Egyptian structure, built over or around a tomb

step pyramid type of pyramid with sides that rise in giant steps

Khufu (KOO•foo) pharaoh who ordered the construction of the largest pyramid ever built

BACKGROUND VOCABULARY

monuments structures built to honor a person, a group, or an event

overseers people who watch over and direct workers



Visual Vocabulary step pyramid

▶ Reading Strategy

Re-create the diagram shown at right. As you read and respond to the **KEY QUESTIONS**, jot down any main ideas and important details. Then use them to help you write a summary of the section.



See Skillbuilder Handbook, page R4.

SUMMARIZE

Main Ideas/
Details

Main Ideas/
Details

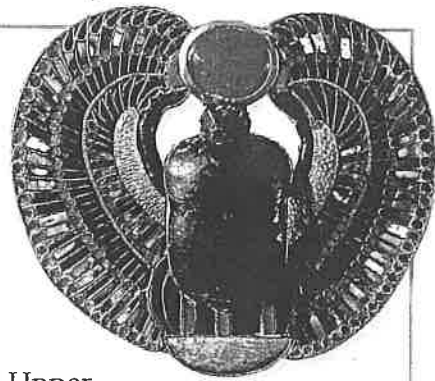
Summary About
Pyramids



GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS

Go to Interactive Review @ClassZone.com

The Pyramid Builders



Connect to What You Know You have read about the Upper Nile and the Lower Nile. There were also two kingdoms called Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt. They united into a strong empire.

▲ **Scarab** The scarab beetle was an important symbol to ancient Egyptians. It symbolized the eternal cycle of life.

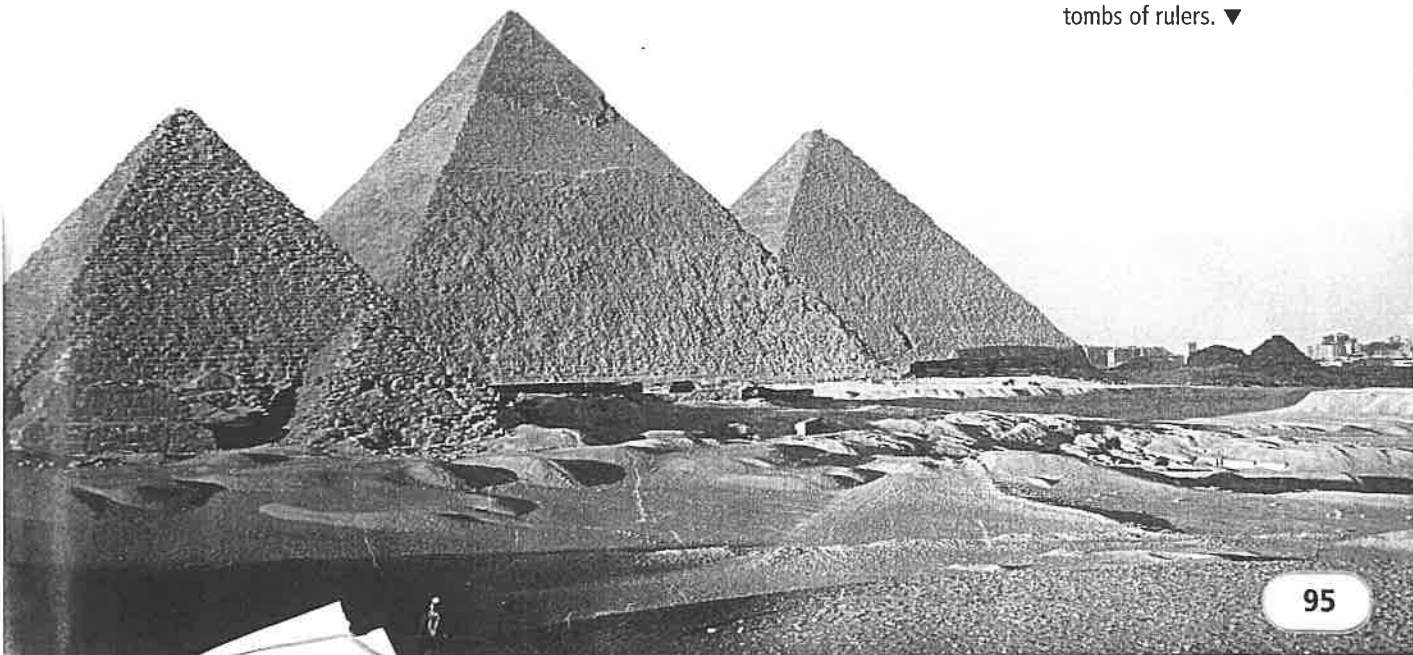
The Old Kingdom

▼ **KEY QUESTION** What kind of government ruled Egypt after it was united?

Legend says a king named Narmer united Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt. Some historians think Narmer actually represents several kings who gradually joined the two lands. The merging of Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt occurred in about 3100 B.C. Historians divide the history of ancient Egypt into the Old Kingdom, the Middle Kingdom, and the New Kingdom. It was during the Old Kingdom, which began in about 2575 B.C., that the pyramids most people associate with Egypt were built.

The First Dynasties The first dynasty of the Egyptian empire began when the country was unified. The first three Egyptian dynasties predate the Old Kingdom. A **dynasty** (DY•nuh•stee) is a line of rulers from the same family. When a king died, one of his children usually took his place as ruler. The order in which members of a royal family inherit a throne is called the **succession**. More than 30 dynasties ruled ancient Egypt.

Pyramids These structures, called pyramids, were built as monuments over the tombs of rulers. ▼



Pharaohs Rule The king of Egypt became known as the **pharaoh** (FAIR•oh). *Pharaoh* meant “great house,” and it was originally used to describe the king’s palace. Later it became the title of the king himself. The pharaoh ruled from the capital city of Memphis.

The ancient Egyptians thought the pharaoh was a child of the gods and a god himself. Egyptians believed that if the pharaoh and his subjects honored the gods, their lives would be happy. If Egypt suffered hard times for a long period, the people blamed the pharaoh for angering the gods. In such a case, a rival might drive him from power and start a new dynasty.

Because the pharaoh was thought to be a god, religion and government were not separate in Egypt. Priests had a lot of power in the government. Many high officials were priests.

▲ **EVALUATE** Explain what Egypt’s government was like after it was united.

Khufu’s Great Pyramid

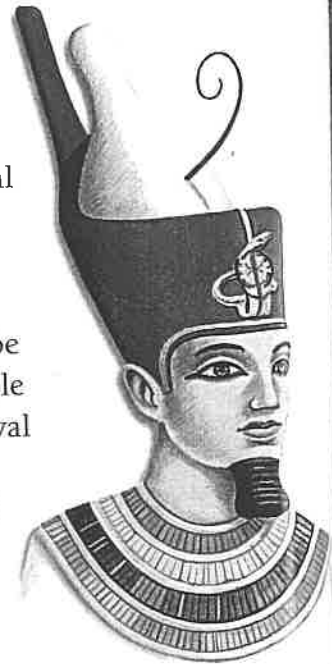
▼ **KEY QUESTION** How did the pharaoh Khufu proclaim his glory?

The first rulers of Egypt were often buried in an underground tomb topped by mud bricks. Soon, kings wanted more permanent monuments. They replaced the mud brick with a small pyramid of brick or stone. A **pyramid** is a structure shaped like a triangle, with four sides that meet at a point.

About 2630 B.C., King Djoser (ZHOH•suhr) built a much larger pyramid over his tomb. It is called a **step pyramid** because its sides rise in a series of giant steps. It is the oldest-known large stone structure in the world.

The Great Pyramid About 80 years later, a pharaoh named **Khufu** (KOO•FOO) decided he wanted a monument that would show the world how great he was. He ordered the construction of the largest pyramid ever built. Along its base, each side was about 760 feet long. The core was built from 2.3 million blocks of stone.

Building the Great Pyramid was hard work. Miners cut the huge blocks of stone using copper saws and chisels. These tools were much softer than the iron tools developed later, so the work was slow and difficult. Other teams of workers pulled the stone slabs up long, sloping ramps to the place where each slab would be used on the pyramid. Workers dragged each heavy block hundreds of feet and then set it in place.



▲ **The Double Crown** This crown combined the white crown of Upper Egypt and the red crown of Lower Egypt. It symbolized a united kingdom. **What purpose might this crown have served for the pharaoh?**

Farmers did the heavy labor of hauling stone during the season when the Nile flooded their fields. Skilled stonecutters and **overseers** worked year-round. The Great Pyramid took nearly 20 years to build. An estimated 20,000 Egyptians worked on it. A city called Giza (GEE•zuh) was built for the pyramid workers and the people who fed, clothed, and housed them.

Grave Robbers Eventually, Egyptians stopped building pyramids. One reason is that the pyramids drew attention to the tombs inside them. Grave robbers broke into the tombs to steal the treasure buried with the pharaohs. Sometimes they also stole the mummies.

Egyptians believed that if a tomb was robbed, the person buried there could not have a happy afterlife. During the New Kingdom, pharaohs began building secret tombs in an area called the Valley of the Kings. The burial chambers were hidden in mountains near the Nile. This way, the pharaohs hoped to protect their bodies and treasures from robbers.

As hard as the pharaohs tried to hide themselves, robbers stole the treasures from almost every tomb. The only tomb of a pharaoh from the New Kingdom that escaped robbery was that of Tutankhamen (TOOT•ahng•KAH•muhn). It was discovered in 1922. The dazzling riches found in this tomb show how much wealth the pharaohs spent preparing for the afterlife.

▲ **SUMMARIZE** Explain how the pharaoh Khufu proclaimed his glory.

History Makers

Khufu (ruled during the 2500s B.C.)

Khufu (shown at right) was one child who followed his father's example. His father, Snefru (SNEHF•roo), was a warrior king who brought prosperity to Egypt. Snefru celebrated his deeds by building the first true pyramid as his burial monument.

Khufu liked the pyramid's design, but decided that bigger was better. His Great Pyramid was the tallest structure on Earth for over 4,300 years. Sadly, the spectacular riches of his pyramid tomb were stolen by grave robbers long ago. The only object left from Khufu's funeral is a ship discovered in 1954. This 125-foot-long ship was meant to transport Khufu's soul through the afterlife along the path of the sun god.

CRITICAL THINKING

Make Inferences Why might Khufu have wanted to build a pyramid that was even larger than his father's?



Middle Kingdom

KEY QUESTION What did Amenemhet I do to help strengthen his rule?

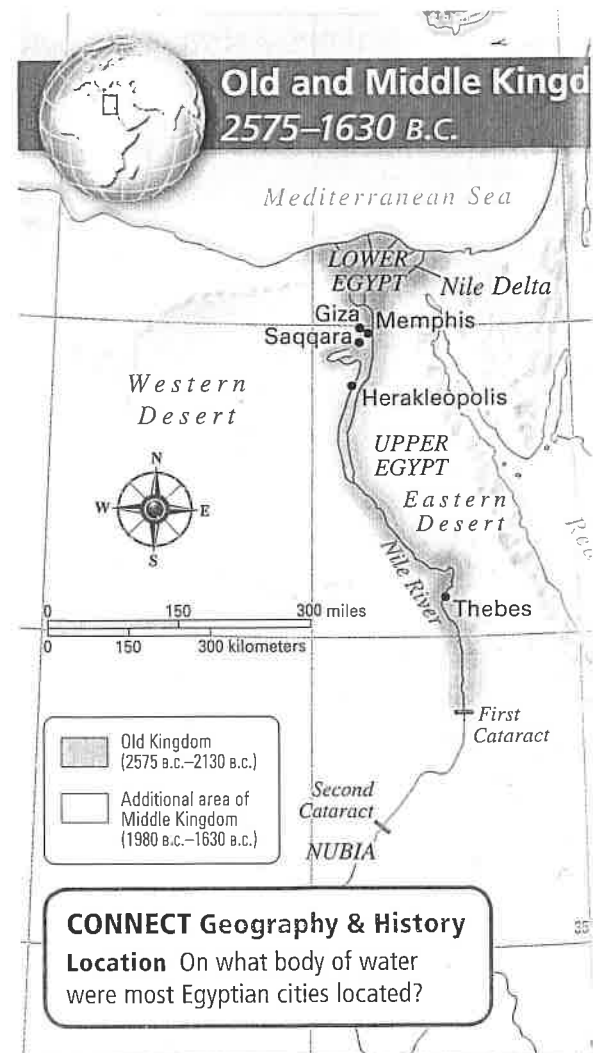
By about 2160 B.C., the central power of the pharaohs began to break down. Disunity, civil war, and invasions plagued Egypt for just over 100 years. The rise of the pharaoh Mentuhotep II in 2055 B.C. brought some stability. The period that followed is called the Middle Kingdom.

Connect to Tradition Although Mentuhotep was able to reunite Egypt, the Middle Kingdom's high point began 70 years later. The pharaoh Amenemhet I founded the Twelfth Dynasty in 1985 B.C. He was not a member of the royal line, so his claim to the throne was shaky.

Amenemhet claimed an ancient prophecy supported his cause. He circulated the *Prophecy of Neferti* that supposedly dated from the time of Snefru, a much-revered Fourth Dynasty pharaoh. It foretold the coming of a king, Ameni, who would save Egypt from chaos. In truth, Amenemhet himself had this story written to connect him to Snefru and show that his kingship was meant to be. He ruled for 29 years, and the Twelfth Dynasty carried on for over 200 years.

Strength and Prosperity The pharaohs of the Twelfth Dynasty used their military might to extend Egypt's boundaries to the south. They wanted to take control of Nubia's resources, especially its gold. Pushing south along the Nile, they reached well beyond the second cataract by 1800 B.C. After each successful campaign, fortresses were built to keep control of the new territories and to help keep the gold flowing into Egypt's treasury.

Agriculture got a huge boost in the Middle Kingdom. South and west of Saqqara was a marshy area known as the Faiyum. Successive pharaohs worked to drain these vast swamps so they could be used for planting. They did this by digging canals and building dams to redirect water that might otherwise collect there. This project put as many as 150,000 new acres under the plow. The increase in food production made Egypt even stronger.



Overall, Egypt thrived during the Twelfth Dynasty period of the Middle Kingdom. The arts (especially literature) flourished, trade expanded throughout the Mediterranean and eastward into Asia, and the succession of pharaohs was stable and orderly.

Decline and Overthrow

The rule of the Thirteenth Dynasty was much weaker. During this period, people from east of the Sinai Peninsula, referred to as "Asiatics" (people from Asia) in Egyptian texts, began to immigrate to the eastern part of the Nile Delta. Finally, a



group the Egyptians called the Hyksos (HIHK•sohs) invaded Egypt from Palestine and Syria. They conquered much of Lower Egypt by 1630 B.C., with the help of better weapons and horse-drawn chariots, which were new to the Egyptians. After about 100 years, the Egyptians drove out the Hyksos and began the New Kingdom. You will study this period in Section 4.

▲ **Asiatics** This Middle Kingdom tomb painting shows migrants from Palestine, "Asiatics," who settled in the eastern Delta area during this time.

▲ **RECOGNIZE PROPAGANDA** Explain how Amenemhet I strengthened his rule.

3 Section Assessment

ONLINE QUIZ
For test practice, go to
Interactive Review
@ClassZone.com

Terms & Names

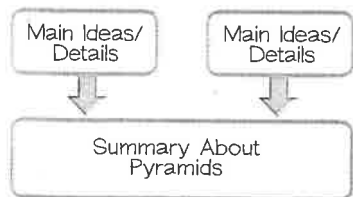
1. Explain the importance of

dynasty	pharaoh	step pyramid
succession	pyramid	Khufu

Use Your Reading Notes

2. **Summarize** Use your completed diagram to answer the following question:

What was the purpose of the pyramids?



Key Ideas

- Why were religion and government not separate in ancient Egypt?
- Why did the pharaohs of the New Kingdom stop building pyramids?
- What group was able to conquer Egypt during the Middle Kingdom?

Critical Thinking

- Find Main Ideas** What were the main successes achieved by pharaohs of the Middle Kingdom?
- Draw Conclusions** Did pyramids accomplish their purpose? Explain your answer. Consider what they did for a pharaoh while he lived and after he died.

Activity

Internet Activity Use the Internet to research the Bent Pyramid of Snefru. Write a two-page report on this early, unique structure. Include a sketch of the pyramid in your report.

INTERNET KEYWORDS: Bent Pyramid, Snefru

Section
4

Reading for Understanding

▶ Key Ideas

BEFORE, YOU LEARNED

In the Old and Middle kingdoms, Egyptian civilization grew and accomplished great things before experiencing periods of decline.

NOW YOU WILL LEARN

The New Kingdom was another period of advancement for Egypt.

▶ Vocabulary

TERMS & NAMES

Hatshepsut (hat•SHEHP•SOOT) woman pharaoh who strengthened Egypt through trade
obelisk (AHB•uh•lihsk) pillar-shaped stone monument

Ramses II (RAM•SEEZ) pharaoh who ruled Egypt for 66 years and greatly expanded the empire by conquering surrounding territories

Kush Nubian kingdom that conquered all of Upper and Lower Egypt in the 700s B.C.

Piye (py) king of Kush around 750 B.C., who gained control of Egypt, becoming pharaoh and uniting Egypt and Kush

BACKGROUND VOCABULARY

incense substance that is burned to produce a pleasant odor

Hittites group of people who lived in modern-day Turkey and northern Syria

REVIEW

empire group of territories and peoples brought together under one supreme ruler

▶ Reading Strategy

Re-create the time line shown at right. As you read and respond to the **KEY QUESTIONS**, write down important events discussed in this section. Be sure to note the year in which each event occurred. Add as many text bubbles as you need to include all of the important events.



See Skillbuilder Handbook, page R5.

SEQUENCE EVENTS



1472 B.C.

671 B.C.



GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS

Go to Interactive Review @ClassZone.com

The New Kingdom and Kush

Connect to What You Know As you read in Section 3, powerful pharaohs liked to build great monuments. The New Kingdom had several great pharaohs who continued this pattern.

A Woman Pharaoh

▼ **KEY QUESTION** What was the significance of Queen Hatshepsut's rule?

The New Kingdom included some of Egypt's most powerful rulers. These pharaohs set up a new capital city of Thebes, 450 miles south of the old capital at Memphis. They strengthened Egypt by further expanding the empire.

Taking Power Queen Hatshepsut (hat•SHEHP•SOOT) was the first woman to rule as pharaoh. She was the wife of a pharaoh who died soon after he took power. Hatshepsut then ruled with her stepson, Thutmose III (thoot•MOH•suh). In 1472 B.C., she declared herself the only ruler. She wore a false beard reserved for pharaohs alone.

Trade Grows Most New Kingdom pharaohs expanded Egypt by waging war. Hatshepsut used other methods as well. She wanted to make Egypt richer through trade. Her biggest trading expedition crossed the Eastern Desert to the Red Sea. Large ships sailed south to an African land called Punt (punt). Traders brought back rare herbs, spices, scented woods, live monkeys, and potted trees for making **incense**.

Starting with a Story

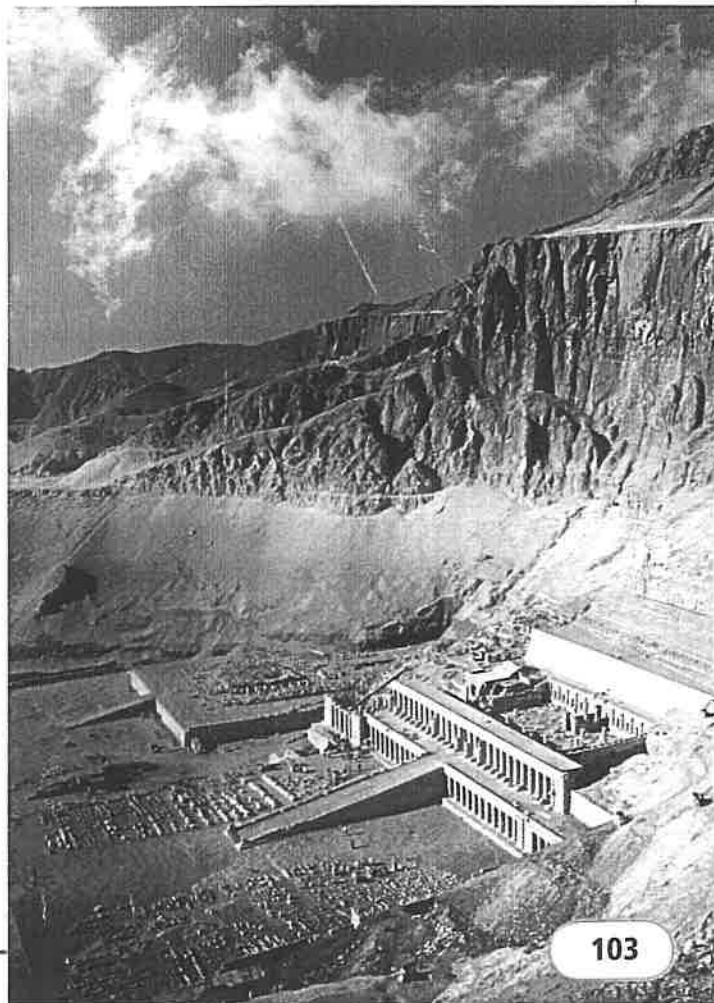
Imagine you are a mourner at the funeral of Ramses II. Without Ramses, the future is so uncertain!

Click here to listen to the story @ClassZone.com



Hatshepsut's Temple

Queen Hatshepsut had this temple constructed to honor herself. It was cut into a mountain. ▼



Hatshepsut's Legacy Like other pharaohs, Hatshepsut was eager to proclaim her glory. One type of monument she erected was the obelisk (AHB•uh•lihsk). An **obelisk** is a four-sided shaft with a pyramid-shaped top. (See page 87.) Hatshepsut had tall obelisks carved from blocks of red granite. On them, artisans used hieroglyphs to record her great deeds.

After ruling 15 years, Hatshepsut disappeared. She may have died peacefully, or Thutmose III may have killed her. After her death, Thutmose became pharaoh and tried to destroy all records of Hatshepsut's reign. We know about her because archaeologists restored her damaged temple and tomb.

▲ **ANALYZE EFFECTS** Explain how Queen Hatshepsut's rule affected Egypt.

A Reforming Pharaoh

▼ **KEY QUESTION** How did Akhenaton try to change Egyptian religion?

As you read earlier, the Egyptians believed that angry gods caused suffering. Even so, one pharaoh dared to defy the gods.

A New Belief When Akhenaton (AHK•uh•NAHT•uhn) became pharaoh in 1353 B.C., he lifted a sun god called Aton to the highest status. He then closed the temples of other gods. In this way, he promoted the worship of one god for the first time in Egyptian history. Priests who served the other gods suddenly lost power. They also feared that the pharaoh's actions had angered the old gods.

Akhenaton's new ways of thinking affected art. In the past, Egyptian artwork usually tried to show perfect images of the pharaohs. In the Middle Kingdom, small steps toward realism began to appear. But under Akhenaton, a pharaoh was shown realistically for the first time. For example, carvings of Akhenaton show his large stomach.

Reform Ends Akhenaton's new religion did not last long. Three years after his death, a young relative named Tutankhamen became pharaoh in 1333 B.C. This boy relied on advisers to help him rule Egypt. They convinced Tutankhamen to reject the new religion and worship the old gods.

▲ **SUMMARIZE** Summarize Akhenaton's religious reforms.

Nefertiti Historians consider this bust to be a realistic image of Akhenaton's wife, Nefertiti. **How is this sculpture of Nefertiti different from earlier Egyptian art styles?** ▼



A Powerful Pharaoh

▼ **KEY QUESTION** What methods did Ramses II use to expand Egypt?

In 1279 B.C., **Ramses II** (RAM•SEEZ) took the throne. His 66-year reign was among the longest in history.

Empire Builder Unlike Hatshepsut, Ramses II—also called Ramses the Great—wanted to make Egypt powerful through war. Under Ramses' rule, Egypt extended its territory south into the African kingdom of Nubia. The **empire** also stretched to the eastern rim of the Mediterranean Sea, where it bordered the empire of the **Hittites**.

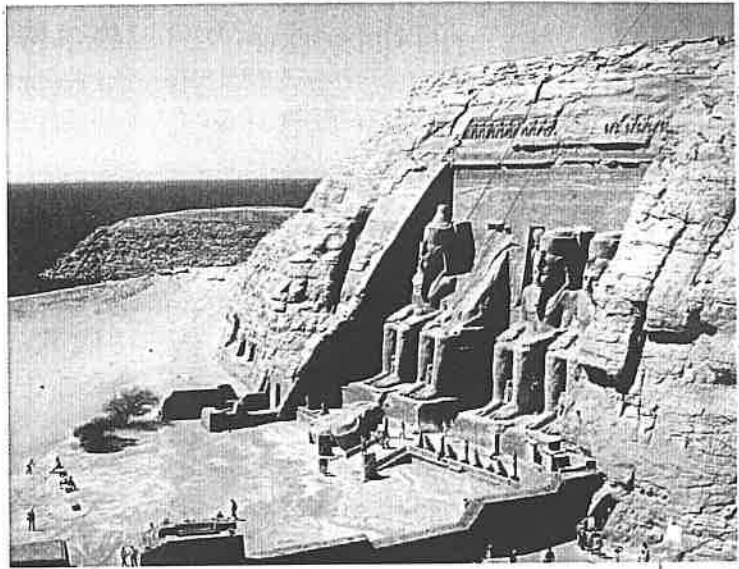
The Egyptians and Hittites had long been enemies. Soon after he became pharaoh, Ramses led an army into battle against the Hittites. Nobody really won the battle, but Ramses claimed victory. His real success came after the battle, when he negotiated the first known peace treaty in world history with the Hittites.

Ramses was bold in honoring himself. He built a city called Pi-Ramses, or the House of Ramses, in the eastern Delta. (See the map on page 77.) At Abu Simbel, south of the first cataract, four 66-foot statues of Ramses guarded his temple. The statues' ears were three feet long! Unlike Akhenaton, Ramses did not want his statues to show how he really looked. He wanted to appear godlike.

Ramses II reigned until 1213 B.C., when he was over 90 years old. Having one ruler for 66 years made the Egyptian government stable. His reign was also a time of peace. After the treaty with the Hittites, no enemy threatened Egypt while Ramses ruled.

Egypt's Decline Egypt was never quite the same after Ramses died. Gradually, the central government weakened. After about 1070 B.C., a series of foreign powers ruled Egypt for much of the next 1,000 years.

The Persians conquered Egypt in 525 B.C. Later, in 332 B.C., Alexander the Great of Macedonia took over, beginning 300 years of Greek rule. (You will read about Alexander the Great in Chapter 8.) Before the Persians and the Greeks, however, the Nubian Kushite kingdom ruled Egypt.



▲ **Abu Simbel** Four giant statues of Ramses guarded his temple at Abu Simbel, which was near the Nile. Each statue was as tall as a six-story building.

▲ **SUMMARIZE** Describe the methods Ramses II used to expand Egypt.

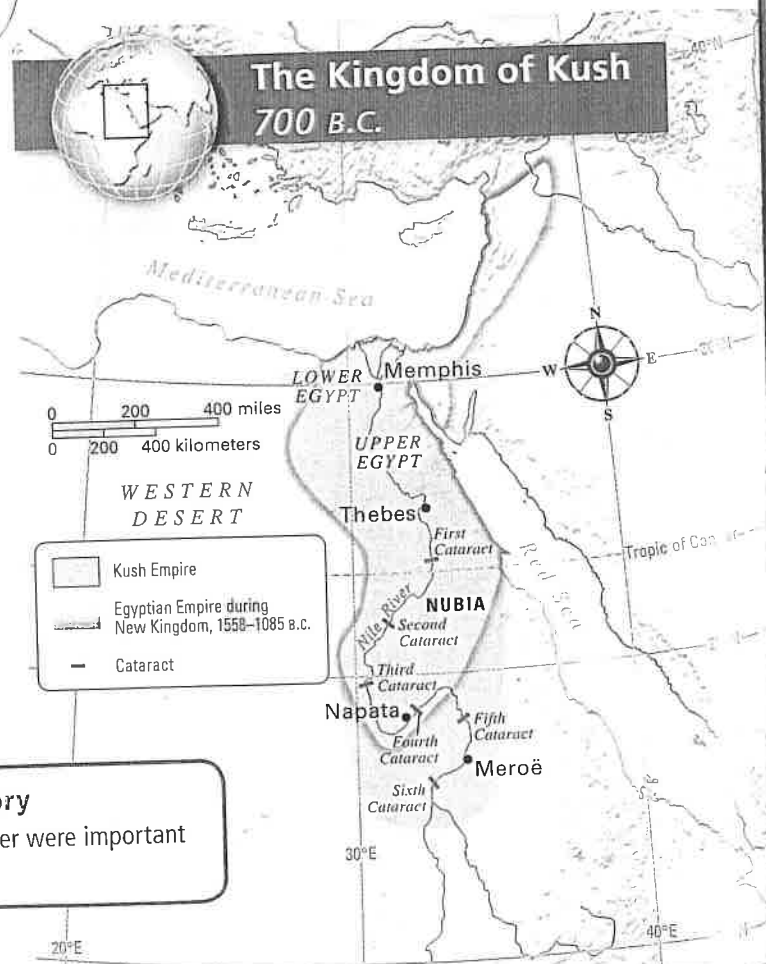
Nubia and the Kush Civilization

KEY QUESTION How were Egypt and Kush connected?

Egypt controlled parts of Nubia from about 2000 B.C. to 1000 B.C. As the central authority of the Egyptian state broke down at the end of the New Kingdom, separate ruling groups came to dominate Lower and Upper Egypt. These less-powerful rulers were unable to exert control in Nubia. In time, a Nubian kingdom called **Kush** became a power in the region.

Cultural Relations Between Egypt and Kush Periods of time when Egypt ruled Nubia resulted in cultural exchanges. Egypt influenced the art of Nubia, including Kush. Young Kushite nobles went to Egypt where they learned the Egyptian language. They adopted the customs and clothing styles of the Egyptians and brought royal rituals and a hieroglyphic writing system back to Kush. Egyptian pyramids were also copied in Kush, and Nubians worshiped some of the gods sacred to Egyptians.

Kush Rises to Power When Egyptian influence in Nubia declined, around 1000 B.C., the worship of Amun continued in the Kushite capital of Napata. By about 750 B.C., Egypt was in the middle of a struggle between several regional powers. Forces in control of the western delta began to threaten Upper Egypt. The rulers of Thebes, the center of Amun worship, invited the Kushite king, **Piye** (py), to defend them. Piye and his army sailed up the Nile to Thebes where Piye was declared pharaoh. He then continued north into Lower Egypt defeating enemies all of the way to Memphis. After a long war, he ruled all of Egypt.




CONNECT Geography & History

Location What three bodies of water were important to the kingdom of Kush?

Political and Commercial Relations with Egypt Piye united Egypt and Kush. Nubia established its own dynasty, or line of royal rulers, on the throne of Egypt. Piye was declared Egypt's pharaoh. His reign marked the beginning of Egypt's Twenty-Fifth Dynasty. Although he was the pharaoh, Piye did not live in Egypt. Instead, he chose to live in Napata, the capital of Kush.

Napata was located at the head of a road used to move goods around one of the Nile River's cataracts. Traders used the road when boats loaded with goods were unable to navigate the rough water in sections of the river. This led to a lively trade along the Nile. Napata was the center for the spread of Egyptian goods and culture to Kush's other trading partners in Africa and beyond.

The Decline of Kush In 704 B.C., Kushite Egyptian forces battled Assyrians in Palestine. The Egyptians supported a leader there who resisted Assyrian rule. The Assyrians, whose iron weapons were stronger than the Kushites' bronze weapons, won that battle. The two sides fought on and off for years, as Egypt supported other foreign leaders who resisted Assyrian rule. In 671 B.C., the Assyrians invaded and conquered Egypt. This ended Kushite rule in Egypt.

 **FIND MAIN IDEAS** Explain the ways that Egypt and Kush were connected throughout their histories.

4

Section Assessment



ONLINE QUIZ

For test practice, go to
Interactive Review
@ClassZone.com

Terms & Names

1. Explain the importance of

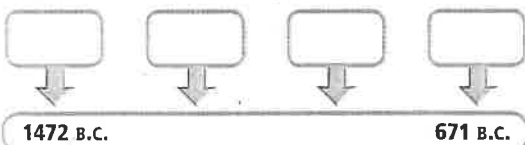
Hatshepsut	Ramses II	Piye
obelisk	Kush	

Using Your Reading Notes

2. Sequence Events

Use your completed time line to answer the following question:

Which pharaoh reigned the longest?



Key Ideas

- How did Akhenaton try to change the way the Egyptians worshiped?
- Why was the government of Egypt stable under Ramses II?
- What goods and ideas passed between Egypt and Kush over the centuries?

Critical Thinking

- Form and Support Opinions** Why do you think Thutmose tried to erase all records of Hatshepsut's reign?
- Compare and Contrast** In what ways were the reigns of Akhenaton and Ramses II different?



Internet Activity Use the Internet to research one of the pharaohs in this section. Then make a sketch for the pharaoh's Web page.

INTERNET KEYWORD: *pharaoh's name*