

Ch 4 S.1

Egypt under the Pharaohs

Nile River Valley

- river valley in Egypt
- rich, fertile soil
- follows Nile River

Nile River

- World's longest river
- 3,500 miles long
- East Africa to Mediterranean Sea
- 2 main sources
 - White Nile River (Lake Victoria)
 - Blue Nile (run off from highlands)
- Ancient times

Delta

- 6 cataracts (rocky rapids)
- ends in the Nile Delta
- an area of sediment
- where a river runs into a larger body of water



Silt

- sediment or fine minerals carried in the river and deposited
- forming fertile soil

Summary:

Upper & Lower
Egypt

Upper Egypt

- where Nile flows through narrow valley lined w/cliffs
- below the cataracts
- upstream from Mediterranean

Lower Egypt

- The Nile Delta forms this region



Summary

Floods & Black Lands

- Rich, fertile soil lining banks of river and delta was "dark" or "black"
- "Kemet" = The Black Lands

Floods

- every year
- left fresh, fertile soil (after drained away)
- unpredictable
 - too much = wash away crops
 - too little = drought

Red Land

- desert
- hot, burning sand



Summary

Civilization Develops

Egyptian Farming

- built earthen walls around fields to trap water
- grew surplus
 - wheat, grains
- surplus paid as a tax

Cities Formed

- job specialization (surplus)
- social classes are established

artisans

skilled workers -
 produce a handicraft

- weavers - jewelry makers
- potters - cloth makers.

settled around local rulers



Cities

became centers of

- culture
- power

arts & architecture - designed and decorated bldgs

Kingdoms of Egypt

3000's BC

2 Kingdoms

- 1) Upper Egypt: white crowns
- 2) Lower Egypt: red crowns

Uniting Egypt

- 3000 BC Egypt was united
- by Narmer



- first king/pharaoh of Egypt

- wore double crown (red/white)

- founded earliest dynasty (ruling family)
 - ↳ control passed through family
 - ↳ sometimes new dynasties formed

"Old Kingdom"

2686 BC to 2125 BC

- prosperity \$\$
- political strength
- cultural achievement

"Middle Kingdom"

2055 BC to 1650 BC

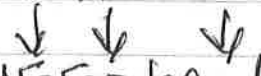
- civil war led to changes
- environmental issues - floods

Summary:

Middle Kingdom

- drained dangerous flood H₂O
- irrigated new farmland

Civil wars



New Kingdom

1550 bc to 1070 bc

- Pharaohs conquered lands in Asia and Africa
- high point of power & prosperity

Weakened and broke apart

- Assyrians and Persians invaded

- Eventually conquered by Greeks Alexander the Great

Egyptian Government

Pharaoh relied on a ^{similar to today} bureaucracy - a system of offices or officials that handle the business of gov't.

the head of Egypt's bureaucracy - lead official


vizier

Summary:

Two Great Rulers


Hatshepsut

- woman ruler
 - daughter of a pharaoh
 - wife of pharaoh
 - carried out rituals of a king
 - dress / attire (dressed as man)
 - false beard
- Most accepted her rule

Rule was -ful
 built wealth through trade
 ↑ power
 Sent traders to E. Africa -
 Came back w/ treasures

Ramses II

Different than Hatshepsut
 - built wealth / power through war

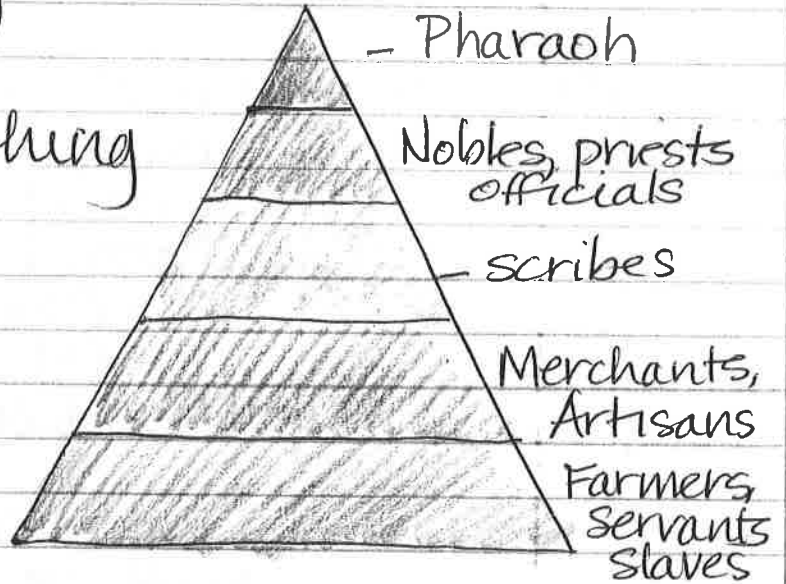
 - Canaan } Fertile Crescent
 - Syria }
 1275 BC
 Battled w/ Hittites in present-day Syria.
 Agreed on border
 "Battle of Kadesh"
 Great builder - more than others

Summary:

Egyptian Society

believed gods
controlled everything

Pharaoh was a
"god-king"
- deserved
loyalty



Nobles, Priests
Officials

- helped Pharaoh govern
- Priests thought to help Egyptians gain
favor w/ the gods

Scribes

- kept records for bureau-
cracy

Merchants &
Artisans

- made up middle level
- painters, stonecutters,
builders

Farmers

Made up most of population
- farmed during growing
season
- laborers the rest of year
↳ out of religious
devotion

Summary

slaves

- bottom of social pyramid
- many prisoners of war
- debtors > freed after time
- forced labor

EGYPTIAN RELIGION

from floods to deaths

Egyptian People Believed

- Gods controlled everything
- could be kind or dangerous
- to please gods - built temples
 - offered prayers
 - offered gifts

Many Gods

- polytheism (100's)
- some associated w/ animals
- believed gods shared animal qualities
 - ▷ strength, speed, temper
- Amon-Re, sun god
- Osiris, god of the underworld
- ♥ Isis, wife of Osiris
- Seth, rival god of Osiris - killed him
- looked to for protection in life and death
- Horus, son of Isis & Osiris
- defeated Seth, united Egypt
- ▶ All Pharaohs thought to be Horus

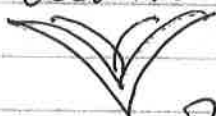
Summary:

Preparing for Afterlife

Death

Egyptians thought they could overcome it (like Osiris)

"Life after death" "afterlife"



requires: Preparation

- 1) live a good life, sinful = destroyed
 - 2) bodies preserved after death
(spirit needed to recognize body for a home)
 - 3) Poor - buried in desert
(body dried out)
- Rich were mummified
(preserved by special process)