



Ancient Egypt

The Old Kingdom



The First Pharaoh

- Originally, there were two kingdoms in Egypt
 - Upper Egypt – White Crown
 - Lower Egypt – Red Crown
- In the year 3100_{BCE}, Menes (king of Upper Egypt) conquers Lower Egypt
 - Menes becomes first Pharaoh of Ancient Egypt
 - Pharaoh – Ruler of Egypt; “Great House”
 - Menes wears a double crown



The First Dynasty

- **Menes sets up the first Egyptian Dynasty**
 - **Dynasty – Series of rulers from the same family**
- **Menes establishes capital at Memphis**
- **First Dynasty lasts for 200 years**
 - **Eventually it is overthrown and the Second Dynasty is established**



The Old Kingdom

- The Third Egyptian Dynasty begins a period known as the Old Kingdom
 - Old Kingdom – A period in Egyptian history that lasted from 2700_{BCE} to 2200_{BCE}
- The Egyptians believed the pharaoh was both king and god
 - King was responsible for everything (both good and bad)
- The most famous pharaoh of the Old Kingdom was Khufu
 - Builder of the Great Pyramid

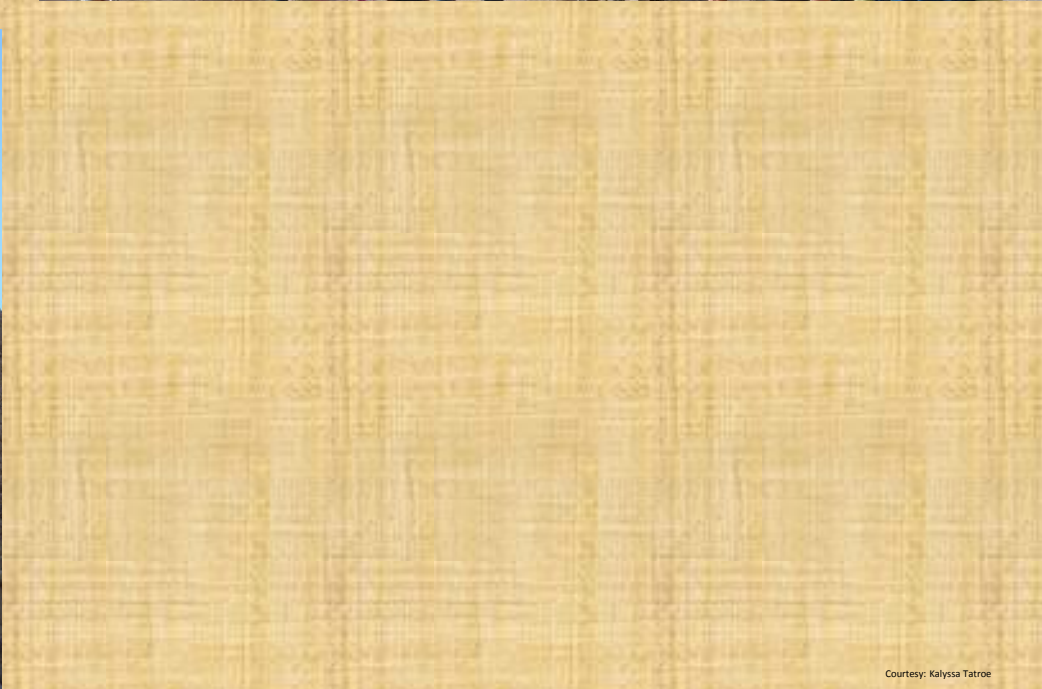


Pyramids

- Egyptians built huge monuments to honor their dead rulers
 - Pyramids – Huge stone tombs with four triangle-shaped walls that met in a point on the top
- Greatest pyramids were built during Old Kingdom
 - Amazing feats of engineering
 - Engineering - Use of scientific knowledge for practical purposes
- The pyramid was designed to allow the pharaoh to climb to heaven
- Made pyramids spectacular
 - If Pharaoh was happy in the afterlife, then civilians would be too







History Close-up

Building the Pyramids

More than 4,000 years ago, workers near Giza, Egypt, built three massive pyramids as tombs for their rulers. The amount of work this job required is hard to imagine. Tens of thousands of people must have worked for decades to build these gigantic structures. In this illustration, men work to build the pharaoh Khafre's pyramid.

A statue called a sphinx was carved out of rock and left to guard Khafre's tomb.

Giant ramps made of rubble were piled around the pyramid so workers could reach the top.

Teams of workers dragged the stones on wooden sleds to the pyramid.

Huge blocks of limestone were cut with copper tools and taken by boat to the building site.

ANALYSIS SKILL ANALYZING VISUALS

How did workers get their stone blocks to the pyramids?



Great Sphinx of Giza

- 241 feet long
65 feet tall
- Body of a lion,
head of a man
- Guardian
- Built by the
Pharaoh Khafre





Egyptian Social Structure

- First class was pharaoh
- Second class was the Nobles
 - Nobles – People from rich and powerful families
- Third class was the Scribes and Craftspeople
- Fourth class (Bottom) was the farmers and slaves
 - This class worked for the pharaoh during flood season

Egyptian Society

Pharaoh

The pharaoh ruled Egypt as a god.



Nobles

Officials and priests helped run the government and temples.



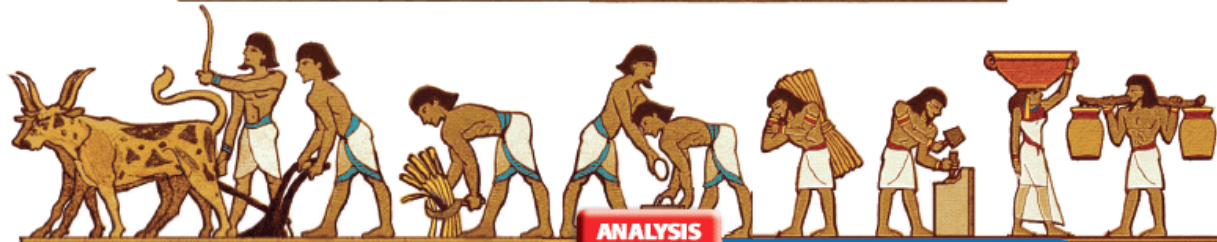
Scribes and Craftspeople

Scribes wrote and craftspeople produced goods.



Farmers, Servants, and Slaves

Most Egyptians were farmers. Below them were servants and slaves.



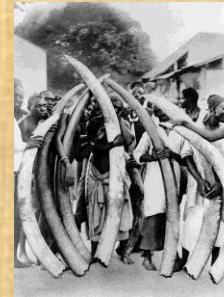
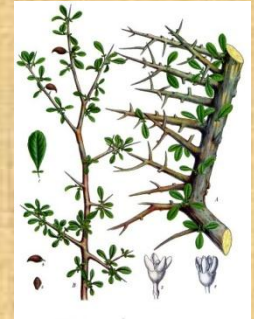
ANALYSIS SKILL

ANALYZING VISUALS

Which group helped run the government and temples?

Egypt and Its Neighbors

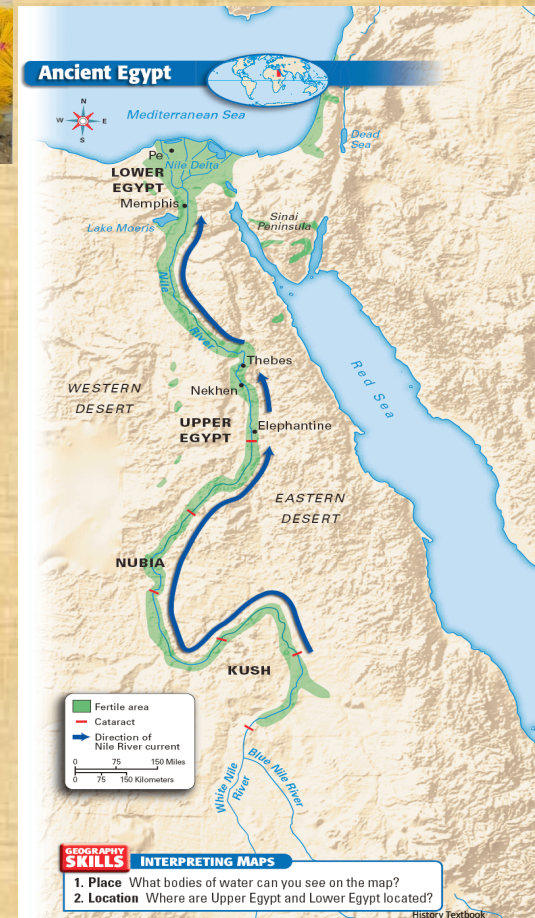
- Egypt was protected by geography, but not isolated
- Egypt traded with many neighbors
 - Kush → incense and myrrh (perfume)



- Nubia → gold, ivory, & slaves



- Syria → wood



GEOGRAPHY SKILLS INTERPRETING MAPS
1. **Place** What bodies of water can you see on the map?
2. **Location** Where are Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt located?

Religion

- Egyptians had strong religious beliefs
- They worshipped many gods (Polytheism)
- Egyptians built many temples all over Egypt
 - These temples soon became very influential
- Some of the major gods in Ancient Egypt:
 - Ptah – the Creator
 - Re – The Sun God
 - Osiris – God of the Underworld
 - Isis – Goddess of Magic
 - Horus – Sky God and God of the Pharaohs
 - Anubis – God of Embalming



Religion

- Much of Egyptian beliefs concerned the afterlife
 - Afterlife – life after death
- Egyptians believed strongly in a person's ka
 - Ka – Person's life force (Soul)
 - People were buried with things they might need
- Egyptians believed a body had to be prepared for its journey in the afterlife
 - The Egyptians mummified people
 - Mummies – Specially treated bodies wrapped in cloth
 - Mummification took weeks to complete
 - Only the elite could be mummified
 - Elite – People of wealth and power



The End of the Old Kingdom

- Building Pyramids was expensive
 - People had to pay a lot of taxes for the pyramids
- The end of the Old Kingdom comes when the nobles overthrow the pharaoh in the year 2200_{BCE}
 - The nobles would fight each other for total power over the next 160 years