

# "The Nile River Valley"

## I. The Nile River Valley

### A. Geography of the Nile River Valley

1. flows \_\_\_\_\_ for 4,000 miles
  - a. from Central \_\_\_\_\_ to the Mediterranean Sea
  - b. sources include the \_\_\_\_\_ Nile and the \_\_\_\_\_ Nile
2. isolated by geography (surrounded by deserts)
  - a. Eastern Desert lies just \_\_\_\_\_ of the river
  - b. Libyan Desert lies just \_\_\_\_\_ of the river
    - i. part of the \_\_\_\_\_, world's largest desert
  - c. water flows downhill from mountains
    - i. includes steep, fast-moving rapids called \_\_\_\_\_
3. it deposits silt as it drains into the Mediterranean Sea
  - a. splits into many branches (smaller waterways)
  - b. forms a \_\_\_\_\_ which is a fertile, flat land made of silt

### B. People of the River

1. Predictable flooding every summer
  - a. central Africa had heavy rain season in late \_\_\_\_\_ PLUS
  - b. melting \_\_\_\_\_ on eastern African mountains caused the flooding
  - c. when water level dropped to normal, \_\_\_\_\_ was left on the river banks
2. Egyptian agriculture
  - a. the delta helped the Egyptians develop a surplus of food
  - b. major crops like wheat, barley, and \_\_\_\_\_
    - i. flax was used to make \_\_\_\_\_, an important cloth in Egypt
  - c. gathered \_\_\_\_\_, a wild reed that grew along the Nile
    - i. used to weave rope, sandals, baskets, and rafts
    - ii. later used to make \_\_\_\_\_
3. Developments in irrigation
  - a. dug out basins to hold water and canals to move water from place to place
  - b. the \_\_\_\_\_ was used to lift water from river and into basins
4. Used \_\_\_\_\_ to calculate boundaries between the farm fields

### C. Egyptian Writing (known as \_\_\_\_\_)

1. started as thousands of picture symbols that represented objects and ideas
2. evolved into symbols that represented \_\_\_\_\_ (similar to our alphabet)
3. combination of pictures and sounds known as hieroglyphics (each symbol = hieroglyph)
4. few ancient Egyptians could read hieroglyphics
  - a. some men learned to become \_\_\_\_\_ for government or business
5. Egyptians did NOT write on clay tablets
  - a. daily tasks were written or painted on \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. hieroglyphics were also carved onto stone walls and monuments
6. the discovery of the \_\_\_\_\_ Stone helped us learn about ancient Egypt
  - a. it was translated by Jean Francois Champollion

### D. Uniting Egypt

1. around 4000BC, Egypt consisted to two kingdoms:
  - a. Northern Egypt was also known as “\_\_\_\_\_ Egypt”
    - i. it is \_\_\_\_\_ on the river
  - b. Southern Egypt was also known as “\_\_\_\_\_ Egypt”
    - i. it is \_\_\_\_\_ on the river
2. \_\_\_\_\_ was a king of Upper Egypt
  - a. conquered Lower Egypt and married a princess
    - i. this unified Upper and Lower Egypt for the first time
  - b. makes the border city of \_\_\_\_\_ the new capital
    - i. the city becomes a center for government and culture
  - c. after his death, power was passed on to his son, then grandson
    - i. a line of rulers from one family is called a \_\_\_\_\_
3. from 3100BC to 332 BC, Egypt was ruled by \_\_\_\_\_ dynasties
  - a. 3 time periods: Old Kingdom => Middle Kingdom => New Kingdom

## **II. Life in Ancient Egypt**

### A. Early Egyptian Rulers and The Old Kingdom (2600BC - 2200BC)

1. built magnificent cities and increased trade
2. had a unified government
  - a. 1 ruler controlled political and religious activity = \_\_\_\_\_
3. Political Leader was the \_\_\_\_\_ (name first meant "great house")
  - a. believed he was god on earth who protected Egypt & son of Re, the sun god

- b. pharaoh had total power and had to be obeyed
- c. pharaoh owned all the land in Egypt and could use however he wanted
  - i. gave land to officials, \_\_\_\_\_, and wealthy friends
- d. pharaoh appointed \_\_\_\_\_ to carry out his orders
  - i. they were in charge of construction projects (dams, canals, granaries etc.)
  - ii. they collected \_\_\_\_\_

## B. Religion in Egypt ( \_\_\_\_\_ )

1. believed gods controlled both \_\_\_\_\_ forces and \_\_\_\_\_ activities
  - b. many gods could take both human or animal form
  - c. two crucial gods ( \_\_\_\_\_ - sun god and \_\_\_\_\_ - river god) made crops grow
  - d. some other gods included:
    - i. Osiris and Isis ruled over the world of the \_\_\_\_\_
    - ii. Thoth was the god of \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. The Afterlife

- a. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ taught people about the afterlife
- b. the soul was in the body; body must be protected until the soul reached afterlife
- c. first believed only pharaohs had afterlife; later could be ALL people
- d. \_\_\_\_\_ became a process to preserve the body
  - i. remove organs => cover in natron => rub w/ spices => wrap in linen
  - ii. pharaohs and wealthy put in tombs, others buried in caves or sand
  - iii. the embalmed bodies are known as \_\_\_\_\_
- e. medical skills were learned from embalming
  - i. sewed up cuts and set broken \_\_\_\_\_
  - ii. used \_\_\_\_\_, bandages, and compresses
  - iii. wrote medical info on papyrus scrolls (first medical books)

### 3. Pyramid Tombs - enormous structures made of stone which honored the pharaohs

- a. pharaohs buried with possessions for afterlife
  - i. tomb protected them from floods, wild animals, and theft
- b. pyramid were built by \_\_\_\_\_ of workers
  - i. first great engineer was \_\_\_\_\_
  - ii. surveyors, engineers, carpenters, stonecutters, & farmers (when not farming)
- c. led to some new technology
  - i. calendar with \_\_\_\_\_ days

ii. written numbers based on 10

iii. \_\_\_\_\_ and whole numbers to add, subtract, and divide

d. Great Pyramid built for \_\_\_\_\_ was the largest of the pyramids

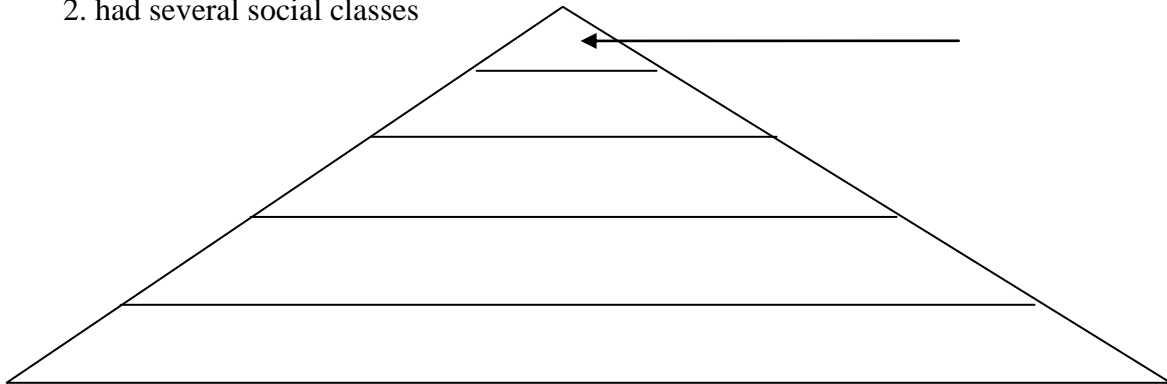
i. about \_\_\_\_\_ feet tall with more than 2 million blocks

ii. was world's tallest structure for more than \_\_\_\_\_ years

### C. Egyptian Daily Life

1. at one point had about 5 million people, most living in \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_

2. had several social classes



a. upper class lived along Nile in nice homes with \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

i. had servants who waited on them and did household chores

ii. men & women wore fashionable \_\_\_\_\_ clothes & eye makeup

b. middle class included traders, artisans, skilled workers, and craft-makers

i. lived in smaller homes and dressed less fashionably

c. farmers \_\_\_\_\_ land from wealthy people

i. live in one room houses and ate a simple diet

d. unskilled workers lived in crowded city neighborhoods

i. includes some \_\_\_\_\_ people that were captured during war

3. few ancient Egyptians could read hieroglyphics

a. some men learned to become \_\_\_\_\_ for government or business

4. Egyptians did NOT write on clay tablets

a. daily tasks were written or painted on \_\_\_\_\_

b. hieroglyphics were also carved onto stone walls and monuments

### D. Egyptian Families

1. \_\_\_\_\_ was the head of the family

2. \_\_\_\_\_ had more rights in ancient Egypt than most other civilizations

a. could own \_\_\_\_\_, buy and sell goods, get divorces

- b. wealthy could serve as \_\_\_\_\_, manage temples, and perform ceremonies
  - i. more likely to stay at home while husbands worked
- c. wives of farmers could work in the fields with husbands
- 3. children had time to \_\_\_\_\_ with board games, dolls, and leather balls
  - a. few attended school
  - b. girls learned to sew, sook, and run household
  - c. boys learned father's trade
  - d. expected to \_\_\_\_\_ their parents
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_ were expected to leave home and start their own \_\_\_\_\_

### III. Egypt's Empire

#### A. A Golden Age and the Middle Kindgom (2200BC - 1650BC)

- 1. the capital is moved to \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. conquered new lands - \_\_\_\_\_ in the south & \_\_\_\_\_ in the northeast
  - a. collected \_\_\_\_\_ or forced payments from these people
- 3. increased \_\_\_\_\_ and trade in Egypt
  - a. improved \_\_\_\_\_ & built a \_\_\_\_\_ from Red Sea to Nile
- 4. the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ flourished
  - a. paintings on tombs and temples
  - b. sculptures of hunting, fishing, and battle scenes
  - c. pyramids replaced carved tombs in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. the Hyskos invade from western \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. powerful warriors with \_\_\_\_\_ sturdy weapons
  - b. ruled Egypt for 100 years
  - c. Egyptians learn from Hyskos weaponry
    - i. Egyptian prince \_\_\_\_\_ formed an army and pushed out Hyskos

#### B. Building an Empire under the New Kingdom (1550BC - 1070BC)

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_ was one of the few women rulers (even dressed in men's clothing)
  - a. built magnificent \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. preferred \_\_\_\_\_ over wars; traded with \_\_\_\_\_ and East Africa
    - i. brought beads, weapons, & tools
    - ii. received \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, ebony, and incense
  - c. traded with Phoenicians in \_\_\_\_\_ to get wood, furniture and purple dye

d. sent \_\_\_\_\_ to work together with other nations

## 2. Other Rulers

a. Thutmose was a strong leader and \_\_\_\_\_ who made Egypt wealthy

- i. conquered parts of Mesopotamia and Nubia
- ii. enslaved conquered people
- iii. took gold, copper, and ivory from conquered people

b. Amenhotep IV (his wife was \_\_\_\_\_)

- i. changed Egypt's religion to have one god named \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. changed his name to Akhenaton and moved capital to Akhetaton
- iii. most people rejected his changes

c. Tutankhamen was a young leader (started around \_\_\_\_\_ years old)

- i. returned to the old religious beliefs
- ii. died after about 9 years of ruling Egypt
- iii. became famous pharaoh when Howard \_\_\_\_\_ discovers his tomb

d. Ramses II was a very successful pharaoh who ruled for \_\_\_\_\_ years

- i. conquered \_\_\_\_\_ and Syria, then entered treaty with Hittites
- ii. build beautiful temples (including \_\_\_\_\_) where gods lived
- iii. after Ramses death, Egypt start to decline and was conquered by \_\_\_\_\_

## **IV. The Kingdom of Kush**

A. The Nubians lived in the land of Nubia (later known as Kush)

1. located \_\_\_\_\_ of Egypt along the Nile River, in present day \_\_\_\_\_

b. did NOT rely on the Nile for their farming

- i. their land was fertile and receive rain all year long
- ii. grew crops like beans, \_\_\_\_\_, rice, and grains
- iii. herded longhorn cattle on savannas (grassy \_\_\_\_\_)

2. Nubian villages combined to form the kingdom of Kerma

a. became wealthy through farming and mining of \_\_\_\_\_

b. became an important trading center

i. traded cattle, gold, incense, ivory, giraffes, leopards, and slaves with Egypt

c. conquered by Egypt around 1400BC and ruled by Egypt for about 700 years

B. The Kushite Kingdom escapes Egyptian rule

1. kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_ starts about 850BC with the capital city of Napata

a. Napata served as a trade link between central Africa and Egypt

2. King \_\_\_\_\_ invades Egypt around 750BC
  - a. his son King Piye completes the conquest around 728BC
3. Kush builds temples and monuments similar to those in Egypt
  - a. small, steeply-sloped \_\_\_\_\_ as tombs for their kings
4. some Kushites followed customs from southern Africa such as ankle and ear jewelry
5. when the \_\_\_\_\_ conquer Egypt, Kushites return to the south
  - a. Kushites learned to use \_\_\_\_\_ to make weapons and tools (like Assyrians did)

### C. The Capital of Meroë

1. located near the one of the cataracts on the Nile
  - a. this offered protection from Assyrian attacks
2. became a major area for the production of \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. they had large deposits of iron ore
  - b. lots of trees to use in furnaces to make iron
3. city of Meroë modeled after Egyptian cities
  - a. temple dedicated to god Amon-Re
  - b. palace walls decorated with paintings
  - c. small \_\_\_\_\_ in royal graveyard
4. center location for trade between Egypt and central \_\_\_\_\_
5. traded with places as far away as \_\_\_\_\_, Arabia, India, and even \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. included cotton and \_\_\_\_\_ (which is woven cloth)
  - b. merchants used their wealth to build houses and public \_\_\_\_\_
6. remained a great trading kingdom for about 600 years
7. kingdom of Axum developed (located in modern day \_\_\_\_\_)
  - a. located near the \_\_\_\_\_ Sea
  - b. armies of Axum invaded Kush and destroyed Meroë around 350AD