

## **Egyptian Civilization**



## **As a Young Historian, I will be able to...**

- Understand the ways in which geography helped shape ancient Egypt.
- Explain how Egypt grew strong during the New Kingdom.
- Describe the ways in which religious beliefs shaped the lives of ancient Egyptians.
- Explain how the Egyptians organized their society.
- Outline the advances that the Egyptians made in learning, the arts, science, and literature.

# **Geography Shapes Egypt**

**The Egyptian society depended on the Nile River, & the desert protected it**

**The Nile flood brought water & rich soil to the region, & the people learned to control it**

**Cataract-** Waterfall, Upper Egypt (in the south) brought water in

**Delta-** Triangular area of marshland formed by deposits of silt at the mouth of some rivers

# The Old Kingdom

Egypt was ruled by a **Dynasty**- Ruling family passing power to another. Old Kingdom was the first

**Pharaohs**- Egyptian rulers who organized a central state.

**Pharaohs** ruled by divine right,  
Egyptians believed they were gods

**Vizier**- Chief minister who helped the  
Pharaoh supervise the government

# **Rules & Pyramids**

*Instructions of the Vizier Ptah-hotep*  
taught people to be humble &  
honest as well as follow superiors

**Pyramids were built in Giza as  
tombs for the deceased leaders**

**Built with limestone stones that  
weighed as much as 15 tons**

**Usually would start being build as  
soon as a new ruler took control as  
they took years to build**

# **Middle & New Kingdom**

**Middle Kingdom saw an increase of trade  
& development of drainage projects to  
create farmlands**

**The Hyksos brought in horse-drawn  
chariots & adopted Egyptian customs**

**The New Kingdom saw the rise in  
science & literature**

**Medicine, Hygiene, Dentistry, & the  
Arts developed in the region**

# Rulers

**Queen Hatshepsut**- Queen who ruled Egypt while wearing a false beard

Her stepson, **Thutmose III**, became a military general & expanded the Egyptian Empire

**Ramses II** ruled & signed one of the first peace treaties with the Hittites

This region of the world would see countless invasions through history for the fertile land

# Religion Shapes Ancient Egyptian Life

Chief god was **Amon-Re**, the sun god, & Egypt was ruled as a **theocracy**- ruler is a religious figure

**Osiris** was the god of the dead & The Nile, **Isis** was his wife who taught women important skills

Egyptians believed their souls would be judged against the weight of a feather in the afterlife

The **Book of the Dead** contained spells, charms, & magic formulas to help the dead in the afterlife

# Mummification

People would be buried with everything they would need for eternity

**Mummification-** The preservation of dead bodies by embalming them & wrapping them in cloth

People & pets were often mummified, pharaohs were buried in the Valley of the Kings

One of the most famous tombs was that of **King Tutankhamen**, the young pharaoh

# **Organization of Egyptian Society**

**Egypt was ruled by a class system that placed people in positions of power**

**Peasants were the most numerous & many were slaves. They would labor to build buildings & work the fields**

**In the New Kingdom, craftworkers & artisans saw new job opportunities**

**Women could serve some jobs as a priestess, doctors, or other business jobs**

# Learning Advances

**Hieroglyphics-** System of writing that uses symbols & pictures to represent objects & sounds

These were often carved into stone to preserve for the future

Scribes would record information on paper-life material made from **Papyrus**, a plant from the Nile

They would use a writing system called **demotic** to write quickly & preserve information later in Hieroglyphics

**Rosetta Stone-** Stone used by French Scholar Champollion to **decipher**, figure out the meaning, of Hieroglyphs

# **More Learning**

**Surgeries were developed as well as  
medicine, thanks to knowledge learned  
from mummification**

**Development of math allowed engineering  
& farming skills**

**Astronomy allowed for calendars & to  
recognize seasons**

**Art & Literature showed Egyptian  
values & attitudes to historians  
today**