

Nile River Valley Civilization Egypt-5000 BCE

Nile River is 4,160 miles long flowing from south to north

Mt. Kilimanjaro to the Mediterranean Sea

***Physical features include cataracts and waterfalls as well as surrounding deserts**

These offer natural protection from invaders

Life depends on the Nile River and it's yearly floods which come at the same time every year

They are predictable

Why is this important????????????

Location of the Nile offers very little rainfall

Villages form as farming communities along the Nile

Government is in a *Monarchy form

Kings and Queens rule small villages that sometimes unite with another

King Menes unites Upper and Lower Egypt as one Kingdom in 3,000 BCE

He establishes a national capital in Memphis

He forms the first recorded Dynasty in history

***Dynasty is a line of rulers from one family**

3,000 BCE-332 BCE =2,668 years

30 Dynasties rule Egypt

Egypt is broken up into three very distinct time periods

Old Kingdom =2,700 BCE-2,200 BCE

Middle Kingdom=2,050 BCE-1,800 BCE

New Kingdom=1,600 BCE-332 BCE

Old Kingdom

Both Egypt's have been united and a national capital has been established in Memphis

Civilizations are forming

Kings are considered god-like

They establish Theocracies in their rule

***Theocracy-one person is the religious and political leader**

Why is this so dangerous?????????

Religious acts=rituals

Political acts-absolute power as the law of the land

Kings set up their governments as a bureaucracy

***Bureaucracy-departments or groups in a government with officials who carry out the leaders orders**

Much like Augusta or Washington D.C.

Bureaucracies are not a type of government but a type of government structure Bureaus=drawers

These officials control trade, collect taxes

(goods), and watch over large scale building

projects: dams, canals, levees, dykes, pyramids

Kings took a new title-Pharaoh

***Pharaoh="great house of the king"**

Most people believed the Pharaoh was a god

They were believed to be the son of Amon-Re

***Amon-Re was the God of the Sun and the most important of all Egyptian Gods**

Why the Sun God?????????????????

Sunrise and sunset signifies life and death and it changes every day

East side versus West side of the Nile

East-sun comes up from the east symbolizing birth every day

West-sun sets in the west symbolizing death every day

People live on the east side and the west is a burial ground

Pharaohs had *absolute power=unquestioned power, total control of everything

Kingdoms were divided into *provinces=smaller areas of rule and family members ruled them

Eventually a Noble class was formed

***Nobles=wealthy land owners**

The Old Kingdom advanced greatly

***Hieroglyphics were improved**

Pictograms were pictures that showed a certain thing but no action or idea

Ideograms were established showing actions and ideas

Pyramids and tombs were created showing improved engineering skills and geometry

Old Kingdom="Pyramid Age"

Many were built including the three at Giza

Pyramids were places of eternal rest for the ruling families and the wealthy

Burial tombs were at the top because the Kings soul would continue to rule the Kingdom

Why at the top????????????????

Closest to the God Amon-Re

People were taxed very heavy (grain-goods) for the pyramids and tombs

***Mummification was for the very wealthy only**

Old Kingdom came to an end WHY????

- **Weak treasury-no taxes left**
- **Series of weak leaders**
- **Nobles seized control of provinces**
- **Peasants revolted**
- **Civil Wars**

Middle Kingdom

More interest paid to the common people

They could be mummified if they could afford it

Feats of engineering took place

Nile Delta was drained for thousand of acres of farmland

Canal was dug to the Red Sea from the Nile

WHY??????????

New markets for trade and transportation

Capital was moved to Thebes

Borders are expanded in Egypt

1,800 BCE and end to another Kingdom

WHY??????????

- **Series of weak leaders**
- **Strong Nobles**
- **Civil Wars**
- **Outside threats/invasions**

Hyksos of Asia Minor invade Egypt across the Sinai Peninsula-only land attachment to others

Easy invasion because Egypt had no army or weapons

WHY??????????

Never needed one

Is this a good thing for Egypt????

Yes!!!!!!!

It opens them up to the rest of the world

Hyksos have horses, chariots, new weapons, and bronze

All new ideas for the Egyptians

Religion in Egypt:

Monotheism-belief in one God

Polytheism-belief in more than one God

Egypt was a _____ society?

They believed that Gods had the power of life or death of everybody

Each village had their own God and they had shared Gods

Amon-Re-Sun God was the man

All others were the son of him

Osiris-God of the Nile at first

Murdered by his brother Set

Brought back by his wife Isis (Goddess) as a non-living God of the Underworld and Judge of the Dead

Upon death you were judged in the underworld by Osiris

Sin free meant the afterlife

Sinful were eaten by a monster

The *afterlife was the main goal of Egyptians

As a happy life that was basically a continuation of your life

Most spent their lives getting ready for it

**They took their possessions with them in death in
the tombs and pyramids
New Kingdom**