

ACHIEVEMENT OF MESOPOTAMIA

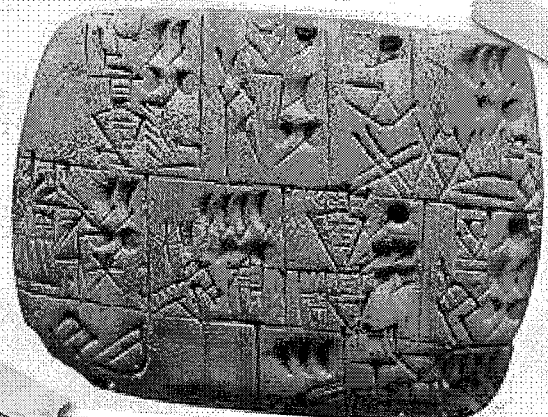
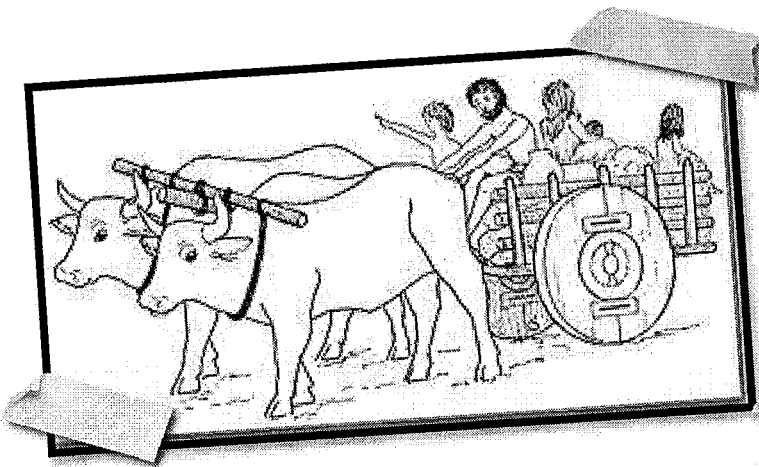
ACHIEVEMENTS—THE LASTING CONTRIBUTIONS OF A CIVILIZATION.

The lands of Sumer became the world's first city-states, and they had the world's first monarchies as well. Also, their measurement base of 60 led to the current system of dividing time into hours, minutes, and seconds. They invented the wheeled cart and possibly the sailboat, as well. The Akkadian Empire was the first empire in the world. And the Assyrian Empire also invented the lock and key system, in addition to being the first to construct an expansive, connecting paved road system. Sumerians also developed one of the first written languages ever recorded, called cuneiform. Cuneiform evolved from pictographs (small pictures) to phonograms (symbols that represent sounds) over the span of 500 years. Most often cuneiform was carved into clay and baked in a kiln to create a strong, durable tablet.

Sumerian scribes wrote "The Epic of Gilgamesh," one of the oldest-surviving and most famous stories ever. The first half of the story relates a friendship between Gilgamesh, King of Uruk, and Enkidu. In the second half of the epic, King Gilgamesh's distress at Enkidu's death causes him to undertake a long and perilous journey to discover the secret of eternal life.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER!

1. How did the base of 60 lead to the current system of time?
2. Describe three Sumerian achievements.
3. Use your own words to describe the "Epic of Gilgamesh".



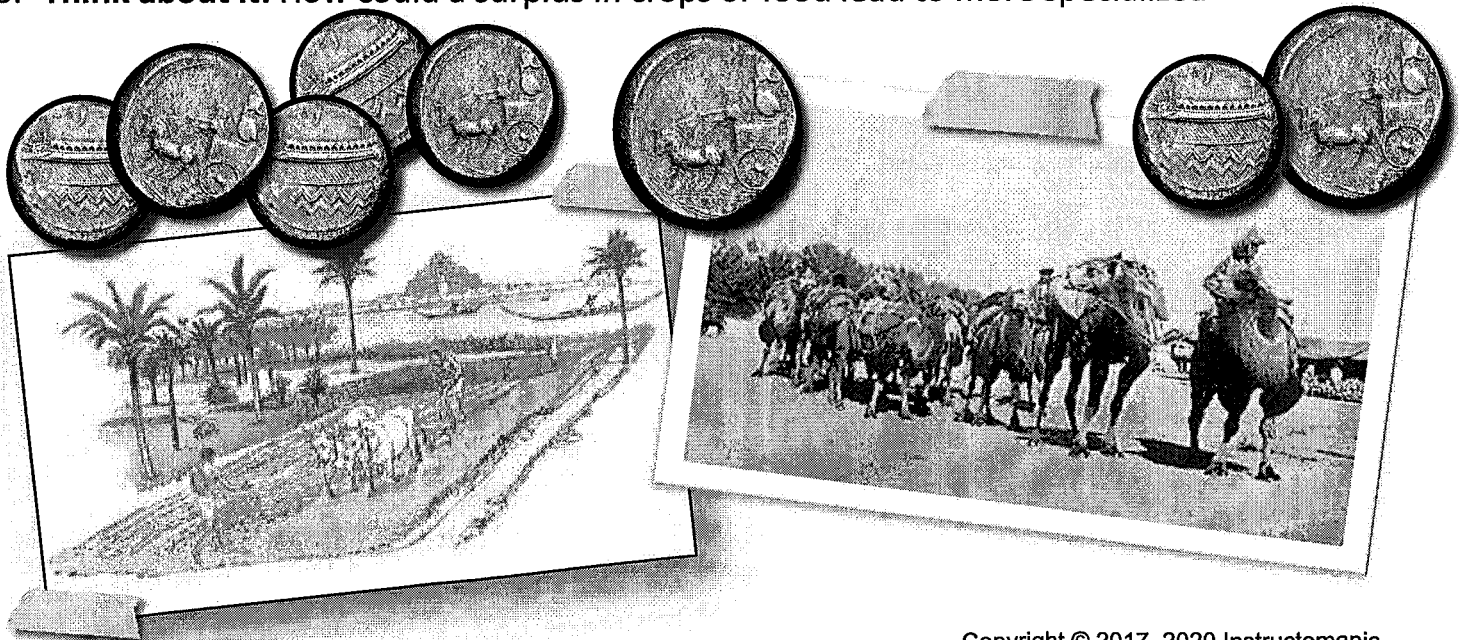
ECONOMY OF MESOPOTAMIA

ECONOMY-HOW A CIVILIZATION MAKES MONEY THROUGH THE BUYING AND SELLING OF GOODS AND SERVICES.

Mastery of irrigation techniques allowed the people of the region to grow a surplus of crops, and develop cities as trading and governing centers. The surplus of crops also led to the development of new, more specialized jobs to develop, such as artisans, builders, metal workers, among many others. Traders traveled in caravans through trade routes in order to trade other regions for certain resources Mesopotamia lacked, such as metals, wood, and salt. Their commercial trade extended to far-off regions like Egypt and Pakistan. These goods were often moved by cart-pulling donkeys and camels, which allowed them to carry large amounts of goods at a time. The Sumerians, the first civilization of Mesopotamia, invented the wheeled cart to carry more resources across the land. As surpluses of food increased, the Sumerians developed a division of labor, which meant that workers could specialize in non-agricultural jobs that produced valuable goods that merchants could trade. Eventually, Sumerians used money, which made individual wealth more easily measured and stored. Money was made from clay, stamped and dried in a kiln.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER!

1. **Support with Evidence from the Text-**Support the following sentence with evidence in the form of a direct quote from the text: Caravan traders traded goods with other places. Make sure to place the sentence chosen in quotes when you write it down.
2. How did the invention of the wheeled cart affect trade?
3. **Think about it:** How could a surplus in crops or food lead to more specialized



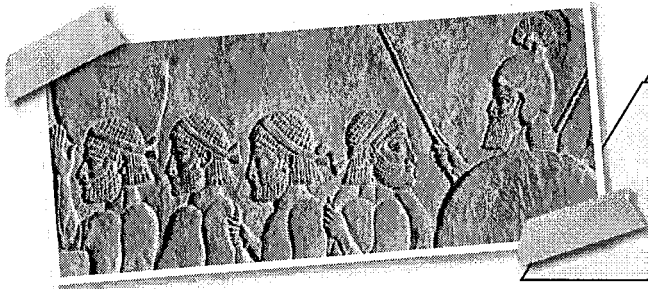
SOCIAL CLASS OF MESOPOTAMIA

SOCIAL CLASS—HOW A CIVILIZATION IS DIVIDED INTO CLASSES THAT HAVE DIFFERENT ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND PRIVILEGES.

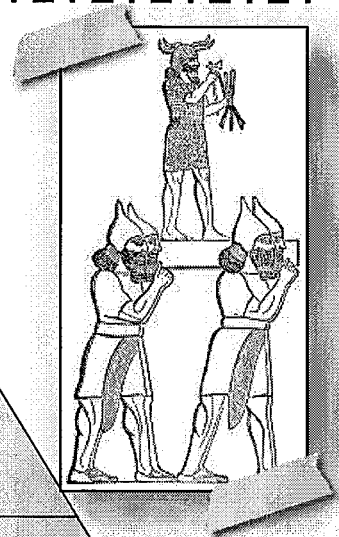
Sumerians developed the first ever monarchy, which was rule by a king. The king and his royal family were at the top of the social order; directly under them were priests and military commanders. Next was the large middle class that consisted of farmers, artisans, scribes, and merchants, and below the common folk were slaves. Fortunately, there was opportunity for advancement, and those who found success could move up in society. Also, women had many rights and privileges that were uncommon in other regions of the world. They could buy land, become scribes, own businesses, and even divorce their husbands. Slaves were very common in Mesopotamia. Slave men were called “mountain men” and slave women were called “mountain women” because they were captured from cities in the neighboring mountains. Sumerians believed the gods allowed them to use slaves to do domestic labor because they were considered inferior people.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER!

1. Categorize-Create a four-tier pyramid of power on your paper with the people who had the most power at the top and those with the least power at the bottom.
2. Describe one fact you learned from the reading that was surprising to you.



SOCIAL CLASS PYRAMID



RELIGION OF MESOPOTAMIA

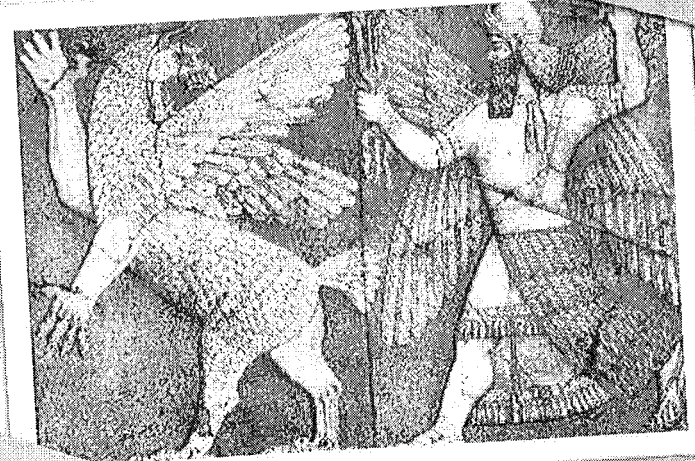
RELIGION-A BELIEF SYSTEM THAT INFLUENCES THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CIVILIZATION.

Sumerians were polytheistic and worshipped numerous gods. Because of this, priests were very important in their society. They believed in nature-based gods, and made offerings and animal sacrifices to appease the gods, in hopes that they could influence nature positively. The most prominent gods were Enlil, the god of air, and Enki, the god of water. In addition, they believed kings were demigods, meaning part man, part god. Each city-state also had its own unique god to look over them.

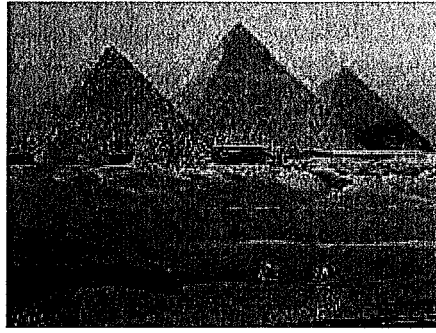
QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER!

1. Why do you think the Sumerians created nature-based gods?
2. Describe the powers of two Sumerian Gods.
3. Why do you think kings promoted the idea that they were demigods?

ENLIL & ENKI

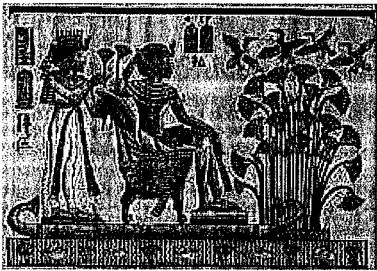


Egyptian Pyramids



Built during a time when Egypt was one of the richest and most powerful civilizations in the world, the pyramids—especially the Great Pyramids of Giza—are some of the most magnificent man-made structures in history. Their massive scale reflects the unique role that the pharaoh, or king, played in ancient Egyptian society. Though pyramids were built from the beginning of the Old Kingdom to the close of the Ptolemaic period in the fourth century A.D., the peak of pyramid building began with the late third dynasty and continued until roughly the sixth (c. 2325 B.C.). More than 4,000 years later, the Egyptian pyramids still retain much of their majesty, providing a glimpse into the country's rich and glorious past.

The Pharaoh in Egyptian Society



During the third and fourth dynasties of the Old Kingdom, Egypt enjoyed tremendous economic prosperity and stability. Kings held a unique

position in Egyptian society. Somewhere in between human and divine, they were believed to have been chosen by the gods to serve as mediators between them and the people on earth. Because of this, it was in everyone's interest to keep the king's majesty intact even after his death, when he was believed to become Osiris, god of the dead. The new pharaoh, in turn, became Horus, the falcon-god who served as protector of the sun-god, Ra.

Did You Know?

The pyramid's smooth, angled sides symbolized the rays of the sun and were designed to help the king's soul ascend to heaven and join the gods, particularly the sun god Ra.

Ancient Egyptians believed that when the king died, part of his spirit (known as "ka") remained with his body. To properly care for his spirit, the corpse was mummified, and everything the king would need in the afterlife was buried with him, including gold vessels, food, furniture and other offerings. The pyramids became the focus of a cult of the dead king that was supposed to continue well after his

death. Their riches would provide not only for him, but also for the relatives, officials and priests who were buried near him.

The Early Pyramids

From the beginning of the Dynastic Era (2950 B.C.), royal tombs were carved into rock and covered with flat-roofed rectangular structures known as "mastabas,"

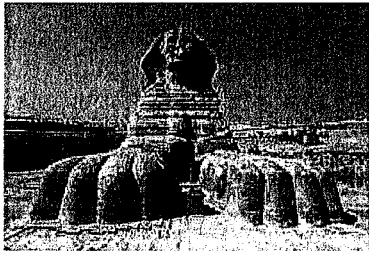


which were precursors to the pyramids. The oldest known pyramid in Egypt was built around 2630 B.C. at Saqqara, for the third dynasty's King Djoser. Known as the Step Pyramid, it began as a traditional mastaba but grew into something much more ambitious. As the story goes, the pyramid's architect was Imhotep, a priest and healer who some 1,400 years later would be deified as the patron saint of scribes and physicians. Over the course of Djoser's nearly 20-year reign, pyramid builders assembled six stepped layers of stone (as opposed to mud-brick, like most earlier tombs) that eventually reached a height of 204 feet (62 meters); it was the tallest building of its time. The Step Pyramid was surrounded by a complex of courtyards, temples and shrines, where Djoser would enjoy his afterlife.

After Djoser, the stepped pyramid became the norm for royal burials, although none of those planned by

his dynastic successors were completed (probably due to their relatively short reigns). The earliest tomb constructed as a “true” (smooth-sided, not stepped) pyramid was the Red Pyramid at Dahshur, one of three burial structures built for the first king of the fourth dynasty, Sneferu (2613-2589 B.C.) It was named for the color of the limestone blocks used to construct the pyramid’s core.

The Great Pyramids of Giza



No pyramids are more celebrated than the Great Pyramids of Giza, located on a plateau on the west bank of the Nile River, on the outskirts of modern-

day Cairo. The oldest and largest of the three pyramids at Giza, known as the Great Pyramid, is the only surviving structure out of the famed seven wonders of the ancient world. It was built for Khufu (Cheops, in Greek), Sneferu’s successor and the second of the eight kings of the fourth dynasty. Though Khufu reigned for 23 years (2589-2566 B.C.), relatively little is known of his reign beyond the grandeur of his pyramid. The sides of the pyramid’s base average 755.75 feet (230 meters), and its original height was 481.4 feet (147 meters), making it the largest pyramid in the world. Three small pyramids built for Khufu’s queens are lined up next to the Great Pyramid, and a tomb was found nearby containing the empty sarcophagus of his mother, Queen Hetepheres. Like other pyramids, Khufu’s is surrounded by rows of mastabas, where relatives or officials of the king were buried to accompany and support him in the afterlife.

The middle pyramid at Giza was built for Khufu’s son Khafre (2558-2532 B.C.). A unique feature built inside Khafre’s pyramid complex was the Great Sphinx, a guardian statue carved in limestone with the head of a man and the body of a lion. It was the largest statue in the ancient world, measuring 240 feet long and 66 feet high. In the 18th dynasty (c. 1500 B.C.) the Great Sphinx would come to be worshiped itself, as the image of a local form of the god Horus. The southernmost pyramid at Giza was built for Khafre’s son Menkaure (2532-2503 B.C.). It is the shortest of the three pyramids (218 feet) and

is a precursor of the smaller pyramids that would be constructed during the fifth and sixth dynasties.

Approximately 2.3 million blocks of stone (averaging about 2.5 tons each) had to be cut, transported and assembled to build Khufu’s Great Pyramid. The ancient Greek historian Herodotus wrote that it took 20 years to build and required the labor of 100,000 men, but later archaeological evidence suggests that the workforce might actually have been around 20,000. Though some popular versions of history held that the pyramids were built by slaves or foreigners forced into labor, skeletons excavated from the area show that the workers were probably native Egyptian agricultural laborers who worked on the pyramids during the time of year when the Nile River flooded much of the land nearby.

The End of the Pyramid Era

Pyramids continued to be built throughout the fifth and sixth dynasties, but the general quality and scale of their construction declined over this period, along with the power and wealth of the kings themselves. In the later Old Kingdom pyramids, beginning with that of King Unas (2375-2345 B.C.), pyramid builders began to inscribe written accounts of events in the king’s reign on the walls of the burial chamber and the rest of the pyramid’s interior. Known as pyramid texts, these are the earliest significant religious compositions known from ancient Egypt.

The last of the great pyramid builders was Pepy II (2278-2184 B.C.), the second king of the sixth dynasty, who came to power as a young boy and ruled for 94 years. By the time of his rule, Old Kingdom prosperity was dwindling, and the pharaoh had lost some of his quasi-divine status as the power of non-royal administrative officials grew. Pepy II’s pyramid, built at Saqqara and completed some 30 years into his reign, was much shorter (172 feet) than others of the Old Kingdom. With Pepy’s death, the kingdom and strong central government virtually collapsed, and Egypt entered a turbulent phase known as the First Intermediate Period. Later kings, of the 12th dynasty, would return to pyramid building during the so-called Middle Kingdom phase, but it was never on the same scale as the Great Pyramids.

The Pyramids Today

Tomb robbers and other vandals in both ancient and modern times removed most of the bodies and funeral goods from



Egypt's pyramids and plundered their exteriors as well. Stripped of most of their smooth white limestone coverings, the Great Pyramids no longer reach their original heights; Khufu's, for example, measures only 451 feet high. Nonetheless, millions of people continue to visit the pyramids each year, drawn by their towering grandeur and the enduring allure of Egypt's rich and glorious past.

Article Details: **Egyptian Pyramids**

Author: History.com Staff

Website Name: History.com

Year Published: 2009

Title: Egyptian Pyramids

URL: <http://www.history.com/topics/ancient-history/the-egyptian-pyramids>

Access Date: April 28, 2017

Publisher: A+E Networks

1. What were pharaohs thought to be?

2. What was believed to happen to the pharaoh after his death?

3. Why were pyramid sides smooth and angled?

4. Why was the pharaoh buried with so many objects?

5. Who was the first pyramid built for?

6. How were the first pyramids different than the later ones?

7. The Great Pyramid was built for whom?

8. Why was the Great Sphinx constructed?

9. How many blocks were used to build the Great Pyramid?

10. True or False: Some of the workers were likely farmers.

Highlight the evidence to support this.

11. How did the size of the pyramids reflect the power of the pharaoh?

12. What are the "pyramids texts"?

- a. The king's biography
- b. Building directions
- c. Tourist guides
- d. King's communications after life

13. True or False: By the time of Peppy II's rule, kings had lost some power.

Highlight the evidence of this.

14. What has happened to the contents of many pyramids?

15. Why do you think the pyramids remain so popular today?

The Pyramids Today

Tomb robbers and other vandals in both ancient and modern times removed most of the bodies and funeral goods from



Egypt's pyramids and plundered their exteriors as well. Stripped of most of their smooth white limestone coverings, the Great Pyramids no longer reach their original heights; Khufu's, for example, measures only 451 feet high. Nonetheless, millions of people continue to visit the pyramids each year, drawn by their towering grandeur and the enduring allure of Egypt's rich and glorious past.

Article Details: **Egyptian Pyramids**

Author: History.com Staff

Website Name: History.com

Year Published: 2009

Title: Egyptian Pyramids

URL: <http://www.history.com/topics/ancient-history/the-egyptian-pyramids>

Access Date: April 28, 2017

Publisher: A+E Networks

1. What were pharaohs thought to be?
2. What was believed to happen to the pharaoh after his death?
3. Why were pyramid sides smooth and angled?
4. Why was the pharaoh buried with so many objects?
5. Who was the first pyramid built for?
6. How were the first pyramids different than the later ones?
7. The Great Pyramid was built for whom?
8. Why was the Great Sphinx constructed?
9. How many blocks were used to build the Great Pyramid?
10. True or False: Some of the workers were likely farmers.

Highlight the evidence to support this.
11. How did the size of the pyramids reflect the power of the pharaoh?
12. What are the "pyramids texts"?
 - a. The king's biography
 - b. Building directions
 - c. Tourist guides
 - d. King's communications after life
13. True or False: By the time of Peppy II's rule, kings had lost some power.

Highlight the evidence of this.
14. What has happened to the contents of many pyramids?
15. Why do you think the pyramids remain so popular today?

Answer Key

1. A human-god
2. Become Osiris
3. Help the king ascend
4. Needed in afterlife
5. Djoser
6. They were stepped
7. Khufu
8. Guardian of the tomb
9. 2.3 million
10. True, "workers were..."
11. Size indicated power
12. A
13. True, "the pharaoh had lost..."
14. Plundered
15. Various

Follow Up Activity

1. Highlight each of the following terms in the article.
2. Choose 5 of the terms to define in the spaces below.
3. Then use all 10 terms to complete the puzzle.

- Mediators - Cult - Deified - Grandeur - Precursor
- Excavated - Dwindling - Turbulent - Plundered - Allure

Definitions:

1. _____ : _____

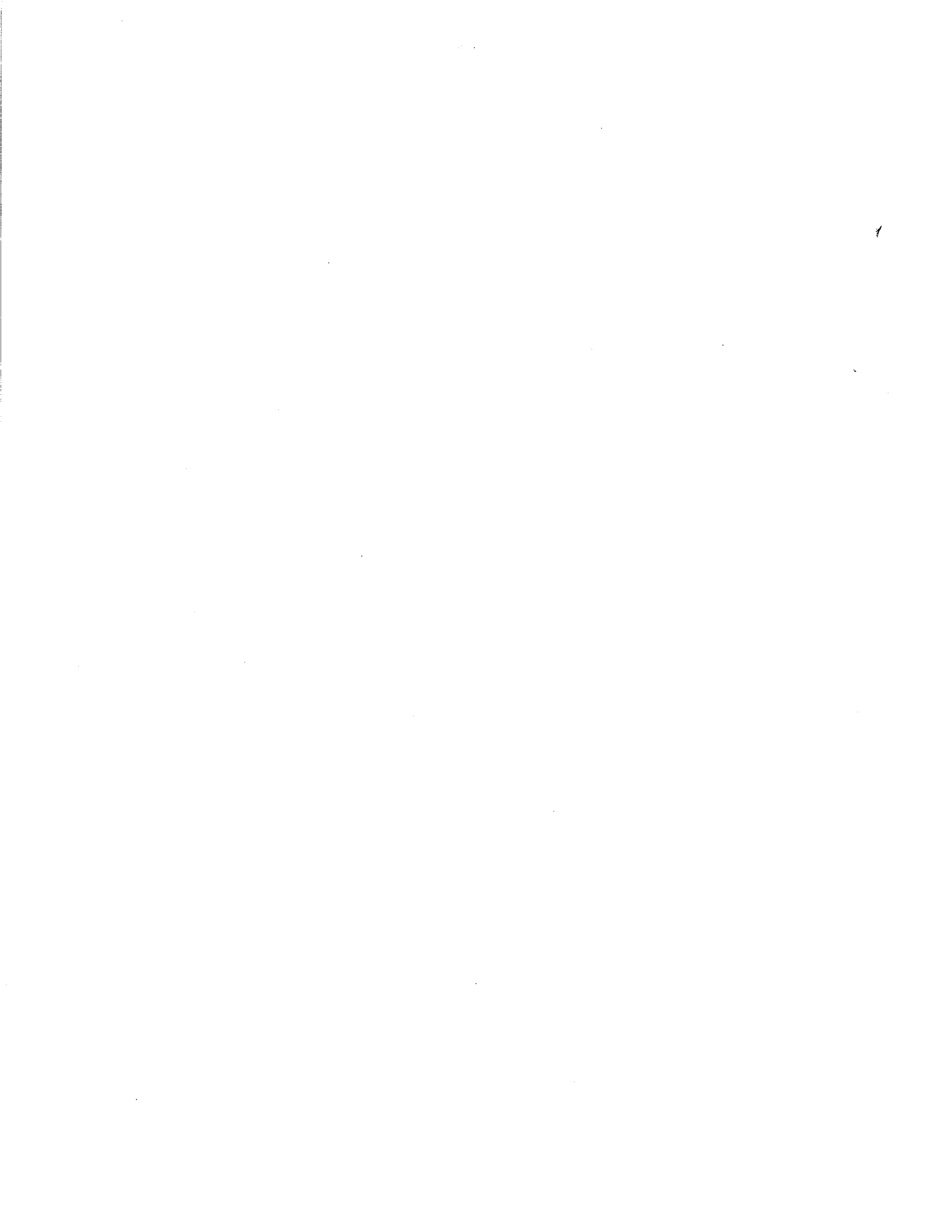
2. _____ : _____

3. _____ : _____

4. _____ : _____

5. _____ : _____

I E I T J S M V D K G T W X R
P C R N U E R E L R E L A J O
L B K U U R T O A G C U E Y S
U S G L L A B N T F W C C D R
N I V K V L D U A A T P F O U
D P D A Q E A V L W I P F S C
E E C X U V P L N E W D U B E
R X I R S T X T V Q N Z E X R
E P V F A D R V H S A T Q M P
D V V Z C K G K W C L I Y R Q
I O D H G J O X Z O Z W T Q T
Q J E B H A V Q D Y U V T U G
D W I N D L I N G U E W H C G
W Y L L S N S T Q F E Y U Y Z
Z D E I F I E D O G C Q V Y C

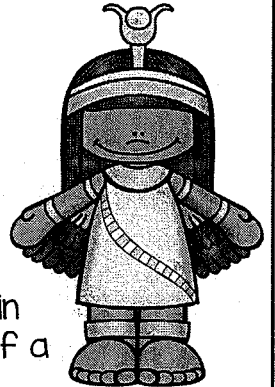


Ancient Egypt- Religion

Religion was a main part of life in ancient Egypt. They worshiped at least nine main gods, but had over 2,000 gods and goddesses to call on for help with different parts of their lives. These gods took on different forms, usually as animals.

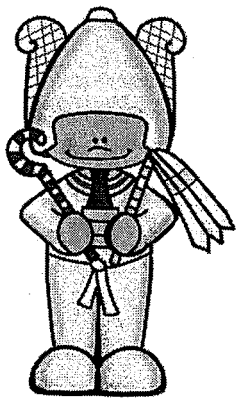
Ra

The most important god to the ancient Egyptians was Ra. He was drawn as a man with a hawk's head and a headdress with a sun disk. Ra was combined with the god Amun at one point, making him even more powerful as Amun Ra. He was the supreme ruler of the gods and was said to have created all forms of life.



Isis

As the mother goddess, Isis was thought to protect and help people in need. She was portrayed as a woman with a headdress in the shape of a throne.

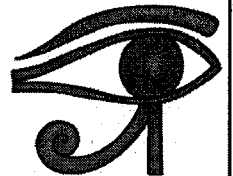


Osiris

As the husband of Isis and father of Horus, Osiris was the ruler of the underworld and god of the dead. He was drawn as a mummified man with a feathered headdress.

Horus

Horus was the son of Isis and Osiris. He was drawn as a man with the head of a hawk. The Egyptian Pharaoh was thought to be the living version of Horus. He was the leader of the Egyptian religion and the people's representative to the gods.



Thoth

As the god of knowledge, Thoth blessed the Egyptians with writing, medicine, and mathematics. He was also the god of the moon. He is drawn as a man with an Ibis bird head. He was sometimes represented as a baboon.

Temples

Pharaohs often built temples with large statues, gardens, and memorials to honor their gods. Towns had their own temples for their local gods. Egyptians went to the temples to pray to the gods. Women went to temples daily to offer food and goods. Many socialized while there. School was also held in temples. The temples were often robbed for the valuable objects inside.

Afterlife

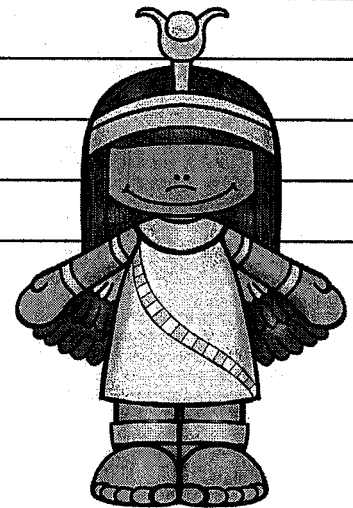
Egyptians believed there was life after death. They thought people had two important parts: the "ka" was the life force one had while alive and the "ba" was more like a soul. If these two parts were united, a person would live in the afterlife. For this reason, Egyptians used the embalming process, or mummification, to preserve their dead. The Land of Two Fields was a heavenly place for Egyptians after they died. Osiris opened the door to the afterlife for everyone. One made it to the Land of Two Fields by doing good deeds.

Name _____

ANCIENT EGYPT- RELIGION

Matching: Match each term with its description.

1. ____ Horus	A. Ruler of the underworld; god of the dead
2. ____ Ra	B. Land that was the heavenly place of the afterlife
3. ____ Ba	C. Son of Isis and Osiris
4. ____ temple	D. Life force one had while alive
5. ____ Isis	E. Most important Egyptian god; had hawk's head
6. ____ Two Fields	F. Process used at death to preserve bodies
7. ____ Thoth	G. An Egyptian soul
8. ____ Ka	H. Mother goddess
9. ____ mummification	I. God of knowledge
10. ____ Osiris	J. Built to honor Egyptian gods.



Multiple Choice: Choose the best answer.

11. Which best completes the analogy?

Ra : Hawk :: Thoth : _____

- A. Ibis
- B. Mummy
- C. Moon
- D. Sun Disk

12. Which Egyptian god was thought to open the door the Land of Two Fields?

- A. Ra
- B. Isis
- C. Osiris
- D. Thoth

13. Which Egyptian god was thought to have created forms of life?

- A. Amun
- B. Ra
- C. Osiris
- D. Amun Ra

14. Which of the following is NOT true about Egyptian temples?

- A. People prayed at them daily
- B. School was held at them
- C. They were often robbed
- D. Bodies were mummified at them

15. How did ancient Egyptians believe a person made it to the Land of Two Fields?

- A. Worshipping daily
- B. Giving daily offerings
- C. Doing good deeds
- D. Honoring their ba and ka

16. What is the author's purpose in writing this selection?

- A. To entertain
- B. To explain
- C. To persuade
- D. To inform

Name: _____

KING HAMMURABI

Directions: Read the informational text about King Hammurabi of Babylon. Think about his accomplishments during his reign.

Babylonia was an ancient civilization in Mesopotamia located between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. One of the most famous rulers of Babylonia was Hammurabi. He ruled the region from 1792 B.C. to 1750 B.C. During that time, he helped the Babylonian Empire to become a thriving civilization.

King Hammurabi worked hard to expand the Babylonian Empire. Under his leadership, the region grew to include all other areas of Mesopotamia until they were united as one empire. As his empire grew, King Hammurabi focused on leadership and finding ways to provide for the people who lived in Mesopotamia.

Throughout his life, King Hammurabi looked for ways to improve people's day-to-day lives. He ordered the building of canals and buildings to benefit the people. He also proposed projects that would beautify the cities and valued art and music.



King Hammurabi of Babylon

One of King Hammurabi's most famous achievements was the creation of a code of laws that came to be known as Hammurabi's Code, or the Code of Hammurabi. It consisted of 282 laws that his people had to follow. The code also included punishments for breaking the laws. His accomplishment is significant because it was the first written code of laws in history. The laws were recorded on a black stone stele, a tall stone slab. The stele is now being stored at the Louvre in Paris, France.

Name: _____

KING HAMMURABI'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Directions: Describe the accomplishments of King Hammurabi of Babylon based on your understanding of the informational text you read.

Expanding an Empire

Helping the People

The Code of Hammurabi

Which of Hammurabi's accomplishments was the most significant? Explain your answer.



THE FIRST CHINESE EMPIRE; THE QIN DYNASTY 221 BCE-206 BCE

PART 1 OF 2 STATIONS

Key concepts you will learn about at this station:

Leadership/ Government- How a civilization creates an organized way of leadership.

In 256 BC, the small state of Qin grew to be the most powerful in Southern China. It was located west of the Wei River valley. Their army was successful due to its iron weapons and horse-led army. In 246 BCE, the Qin gained a king who was only 13 years old. The Warring States period ended in 221 BCE, when the Qin ruled all of the northern states, creating China's first empire. Once the empire was established, the king named himself Qin Shi Huangdi, or "The First Emperor of China."

Shi Huangdi ruled using **legalism**, a form of government that gave all power to one leader. He used strict laws and fear to rule. He had success in uniting North China, and made lasting influences. For example, the word China comes from Qin. He broke down the feudal system by taking land away from nobles. He gave it to peasants, who paid taxes directly to his government. He then forced all the nobles to move to Xianyang, the Qin capital, where they were watched by officials to prevent an uprising against the emperor. Other strict laws Shi Huangdi enforced included only permitting members of his army to carry weapons, harsh punishments for those who disobeyed laws, and death for those who opposed him. In 206 BCE, the Qin Dynasty fell out of rule, having lasted only 15 years.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER!



1. **Leadership**– Who was the first emperor of China?
2. **Leadership**– How did Shi Huangdi break the feudal system?
3. **Leadership**– Cite evidence from the text in the form of a direct quote that supports the following statement: *Shi Huangdi was a harsh leader.*

THE FIRST CHINESE EMPIRE; THE QIN DYNASTY 221 BCE-206 BCE PART 2 OF 2 STATIONS

Key concepts you will learn about at this station:

Leadership/ Government- How a civilization creates an organized way of leadership.

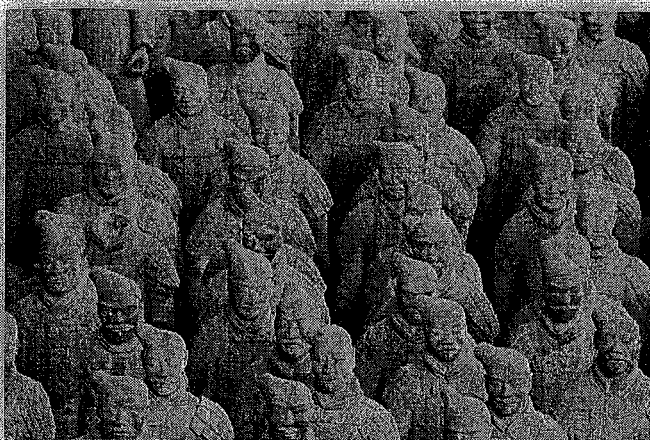
Achievements-The lasting contributions of a civilization.

In order to unite the empire, Shi Huangdi standardized currency, weight units, measurements, and writing across the empire. The writing system helped when it came to recordkeeping and overall communication. He improved trade by standardizing coins and the width of roads. He unified people with the harsh policies, such as total control of books used for teaching. At one point he even ordered books about Confucianism to be burned.

Shi Huangdi ordered that existing walls be built taller and longer for protection from invaders from the north. "The Great Wall" as it came to be known, was to be 25 feet high, 20 feet wide, and over 3,000 miles long. Many people working on the wall were mistreated, having to work long hours in harsh conditions and far from their families. Along the wall there were towers 40 feet tall where soldiers could keep watch for enemy attacks. They would use a smoke or fire signal from tower to tower until it reached the capital.

Shi Huangdi planned an extravagant tomb for himself at the age of just thirteen. It took over 30 years to construct and was still not ready in 210 BCE when he died. In the 1970s, Chinese farmers discovered the tomb, and to this day it is one of the most amazing archeological finds. The tomb is filled with 7,000 life size soldiers made from clay, all armed with real weapons. There were also clay horses and wood-and-bronze chariots. It is suggested that the outside was disguised to look like an imperial city.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER!



1. **Achievements** – How did Shi Huangdi unify (bring together) China?
2. **Leadership** – What was the purpose of the Great Wall?
3. **Leadership** – Cite evidence from the text in the form of a direct quote that supports the following statement: *Shi Huangdi had an extravagant tomb.*

The Story of the Half-Drowned Sailor

More than two thousand years ago, in the year 116 BCE, a shipwrecked Indian sailor was found half dead along the sands of the Red Sea. Coast guards brought the sailor to the Egyptian court where he spoke in broken Greek before King Ptolemy VIII. To save his life and to gain favor with the king, the sailor promised to guide the king's navigators to India using an open-sea route that was far shorter than was known to the Egyptians at the time.

Indian and Arabian merchant sailors had long known the uses of the monsoon winds which enabled them to sail directly across the oceans. By keeping the knowledge of the winds to themselves, they controlled the sea trade for many centuries. Until this time, Egyptian and Roman ships laboriously hugged the coastlines, fearful of the open sea. Trading voyages took many months longer.

King Ptolemy entrusted an adventurous seaman, known as Eudoxus of Cyzicus, with this mission the following July. Departing in mid-summer, they took advantage of the winds as they sailed across the Red Sea. With the help of the southwestern monsoon, it would have taken them only three weeks to cross the Indian Ocean. They would have made their stops and ended their voyage at the northwest harbors of India in September. Relying on the northeastern monsoon winds, Eudoxus would have set sail for home during the month of December or January. The king's navigator Eudoxus returned to Alexandria with a cargo of ivory, aromatics and precious stones within that year. Previously such a voyage would've taken more than a year.

Two years later, in 114 BC, Eudoxus repeated the journey traveling without the Indian sailor. Though using the monsoon winds, he was blown off course and landed on the coast of Ethiopia, perhaps not yet mastering the northeastern monsoon. Eventually he did make his way back to Alexandria.

Curiously, The Periplus of the Erythraean Sea, a sailing manual written about 40 BC, attributes the discovery of the monsoon winds to a navigator named "Hippalos." Both Pliny and Ptolemy also credit this to Hippalos, with no mention of Eudoxus. Opinion remains divided even to the present day.

In any case, the discovery of the monsoon winds was an event of global significance. During the next two centuries, vast numbers of Alexandrian ships sailed directly to Indian markets bypassing the Arabian ports. Trade between Asian and European markets dramatically increased due the demand for exotic goods.

The secret of the monsoon winds, shared by a shipwrecked Indian sailor, connected east and west for the millennium to come.

How was the discovery of the monsoon winds an "event of global significance"?

If you were an Indian sailor seeking to trade in Africa, when would be the best time of year to leave India?

Imagine you are an Indian sailor and you just finished a trading voyage in Africa. When is the best time of year to depart for home?

How does the history of the monsoon show the advanced knowledge of the Indian culture?

