

Ancient Egypt and Kush**Section 2****MAIN IDEAS**

1. In early Egyptian society, pharaohs ruled as gods and were at the top of the social structure.
2. Religion shaped Egyptian life.
3. The pyramids of Egypt were built as tombs for the pharaohs.

Key Terms and People

Old Kingdom the third Egyptian dynasty, which lasted nearly 500 years

Khufu the most famous pharaoh of the Old Kingdom

nobles people from rich and powerful families

afterlife life after death, a widely held ancient Egyptian belief

mummies the Egyptian method of preserving dead bodies by wrapping them in cloth

elite people of wealth and power

pyramids huge stone tombs with four triangle-shaped walls that meet at a top point

engineering the application of scientific knowledge for practical purposes

Academic Vocabulary

method a way of doing something

Section Summary**EARLY EGYPTIAN SOCIETY**

Around 2700 BC the third dynasty, or **Old Kingdom**, came to power in Egypt. During the next 500 years, the Egyptians developed a political system based on the belief that the pharaoh was both a king and a god. The most famous pharaoh of the Old Kingdom was **Khufu**, in whose honor the largest of the pyramids was built.

Although the pharaoh owned everything, he was also held responsible if anything went wrong. He was expected to make trade profitable and to prevent war. To manage these duties, he appointed government officials, mostly from his family. Social

On what belief did the Egyptians base their political system?

Section 2, *continued*

classes developed, with the pharaoh at the top and **nobles** from rich and powerful families making up the upper class. The middle class included some government officials, the scribes, and rich craftspeople. Most people, including farmers, belonged to the lower class. The pharaoh often used people from the lower class as a source of labor.

During the time of the Old Kingdom, trade between Egypt and other areas developed. Traders sailed the Mediterranean Sea, south on the Nile River, and on the Red Sea to **acquire** gold, copper, ivory, slaves, wood, incense, and myrrh.

Of the upper, middle, and lower classes, which was the largest in ancient Egypt?

RELIGION AND EGYPTIAN LIFE

The Old Kingdom formalized a religious structure that everyone was expected to follow. Over time certain cities built temples and were associated with particular gods.

Much of Egyptian religion focused on the **afterlife**. Each person's *ka* (KAH), or life force, existed after death but remained linked to the body. To keep the *ka* from suffering, the Egyptians developed a **method** called embalming to preserve bodies. The bodies were preserved as **mummies**, specially treated bodies wrapped in cloth. Only royalty and other members of the **elite** could afford to have mummies made.

What is the *ka*?

THE PYRAMIDS

Pyramids, spectacular stone monuments, were built to house dead rulers. Many pyramids are still standing today, amazing reminders of Egyptian **engineering**.

Why did the Egyptians build pyramids?

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Drawing Inferences Is the way the ancient Egyptians viewed the pharaoh different or the same as the way we view the U.S. president? Write a brief essay explaining your answer.

Section 2, *continued*

DIRECTIONS Write two adjectives or descriptive phrases that describe the term.

1. afterlife _____

2. elite _____

3. engineering _____

4. Khufu _____

5. mummies _____

6. nobles _____

7. Old Kingdom _____

8. pyramids _____

True/False

1. F; **Deltas** are triangle-shaped areas of land made of soil that is deposited by a river.
2. F; **Cataracts** are steep rapids that made sailing portions of rivers such as the Nile very difficult.
3. T
4. T
5. T
6. T

SECTION 2

Summary

(First Page) that the pharaoh was both a king and a god

(Second Page) the lower class; the life force; to house dead rulers

Challenge Activity

Students should respond that it is different because Americans do not believe the President is a king or a god. Students should also note that presidents are elected and have more limited powers than pharaohs.

Descriptive Phrases

Answers will vary. Sample answers:

1. life after death
2. wealthy, powerful
3. using practical scientific knowledge
4. most famous pharaoh of the Old Kingdom
5. preserved dead bodies wrapped in cloth
6. wealthy, powerful
7. the third dynasty
8. triangle-shaped tombs

SECTION 3

Summary

(First Page) from Southwest Asia

(Second Page) south; architects; farmers and peasants

Challenge Activity

Answers will vary. Student essays should include reasonable statements about any advantages or disadvantages.

Vocabulary

1. Ramses the Great; a pharaoh of the New Kingdom

2. Middle Kingdom; a period of peace in Egypt
3. Queen Hatshepsut; a New Kingdom ruler who expanded trade
4. trade routes; routes used by traders
5. New Kingdom; the height of Egypt's power and glory

SECTION 4

Summary

(First Page) Greek

(Second Page) sphinxes and obelisks; kings, priests, and other important people; because it is one of the few Egyptian tombs left untouched by tomb raiders

Challenge Activity

Student messages will vary but should be able to be translated.

Fill in the Blank

1. Papyrus
2. hieroglyphics
3. King Tutankhamen
4. Rosetta Stone
5. Sphinxes
6. obelisk

SECTION 5

Summary

(First Page) fertile soil, gold, copper, stone

(Second Page) about 450 years; the iron industry; Women were active in society, and some rose to positions of authority; Students should circle the name and kingdom: *King Ezana* and *Aksum*

Challenge Activity

Student essays will vary but should include an explanation for the defeat of Egypt.

Vocabulary Terms

1. b
2. a
3. c
4. b
5. a
6. a
7. b