Ancient Egypt

Outline Notes
From “Our World” Pages 80-109
I. The Nile Region
A. Great River of Egypt

1. Located in Africa

2. Flows North

3. Forms a Delta
   a. Fan or Triangle Shaped
   b. Fertile - Good for growing crops
   c. Made of Silt
4. Floods occur every year

5. Egypt is said to be the “Gift of the Nile”
B. Upper Egypt

1. Located South of Lower Egypt

C. Lower Egypt

1. Located North of Upper Egypt
D. Farming the Nile

1. Flooding brings silt to the desert land
   a. Silt makes soil fertile
2. Nilometer

   a. Looks like a giant set of steps

   b. Measures height of flood waters

   1.) Too much or too little water is bad for the region
3. Irrigation

a. Shardoof

1.) Lifts water into irrigation canals
4. Crops
   a. Wheat - Used to make bread
   b. Barley - Used to make beer
   c. Flax - Used to make cloth
   d. Onions
   e. Lettuce
   f. Cucumbers
   g. Beans
II. Kingdoms of Egypt
A. Egypt is United

1. First Pharaoh
   a. Menes King of Upper Egypt
      1. Overthrew King of Lower Egypt
   b. United Crown
      1. Crown of Upper Egypt is white
      2. Crown of Lower Egypt is red
      3. Double Crown combines red and white
c. Pharaoh

1. Means “Great Palace”
   a. Where leaders lived
   b. Later became name for leaders

d. Old Kingdom

1. Took place between 2700 B.C. - 2200 B.C.
B. Government and Religion

1. Government
   a. Memphis was the capital
   b. Pharaoh made local leaders follow him
   c. Collected taxes
   d. Made sure flood waters were shared fairly
2. Religion

a. Pharaoh was also the religious leader

b. Worshiped the Sun god among others

c. Pharaoh was thought to be “Horus” god who united Egypt.
d. Ra

1.) Sun god
2.) Most important god of Egypt
3.) Said to give Earth life
4.) Pharaoh was said to be a child of Ra
C. Mummification

1. Egyptians believed they needed their bodies in the after life.

2. Preserved bodies by mummification
   a. Minerals and spices were used
   b. Strips of cloth wrapped the body
   c. Simpler ways were used for regular people
D. Pyramids

1. Stone structures built as Tombs
   a. Used for the Pharaohs

2. Zoser’s Pyramid
   a. First Pyramid built
   b. Did not have smooth sides
3. Great Pyramid

a. Made for Pharaoh Khufu

b. Largest of the Pyramids

1.) Took 22 years to build

2.) 100,000 people worked on it
E. Ancient Egyptian Writing

1. Hieroglyphics
   a. About 800 picture-signs
   b. Symbols stand for objects or sounds
2. Scribes
   a. Trained writers and record keepers
   b. Only boys could become scribes
   c. Broken pottery was used as “Scrap Paper”
   d. had to be good at math too
3. Papyrus
   a. Reed plants grown along the river
   b. Pressed into paper
   c. Written on with red or black ink
4. Lost Language

a. Jean Campollion
1.) Figured out how to translate Heiroglyphics

b. Rosetta Stone
1.) Contained Heiroglyphics and Greek text repeating the same message
2. Helped with the translation of Heiroglyphics to English
F. Economy

1. Surplus crops and goods were used to pay taxes rather than money

2. Bartering

   a. Trading goods or services for other goods or services
III. Ancient Egyptian Culture
A. Egypt’s new rulers

1. Around 1700 B.C. Middle Kingdom begins

2. Pharaoh increased control
   a. Governors replaced regional leaders
   b. Leader reported directly to the Pharaoh
3. Expanding Contacts

a. Kingdom of Nubia is conquered by Egypt
   1.) It is South of Egypt
   2. It is a wealthy kingdom
b. Trade with Greece begins

c. Asian people from Hyksos settle in the Nile Delta
4. Hyksos Ruled Egypt
   a. Skilled in warfare
      1.) Used horses, chariots, and Bronze Weapons

5. The New Kingdom
   a. Pharaoh Ahmose I
      1.) Defeated the Hyksos
         Said “ Outsiders” would never again rule Egypt.
B. Egypt Becomes an Empire

1. Egypt conquered many nearby lands

2. Empire stretched from Kush (in the south) to the Euphrates River (in the north)
   a. Kush was a wealthy kingdom
   b. Had control of many trade routes
3. Amenhotep I
   a. Became Pharaoh in 1546 B.C.
   b. One of Egypt’s “Great Builders”
      1.) Known for the Temples at Karnak and Nubia

4. Hatshepsut
   a. One of the few female leaders of Egypt
   b. Known for her Burial Temple at Deir el-Bahn
C. Weakening of the Empire

1. Akhenation / Amenhotep IV

   a. Renamed himself Akhenation to honor his god

   b. Angered Egypt’s priests

       1.) Forbid the worship of Amon and closed Temples of Amon

       2.) Destroyed images of other gods

       3.) Replaced Amon with Aton god of the Sun
c. Practiced Monotheism

1.) Worship of one god

d. So unpopular, that after his death his capital, religion, and name were nearly forgotten.

e. Was married to Nefertiti
2. Changes in the Empire

a. Some conquered people regained their independence.

b. Tutankhamun became the Pharaoh
   1.) Ruled only a few years
   2.) Died at the age of 19
   3.) He was a Boy King
c. Ramses II

1.) Became Pharaoh

2.) Ruled for 67 years

3.) Was known to be both wise and powerful

4.) The empire collapsed 100 years after his death
3. Medicine

a. Doctors were priests

b. Understood people had a heart beat, or Pulse and other cures used today

c. Knew moldy bread could prevent infections

4. Egyptian Math

a. Math skills were used to build the Pyramids
5. Astronomy

a. Used stars to develop a calendar

1.) Had 12 Months in a Year

2.) Had 30 Days in each Month
IV. Nubia and Kush
A. The Land of Nubia

1. Located on the Nile River

2. Includes parts of what today we call Southern Egypt, Ethiopia, and the Sudan.

3. The Nile River is formed in Nubia when the Blue Nile flows into the White Nile.
4. The Nile River flows through stone cliffs, around rocks, down waterfalls, and over cataracts.

- a. Cataracts are steep rapids in a river.

- 1.) The 6 Cataracts make it impossible to sail upriver. So boats couldn’t travel south.
5. Nubia has a harsh desert climate.
   a. Summer temperatures reach over 100° F
   b. Winter temperatures drop below freezing.
6. Nubia had 2 regions.

a. Lower Nubia

1). North of Upper Nubia

2). South of Upper Egypt

3.) Has fertile farmland like Egypt
b. Upper Nubia

1). South of Lower Nubia

2). South of Upper Egypt

3.) Has a rugged landscape with rocky hills rich in minerals like gold

4.) Herding livestock like cattle
B. The Kingdom of Nubia

1. People settled in Nubia 10,000 years ago.

2. Early Nubians were hunter-gatherers who learned to herd cows and goats.

3. Lower Nubians began to farm.
4. Government was run by Kings.

5. Religion was complicated.

6. Grew wealthy thanks to mines with deposits of Gold, Copper, and Iron.

7. Ruled by Egypt during the time of Egypt’s Middle Kingdom.
C. The Kingdom of Kush

1. South of Upper Nubia

2. Kerma was its capital

3. Important center of trade.

   a. Trade brought wealth to Kush

4. Eventually Conquered by Egypt.
5. Kush and Egypt had similar cultures, because Egypt Ruled Kush for 500 years.

a. Both used Hieroglyphics and built pyramids

b. Due to trade, Kush was also influenced by other cultures.
6. In 1000 B.C. Egypt lost control of some lands.
   a. King Piye lead Kush as they pushed Egypt out.
      1). Kush later conquered Memphis and then all of Egypt.
      2.) Ruled all of Egypt for 50 years, until they were defeated by the Assyrians
D. Life in Kush

1. The capital was moved to Meroë to protect from Egyptian attacks.

a. Meroë was a large city with wide streets and lined with buildings made of brick.

b. In the center there was a walled area called the Royal City where they had temples and palaces.
E. Social Pyramid

1. Divided people into classes.

2. The king or Queen were at the top. Enslaved at the bottom.
3. In Meroe the Social Pyramid had four layers.
   a. King and Queen at the top.
   b. Priests & Soldiers directly below the King.
   c. Merchants, Artisans, & Farmers below Priests
   d. Enslaved People at the very bottom.
End of Chapter 3