

# Ancient Egypt Study Guide

## Section 1: Geography and Early Egypt.

### Vocabulary:

- 1) **Cataracts**: river rapids.
- 2) **Delta**: triangular-shaped area of land made from soil deposited by a river.
- 3) **Menes**: King who united Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt into one kingdom.
- 4) **Pharaoh**: ruler (king) of Egypt.
- 5) **Dynasty**: series of rulers from the same family.

### Main Ideas to know for Section 1:

- A) Egypt called “The Gift of the Nile.” The Nile River brought life to Egypt. It allowed Egyptians to farm the land. The farmers grew so much food that people could work at other jobs (division of labor). This helped civilization develop.
- B) Nile River floods brought silt (good soil for farming). Development of calendar to predict flooding.
- C) Kings unify Egypt. Menes unified Egypt.

## Section 2: The Old Kingdom.

### Vocabulary:

- 1) **Old Kingdom**: lasted from 2,700 BC To 2,200 BC.
- 2) **Khufu**: Pharaoh who had Great Pyramid built. The pyramid is thought to be his tomb.
- 3) **Nobles**: People from rich and powerful families.
- 4) **Afterlife**: Egyptians believed in a life after death. They believed that the **Ka** (Spirit) would live on after death.
- 5) **Mummies**: preserved bodies wrapped in cloth.
- 6) **Elite**: people of wealth and power.
- 7) **Pyramids**: huge, stone tombs with four triangle-shaped sides that met in a point at the top.
- 8) **Engineering**: the application of scientific knowledge for practical purposes.

### Main Ideas to know for section 2:

- A) Early Pharaohs: Egyptians believed that the pharaoh was a god. All of Egypt belonged to him. He had absolute power, but he was ultimately responsible for everything. They blamed the pharaoh if crops would not grow, if people became sick, if wars happened, etc.
- B) Social Hierarchy: 80% of Egyptians were farmers or slaves.

C) Egyptian Trade: Egyptians wanted to get gold, copper, ivory, slaves and stone for building.

D) Egyptian Religion: Polytheistic (Believed in many gods.) They built temples to their gods. Temples collected taxes from people and the government. The temples were very powerful. Believed in afterlife. They believed that the Ka (spirit) needed to recognize its body, so they mummified bodies of the wealthy. Mummification and the building of tombs cost a lot of money. Poor people were simply buried in the desert. The dry desert climate preserved the body. They built pyramids as tombs for Pharaohs. The pyramids became too expensive and easy to rob, so later pharaohs had secret tombs built in a secret location known as “The Valley of the Kings.”

## Section 3: The Middle and New Kingdoms.

### Vocabulary:

- 1) **Middle Kingdom:** lasted to about 1,750 BC.
- 2) **New Kingdom:** lasted from 1,550 BC to 1050 BC. Egypt reached the height of its power during this period.
- 3) **Trade Routes:** paths followed by traders.
- 4) **Queen Hatshepsut:** Female Pharaoh. She increased trade, built many temples, and created peace for Egypt.
- 5) **Ramses the Great:** Pharaoh of Egypt. Great military leader.

### Main Ideas for section 3:

- A) Scribes were people who could write. They worked for the government, businesses and temples.
- B) Artisans were workers who had specific skills like being a sculptor, carpenter, jeweler, metal worker and leather worker.
- C) Artists made art.
- D) Architects designed buildings, temples, pyramids, etc.
- E) Merchants and traders were business people.
- F) Soldiers were members of the military who did the fought for and protected Egypt.
- G) Farmers grew the food for Egypt.
- H) Family Life: Egyptian men worked outside the home. Egyptian women worked at the home and took care of the children.

## Section 4: Egyptian Achievements.

### Vocabulary:

- 1) **Hieroglyphics:** Egyptian writing.
- 2) **Papyrus:** paper-like material used for writing. We get our word “paper” from papyrus.

- 3) **Rosetta Stone:** Stone tablet with 3 different languages on it: Ancient Egyptian, a new version of Egyptian and Greek. Using this stone, people were able to translate Ancient Egyptian.
- 4) **Sphinxes:** imaginary creatures with the body of a lion and the head of a person.
- 5) **Obelisk:** a tall, four-sided pillar that is pointed at the top.

### **Main Ideas to know for section 4:**

- 1) Egyptian Writing: Egyptians used hieroglyphics-symbols that stood for ideas or sounds. They wrote on papyrus as well as other things. The hieroglyphic system used over 600 symbols. Since papyrus did not decay, we have many of their writings so we know a lot about them.
- 2) Egyptian Temples: They believed that temples were the homes of the gods. They also built pyramids, sphinxes and obelisks. The Temple at Karnak is the most famous temple.
- 3) Egyptian Art: They drew people with the heads and legs turned to the side, but their bodies here straight. They drew people different sizes depending upon the person's importance. For example, a Pharaoh would be drawn quite large compared to other people in the painting. Egyptians made beautiful jewelry, which was worn by men and women. We have many examples of Egyptian art found in the tomb of King Tutankhamen (Tut).