

Ancient Kingdoms of the Nile

- How did geography influence ancient Egypt?
- What were the main features and achievements of Egypt's three kingdoms?
- How did trade and warfare affect Egypt and Nubia?

The Egyptian Empire About 1450 B.C.

Geography of the Ancient Nile Valley

"Egypt is wholly the gift of the Nile." – Herodotus

People settled and established farming villages along the Nile.

Egyptians depended on annual floods to soak the land and deposit a layer of silt, or rich soil.

Egyptians had to cooperate to control the Nile, building dikes, reservoirs, and irrigation ditches.

Rulers used the Nile to link and unite Upper and Lower Egypt.

The Nile served as a trade route connecting Egypt to Africa, the Middle East, and the Mediterranean world.

Three Kingdoms of Ancient Egypt

Egypt and Nubia

For centuries, Egypt traded or fought with Nubia.

During the New Kingdom, Egypt conquered Nubia.

- Nubians served in Egyptian armies and influenced Egyptian culture.
- Egyptian art from this period shows Nubian soldiers, musicians, or prisoners.

When Egypt declined, Nubia conquered Egypt.

- Nubians did not see themselves as conquerors. They respected Egyptian traditions.

Section 1 Assessment

Why were the Nile floods so important to the Egyptians?

- a) They created a much needed supply of drinking water. b) The Egyptians held religious ceremonies when the floods came.
c) The floodwaters deposited silt, which made the land rich for farming.
d) The floodwaters kept away potential invaders.

Which of the following was an achievement of the Middle Kingdom?

- a) The Egyptians drained land for farming. b) The Egyptians built the pyramids.
c) Ramses II expanded Egyptian rule to Syria.
d) The Egyptian empire reached the Euphrates.

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Egyptian Civilization

- How did religious beliefs shape the lives of Egyptians?
- How was Egyptian society organized?
- What advances did Egyptians make in learning and the arts?

Egyptian Religious Beliefs

- Belief that many gods and goddesses ruled the world and the afterlife.
Amon-Re was the sun god. Osiris
was the god of the underworld and of the Nile.
The pharaoh was believed to be a god as well as a monarch.
- Belief in eternal life after death.
Relied on the Book of the Dead to help them through the afterworld.
Practiced mummification, the preservation of the body for use in the next life.

Ancient Egypt: A Center of Learning & Culture

Class System in Ancient Egypt

Section 2 Assessment

Who was the Egyptian god of the underworld?
b) Osiris
d) Nefertiti

a) Amon-Re c) Isis

What is one reason the Egyptians developed practical geometry?
a) to help in the mummification process
c) to please the gods

b) to create large sculptures
d) to survey the land

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City-States of Ancient Sumer

- How did geographic features influence the civilizations of the Fertile Crescent?
- What were the main features of Sumerian civilization?
- What advances in learning did the Sumerians make?

The Fertile Crescent

The Fertile Crescent is the fertile land between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. The first civilization in the Fertile Crescent was discovered in Mesopotamia.

As in Egypt, these fertile lands supported the development of civilization.

Villages along the Tigris and Euphrates rivers had to work together.

The first Sumerian cities emerged in southern Mesopotamia around 3200 B.C.

Sumerian Civilization

Sumerian Advances in Learning

- Developed **cuneiform**, believed to be the earliest form of writing.
- Developed basic algebra and geometry.
- Made accurate calendars, essential to a farming society.
- Made the first wheeled vehicles.

Section 3 Assessment

The Fertile Crescent was the land located

- b) between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.
Euphrates and the Nile rivers.

a) along the Nile river.

- c) between the
d) between the Tigris and the Nile rivers.

Most people in Sumerian city-states were

- b) merchants.
d) peasant farmers.

a) priests.

c) scribes.

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Invaders, Traders, and Empire Builders

- How did early empires arise in Mesopotamia?
- How did ideas and technology spread?
- How did the Persians unite a huge empire?
- What contributions did the Phoenicians make?

Invaders, Traders, and Empire Builders

A series of strong rulers united the lands of the Fertile Crescent into well organized empires.

Again and again, nomadic warriors invaded the rich cities of the Fertile Crescent. Some looted and burned the cities. Others stayed to rule them.

2300 B.C. –Sargon, the ruler of Akkad, conquered Sumer

and built the first known empire.

1790 B.C.–Hammurabi, King of Babylon, united the

Babylonian empire.

The Code of Hammurabi

Hammurabi's code was the first attempt by a ruler to **codify**, or arrange and set down in writing, all of the laws that would govern a state.

Warfare and the Spread of Ideas

- Conquerors brought ideas and technologies to the conquered region.
For example, when the Hittites conquered Mesopotamia, they brought the skill of ironworking to that

region.

- When the conquerors were in turn conquered, they moved elsewhere, spreading their ideas and technologies.
For example, when the Hittite empire was itself conquered, Hittite ironworkers migrated to other regions and spread the secret of ironmaking across Asia, Africa, and Europe.

The Persian Empire

Cyrus the Great and his successors conquered the largest empire yet seen, from Asia Minor to India.

Emperor Darius unified the Persian empire.

Divided empire into provinces, each headed by a governor, called a **satrap**. This form of government became a model for later rulers.

Drew up single code of laws for empire.

Had hundreds of miles of roads built or repaired to aid communication and encourage unity.

Set up common set of weights and measures to improve trade.

Introduced a uniform system of coinage and encouraged a **money economy**.

Religious ideas of Zoroaster also helped to unite the empire.

The Phoenicians

Occupied string of cities along the eastern Mediterranean coast.

Made glass from sand and purple dye from a tiny sea snail.

Called "carriers of civilization" because they spread Middle Eastern civilization around the Mediterranean.

Invented the alphabet. An **alphabet** contains letters that represent spoken sounds.

Section 4 Assessment

What leader was the first to codify the laws that would govern his state?

- a) Cyrus the Great
- c) Hammurabi

- b) Sargon
- d) Darius

Who invented the alphabet?

- b) the Babylonians
- d) the Assyrians

- a) the Persians
- c) the Phoenicians

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The Roots of Judaism

- What were the main events in the early history of the Israelites?

- How did the Jews view their relationship with God?
- What moral and ethical ideas did the prophets teach?

Early History of the Israelites

Judaism

The Israelites were **monotheistic**, believing in one true God. At the time, most other people worshiped many gods.

The Israelites believed God to be all-knowing, all-powerful, and present everywhere.

The Israelites believed that they were God's "chosen people."

They believed that God would lead them to the "promised land."

Teachings on Law and Morality

The laws of the Torah address all aspects of life, from cleanliness and food preparation to criminal matters.

Jews believe that God gave them a set of laws called the Ten Commandments.

Jewish prophets, or spiritual leaders, preached a code of ethics, or moral standards of behavior.

Examples:

- The rich and powerful must protect the poor and weak.
- All people are equal under God.

Unlike many ancient people, the Jews believed their leaders were fully human and bound by God's law.

Section 5 Assessment

Who is believed to have founded the Israelite nation? a) Moses c) David
 b) Abraham
 d) Solomon

Which of the following is *not* a belief of Judaism? a) All people are equal before God.
 b) Kings are bound by God's law. c) The rich and the powerful must protect the
 poor and the weak. d) There are many gods,
 each of whom should be worshiped equally.

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