

Ancient Egypt and Kush

Lesson 1 The Nile River

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How does geography influence the way people live?

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. *Why was the Nile River important to the ancient Egyptians?*
2. *How did the ancient Egyptians depend on the Nile River to grow their crops?*
3. *How did Egypt become united?*

Terms to Know

cataracts dangerous, fast-moving waters

delta a fan-shaped area of marshy land near where a river flows into the sea

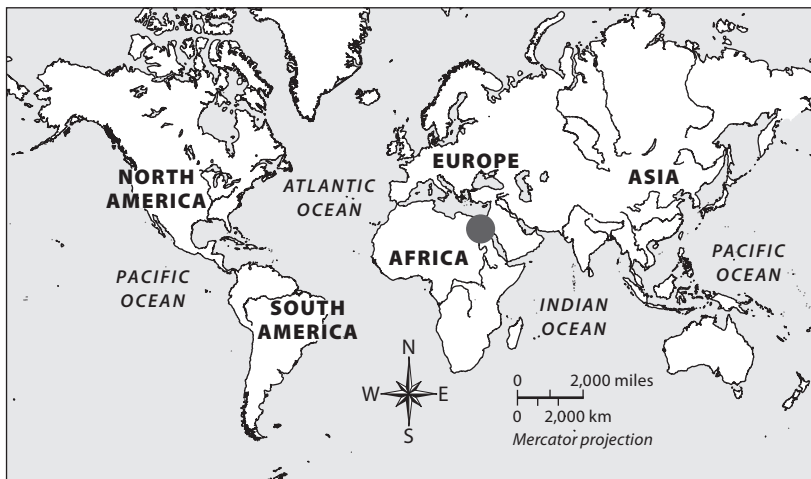
shadoof a bucket attached to a long pole, used to move water for irrigation

papyrus a reed plant that grows along the Nile River

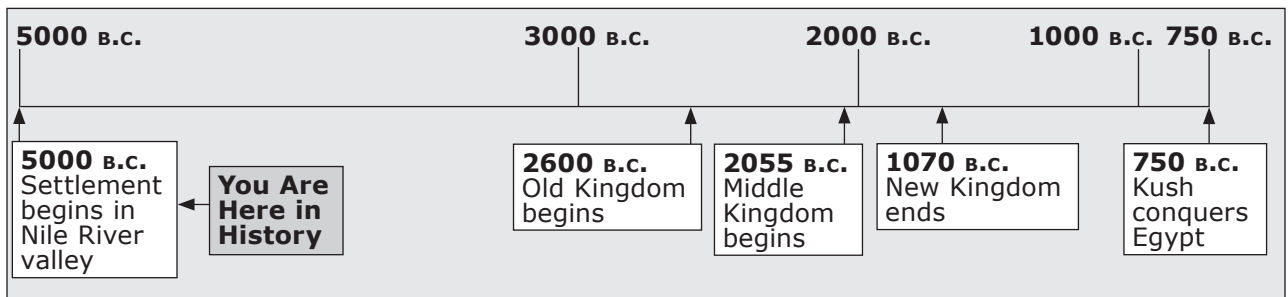
hieroglyphics a writing system made up of picture and sound symbols

dynasty a line of rulers from one family

Where in the world?



When did it happen?



Ancient Egypt and Kush

Lesson 1 The Nile River, *Continued*

The Nile River Valley

By 5000 B.C., hunters and gatherers had moved into the Nile River valley. They settled there, farmed the land, and built villages. These people became the earliest Egyptians.

Because Egypt gets little rainfall, Egyptians relied on the Nile River for water. They used its water for fishing, farming, cooking, and cleaning. The Nile River flows north from the heart of Africa to the Mediterranean Sea, about 4,000 miles. Two rivers meet to form the Nile. They are the Blue Nile in eastern Africa and the White Nile in central Africa. The water forms rapids where the rivers meet. These are called **cataracts**. Large ships cannot sail through the cataracts.

In Egypt, the Nile runs through a narrow valley. Just before it reaches the Mediterranean Sea, it divides into many branches. These branches spread out over an area of rich soil. This area is called a **delta**. Deserts lie on both sides of the Nile River valley. Because the deserts were so hot, the ancient Egyptians called them "the Red Land." These areas kept outside armies away from Egypt. To the south, dangerous cataracts blocked enemy boats. In the north, the delta marshes kept enemies from sailing into Egypt.

The geography of Mesopotamia did not protect people in the same way. The deserts and the rivers did not keep out invaders. Mesopotamians constantly fought off attackers. Egypt rarely faced such threats. As a result, Egyptian civilization grew and prospered.

How the Nile River Helped the Egyptians

- River provided water for drinking and growing crops
- Cataracts kept out invaders
- Marshy delta kept out enemies

The deserts and Nile rapids did not completely close Egypt to the outside world. The Mediterranean Sea was to the north. Beyond the desert to the east was the Red Sea. These waters allowed Egyptians to trade with others. Within Egypt, people used the Nile for trade and transportation. Winds from the north pushed sailboats south. The flow of the Nile carried them north. This made Egypt different from Mesopotamia. There, city-states constantly fought each other. Egyptian villages, however, had friendly contact.



Marking the Text

1. Underline the reason the Egyptians had to rely on the Nile River for water.



Defining

2. What are *cataracts*?
What is a *delta*?



Contrasting

3. How were the Egyptians different from the Mesopotamians?



Reading Check

4. How were the Egyptians protected by their physical environment?

Ancient Egypt and Kush

Lesson 1 The Nile River, *Continued*



Contrasting

5. Why was irrigation easier for Egyptians than for Mesopotamians?



Marking the Text

6. Circle the items papyrus was used to make.



Reading Check

7. What kind of writing system did the Egyptians develop?



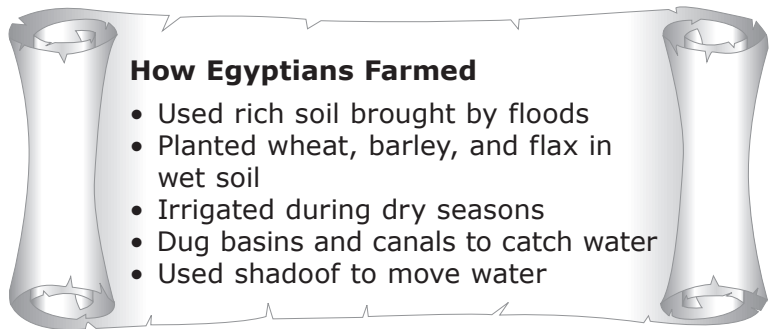
Critical Thinking

8. Why was it important for Egyptians to develop a system of writing?

People of the River

Farmers in Mesopotamia never knew when the nearby rivers would overflow or if flooding would be bad. This made it difficult to farm there. In Egypt, the Nile River also flooded, but its floods were regular. Farmers did not have to worry that floods would destroy crops or farms. Water came to the Nile from rain and melted snow. Then, during the summer, the Nile spilled over its banks. When the waters went down, they left a layer of dark, rich mud.

The Egyptians became successful farmers. They planted wheat, barley, and flax seeds. They grew enough food to feed themselves and their animals. They used irrigation when the weather was dry. To trap floodwaters, Egyptian farmers first dug basins, or bowl-shaped holes, in the earth. Then they dug canals to carry water from the basins to the fields. They used a **shadoof**, a bucket on a long pole. It could lift water from the river into the basins.



Egyptians also developed ways to use **papyrus**. This was a reed plant that grew along the shores of the Nile. They harvested papyrus to make baskets, sandals, and river rafts. The Egyptians also used papyrus for making writing paper. Like the Mesopotamians, Egyptians developed their own system of writing called **hieroglyphics**. It was made up of thousands of picture and sound symbols. Some symbols stood for objects and ideas. For example, to communicate the idea of a boat, a scribe would draw a tiny boat. Other symbols stood for sounds, like the letters of our own alphabet.

In ancient Egypt, few people could read and write. Some Egyptian men went to special schools to study reading and writing. They learned to become scribes, or record keepers for the rulers, priests, and traders. Some hieroglyphics conveyed public messages. Scribes carved these into stone walls and monuments. For everyday use, scribes invented a simpler script and wrote on papyrus.

Ancient Egypt and Kush

Lesson 1 The Nile River, *Continued*

Uniting Egypt

Skillful farming led to more food than was needed, or a surplus. This freed some people to work as artisans instead of farmers. Artisans wove cloth, made pottery, and carved statues. They also shaped copper into weapons and tools. Now Egyptians had goods to trade. First, they traded with each other. Then they traveled to Mesopotamia to trade. There they may have learned new ideas about writing and government.

Irrigation systems needed to be built and maintained. Grain had to be stored. Disputes over land needed to be settled. Over time, a government formed in Egypt. By 4000 B.C., Egypt was made up of two large kingdoms. Lower Egypt was in the north in the Nile delta. Upper Egypt was in the south along the Nile River.

About 3100 B.C., Narmer was king of Upper Egypt. He led his armies north and took control of Lower Egypt. Narmer's kingdom stayed together long after his death. His family passed power from father to son to grandson. This is called a **dynasty**. Over time, ancient Egypt would be ruled by 30 dynasties over a period of about 2,800 years. Historians group Egypt's dynasties into three main eras—the Old Kingdom, the Middle Kingdom, and the New Kingdom. Each kingdom had a long period of strong leadership and safety.

Check for Understanding

List three ways that the Egyptians used the Nile River.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

List two ways Narmer changed Egypt.

4. _____
5. _____



Explaining

9. Why did Egypt need an organized government?



Reading Check

10. How did the separate kingdoms of Egypt unite?



11. Place a three-tab Foldable on the dotted line to cover the Check for Understanding. Label the anchor tab *Ancient Egyptians*. Label the three tabs—*Agriculture*, *Writing System*, and *Dynasties*.

On the front of the tabs, write a sentence based on something you remember about the importance of each title. Use your sentences to help you complete the list under the tabs.

Ancient Egypt and Kush

Lesson 2 Life in Ancient Egypt

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What makes a culture unique?

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. *How was ancient Egypt governed?*
2. *What kind of religion did the ancient Egyptians practice?*
3. *Why and how were pyramids built?*
4. *How was Egyptian society organized?*

Terms to Know

theocracy a government in which the same person is the political and religious leader

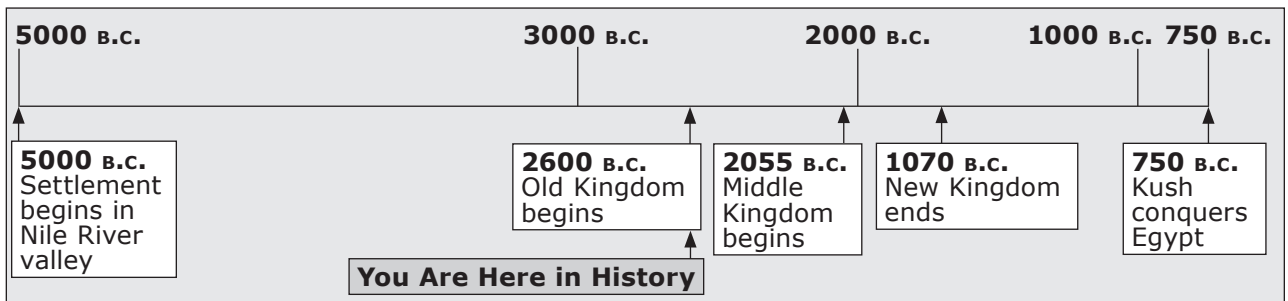
pharaoh ruler of ancient Egypt

bureaucrat government official

embalming the process of preserving dead bodies

pyramid a great stone tomb built for an Egyptian pharaoh

When did it happen?



What do you know?

In the K column, list what you already know about life in ancient Egypt. In the W column, list what you want to know. After reading the lesson, fill in the L column with the information that you learned.

K	W	L

Ancient Egypt and Kush

Lesson 2 Life in Ancient Egypt, *Continued*

Egypt's Early Rulers

The Old Kingdom began in Egypt around 2600 B.C. It lasted about 400 years. During this time, the Egyptians built cities and expanded trade. Their kings, or **pharaohs**, set up a government. Egypt was a **theocracy**. That means that the pharaoh was both the political and religious leader.

The pharaoh had total power. He could use all the land in Egypt any way he wanted. His orders were obeyed without question. Pharaohs appointed officials called **bureaucrats**. They were in charge of irrigation canals and crop planting. They made sure grain was saved to help people get through hard times. Bureaucrats also controlled trade and collected tax payments from farmers.

As religious leader, a pharaoh participated in ceremonies that helped the kingdom. For example, he was the first to cut the grain at harvest time. Egyptians believed their pharaoh was the son of Re, the Egyptian sun god. They believed he protected the people during hard times.

Pharaoh's Duties

- to unify Egypt
- to lead during good and bad times
- to hire officials
- to give orders
- to participate in religious ceremonies

Religion in Egypt

Religion affected every part of Egyptian life. Egyptians worshiped many gods and goddesses. They believed that the gods controlled nature. The sun god, Re, was important because the sun was necessary for good crops.

Egyptians believed that life after death was better than the present life. They thought that the dead made a long journey. At the end, they reached a place of peace.

The Book of the Dead was a collection of prayers and magic spells. Egyptians studied it, learned the spells, and tried to lead good lives. They believed that if they did these things, the god Osiris would grant them life after death.



Defining

1. Define the term *theocracy*.



Marking the Text

2. Underline the duties of the pharaoh's bureaucrats.



Reading Check

3. How was the pharaoh both a political leader and a religious leader?



Examining Details

4. List three ways that religion affected life in ancient Egypt.

Ancient Egypt and Kush

Lesson 2 Life in Ancient Egypt, *Continued***FOLDABLES®****Describing**

5. Place a two-tab Foldable along the dotted line. Write *Describe ...* on the anchor tab. Label the top tab *Embalming* and the bottom tab *Pyramid Building*. Use both sides of the tabs to describe each.

**Reading Check**

6. Why did Egyptians protect a person's body after death?
- _____
- _____

**Explaining**

7. How were the pyramids built?
- _____
- _____
- _____

**Reading Check**

8. Why did the Egyptians build the pyramids?
- _____
- _____
- _____

For centuries, Egyptians believed that if the pharaoh's soul reached the afterlife, he would continue to protect Egypt. To live in the afterlife, the pharaoh's soul needed a body. Eventually, Egyptians believed all people could reach the afterlife. They developed a process called **embalming** to protect the body. It involved removing organs from the dead body and then drying and wrapping the body in cloth. Embalming taught the Egyptians about the human body. They learned how to treat illnesses. They wrote down what they learned in the world's first medical books.

Pyramid Tombs

Egyptians built **pyramids**, or large triangle-shaped tombs, to hold the bodies of the pharaohs. Pyramids protected the bodies from floods, wild animals, and grave robbers. They also held the things the pharaoh might need in the afterlife, such as clothing, furniture, and jewelry.

Thousands of people worked for many years to build a pyramid. Farmers, surveyors, engineers, carpenters, stonecutters, and enslaved people all worked on pyramids.

Workers found the stone. Artisans cut it into blocks. Others tied the blocks to wooden sleds and pulled them to barges, or boats. The barges floated to the building site. There workers unloaded the blocks, pushed them up ramps, and set them in place. Each pyramid sat on a square base with a north entrance. To find true north, the Egyptians studied the sky.

Egyptians had to figure out the amount of stone and the angles for the walls. They developed and used mathematics and geometry to do this.

Egyptian Achievements

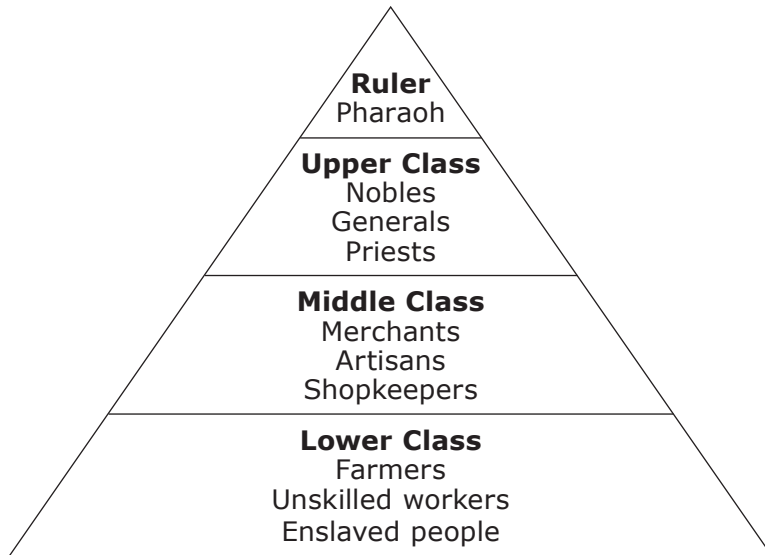
- astronomy
- a 365-day calendar
- geometry/mathematics
- a system of written numbers
- fractions

About 2540 B.C., the Egyptians built the Great Pyramid. It is located about 10 miles south of the modern city of Cairo. It is one of three pyramids still standing in Giza. The Great Pyramid is about the height of a 48-story building and is made of more than 2 million stone blocks.

Ancient Egypt and Kush

Lesson 2 Life in Ancient Egypt, *Continued*

Daily Life



Every Egyptian had a place in society. The pharaoh and his family were at the very top. The upper class lived in cities and on large estates along the Nile. Servants waited on them. The middle class ran businesses or made goods. They lived in smaller homes. Egypt's lower class was its largest class. Most farmers lived in one-room mud homes. Unskilled workers lived in small homes with dirt floors.

In ancient Egypt, the father headed the family. Women had the right to own property, buy and sell goods, and get divorced. Few Egyptians sent their children to school. Mothers taught their daughters to run a household. Boys learned job skills from their fathers.

Check for Understanding

Name four duties of the pharaoh.

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 3. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 4. _____ |

List two inventions by the Egyptians.

- | |
|----------|
| 5. _____ |
| 6. _____ |



Reading Check

9. What types of people made up Egypt's upper class?



Marking the Text

10. Underline the rights of ancient Egyptian women.



11. Place a one-tab Foldable along the dotted line to cover the Check for Understanding chart. Label the anchor tab *What made Egypt ...* and write ... *unique* in the middle of the tab. Make a memory map by drawing five arrows around the word and writing five things that were unique to ancient Egypt. Use your notes to help you complete the lists under the tab.

Ancient Egypt and Kush

Lesson 3 Egypt's Empire

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

Why do civilizations rise and fall?

GUIDING QUESTIONS

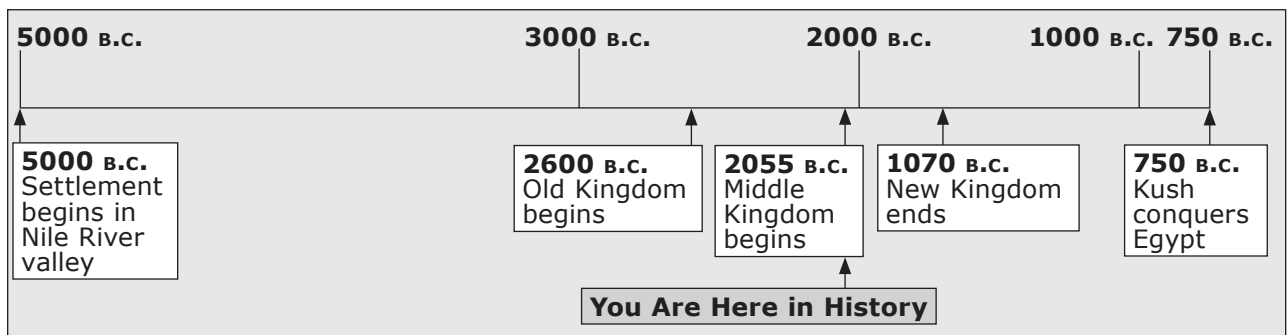
1. *Why was the Middle Kingdom a "golden age" for Egypt?*
2. *Why was the New Kingdom a unique period in ancient Egypt's history?*
3. *How did two unusual pharaohs change ancient Egypt?*
4. *Why did the Egyptian empire decline in the late 1200s B.C.?*

Terms to Know

incense a material burned for its pleasant smell

envoy a person who represents his country in a foreign place

When did it happen?



What do you know?

Read the list of pharaohs. Circle the names that you know or have heard before. For each circled name, write one fact that you know about that pharaoh.

- Ahmosé _____
- Hatshepsut _____
- Thutmose III _____
- Akhenaton _____
- King Tut _____
- Ramses II _____

Ancient Egypt and Kush

Lesson 3 Egypt's Empire, *Continued*

A Golden Age

The Middle Kingdom lasted from about 2055 B.C. to 1650 B.C. It was a time of power, wealth, and achievement for Egypt. During the Middle Kingdom, Egypt took control of new lands. The pharaoh required tribute, or payments from the conquered peoples. The pharaoh used this wealth to build dams and improve farmlands. The pharaoh also built a canal between the Nile River and the Red Sea.

During the Middle Kingdom:

- Arts and architecture grew more popular.
- Painters covered tombs and temples with colorful scenes.
- Sculptors created large carvings of the pharaohs, which showed the pharaohs as ordinary people.
- Pharaohs had their tombs cut into cliffs.

The Middle Kingdom ended when nobles tried to take power from the pharaohs. This fight weakened Egypt, making it easy to conquer. Outsiders, known as the Hyksos, invaded from western Asia. The Hyksos army rode in chariots and used weapons made of bronze and iron. The Egyptians had copper and stone weapons that could not stop the invaders. The Hyksos ruled Egypt for about 100 years. During that time, the Egyptians learned how to make and use Hyksos weapons. Around 1550 B.C., an Egyptian prince named Ahmose formed an army and drove the Hyksos out of Egypt.

Building an Empire

Ahmose's rule began an era known as the New Kingdom. From 1550 B.C. to 1070 B.C., Egypt grew richer and more powerful. Most pharaohs focused on bringing other lands under their control.

About 1473 B.C., a queen named Hatshepsut came to power. First she ruled with her husband. After he died, she made herself pharaoh and ruled for her young nephew. She became the first woman to rule Egypt by herself.

Hatshepsut used trade to expand the empire. During her rule, Egyptians traded beads, metal tools, and weapons for gold, ivory, and ebony wood. Traders also brought **incense**, a material burned for its pleasant smell. One important trading partner was Phoenicia. The Phoenicians lived on the Mediterranean. They had their own alphabet and system of writing. The Phoenicians traded goods all over the ancient world.

FOLDABLES®



Categorizing

1. Place a two-tab Foldable along the dotted line to cover the text. Label the anchor tab *Kingdoms*. Label the two tabs in order—*Middle* and *New*. Use both sides to describe what was important about each kingdom.



Defining

2. Who pays tributes and why?



Reading Check

3. How were the Egyptians able to defeat the Hyksos?



Identifying

4. What was unusual or special about Queen Hatshepsut?

Ancient Egypt and Kush**Lesson 3** Egypt's Empire, *Continued***Reading Check**

5. Why did the Egyptians want to trade with the Phoenicians?

**Explaining**

6. What made Hatshepsut's rule different from that of Thutmose III?

**Paraphrasing**

7. How did ancient Egypt change under Amenhotep IV?

**Reading Check**

8. Why are Akhenaton and Tutankhamen considered unusual pharaohs?

New Kingdom rulers also sent **envoys**, or representatives, to other rulers. This was the first time in history that a group of nations worked together in this way.

When Hatshepsut died, her nephew, Thutmose III, became pharaoh. Thutmose expanded the empire through war. His armies extended the northern border of Egypt. His troops also took back control of Nubia, which had broken free from Egypt. The empire grew rich. It took gold, copper, ivory, and other goods from conquered peoples. Egypt also enslaved prisoners of war. However, it did let enslaved people own land, marry, and gain their freedom.

Hatshepsut	Thutmose III
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded Egypt through trade Was the first woman to rule Egypt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded Egypt through war Made Egypt rich with gold and valuables from other kingdoms

Two Unusual Pharaohs

About 1370 B.C., Amenhotep IV came to the throne. He and his wife, Nefertiti, tried to lead Egypt in a new direction. The pharaohs were losing power to the priests, so Amenhotep IV started a new religion. People could worship only one god, called Aton. When the priests protested, Amenhotep IV removed many from their positions. He seized their lands and closed their temples. He changed his name to Akhenaton, or "Spirit of Aton." He began ruling Egypt from a new city.

Most Egyptians refused to accept Aton as the only god. They still worshiped many gods. The priests of the old religion were unhappy about losing their power. Army leaders believed Akhenaton was so devoted to his new religion that he did not do his job as pharaoh. Outside invaders took most of Egypt's lands in western Asia.

When Akhenaton died, his son-in-law took the throne. The new pharaoh, Tutankhamen, was only 10 years old. With help from officials and priests, he quickly restored the old religion. After nine years, Tutankhamen suddenly died. In 1922 Howard Carter, a British archaeologist, unearthed Tutankhamen's tomb and all its treasures. The boy king and his riches fascinated people living in the modern world. He became known around the world as "King Tut."

Ancient Egypt and Kush

Lesson 3 Egypt's Empire, *Continued*

Recovery and Decline

The most successful leader during the New Kingdom was Ramses II. Ramses II came to power in 1279 B.C. He took back much of the territory lost by earlier pharaohs. He fought the Hittites in what is now Turkey and signed peace treaties. The Hittites and the Egyptians agreed to keep peace between them. They agreed to fight together if an enemy attacked one of them.

Under Ramses II and other New Kingdom leaders, many temples were built. The most magnificent temple was Karnak at Thebes. Karnak still impresses visitors today.

Ramses II's Accomplishments

- Regained lost lands for Egypt
- Signed peace treaties
- Built temples

The Egyptians believed that their gods and goddesses lived in the temples. Priests and priestesses served the gods by leaving food for them and by washing their statues. Temples also served as banks. Egyptians stored valuable items, such as gold jewelry, in them.

After Ramses II, Egypt's power faded. Egypt was attacked by groups with more and better weapons. By 1150 B.C., Egypt ruled only the Nile delta, a small area. Starting in 900 B.C., one outside group after another took over Egypt. These outside groups included the Libyans, the people of Kush, and the Assyrians from Mesopotamia.

Check for Understanding

List one accomplishment for each pharaoh.

1. Ahmose _____
2. Hatshepsut _____
3. Thutmose III _____
4. Amenhotep IV _____
5. Tutankhamen _____
6. Ramses II _____



Reading Check

9. What were the accomplishments of Ramses II?



Marking the Text

10. Circle the groups that took over Egypt after its decline.



11. Place a one-tab Foldable along the dotted line to cover the Check for Understanding. Label the anchor tab *Powers and Responsibilities*. Write *Egyptian Pharaohs* in the middle of the tab. Make a memory map by drawing five arrows around the title. Write five words or phrases that you remember about the pharaohs. Use your notes to help you with the list under the tabs.

Ancient Egypt and Kush

Lesson 4 The Kingdom of Kush

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

Why do civilizations rise and fall?

GUIDING QUESTIONS

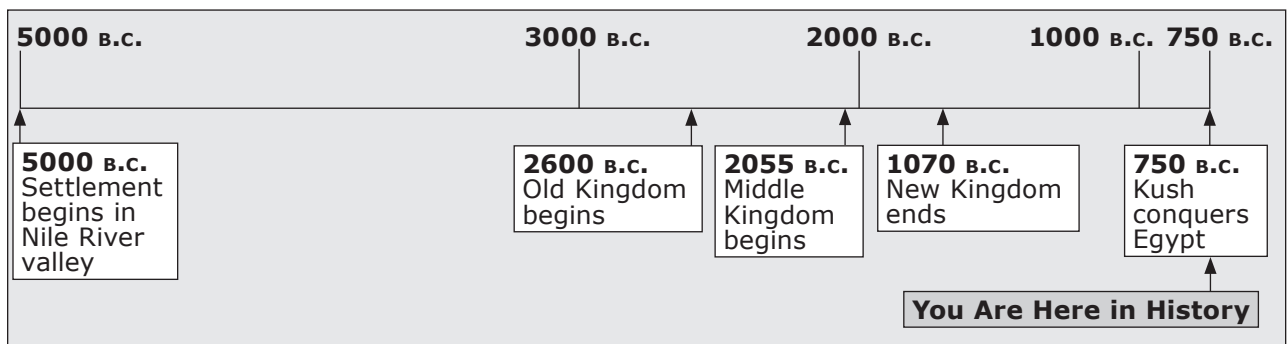
1. *How did Nubia and Egypt influence each other?*
2. *Why did the kingdom of Kush prosper?*

Terms to Know

savanna a flat grassland, sometimes with scattered trees, in a tropical or subtropical region

textile woven cloth

When did it happen?



What do you know?

Read each statement. Circle T if you think the statement is true. Circle F if you think the statement is false.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1. All civilizations that lived by the Nile River were the same. | T | F |
| 2. The Egyptians were the only civilization to build pyramids. | T | F |
| 3. The kingdom of Kush became famous for making iron. | T | F |
| 4. The first people to settle in Nubia were farmers. | T | F |
| 5. Egypt ruled Nubia for 700 years. | T | F |
| 6. The capitals of Kush were near the Nile River. | T | F |

Ancient Egypt and Kush

Lesson 4 The Kingdom of Kush, *Continued*

The Nubians

Egypt was not the only civilization along the Nile River. The Nubians lived along the Nile River south of Egypt. Nubia later became known as Kush. Today this area is the country of Sudan.

The first Nubians were cattle herders. Their cattle grazed on **savannas**, or grassy plains. These savannas still stretch across Africa south of the Sahara. Nubia got plenty of rainfall throughout the year. As a result, farmers did not need water from the Nile River. They settled in villages and grew crops such as beans, yams, and rice. The Nubians also hunted for food. They were very skilled at using bows and arrows.

	Nubia	Egypt
Land	savannas	desert lands river valley
Water Source	rainfall	Nile River
Crops	beans, yams, rice, grains	wheat, rice, other grains

Over time, stronger Nubian villages conquered weaker ones. In this way, the kingdom of Kerma was formed. Farming and gold mining made Kerma wealthy.

The location of the kingdom in the Nile valley helped Kerma become an important trade center. It connected Egypt with the tropical areas of southern Africa. The Egyptians traded with Kerma for cattle, gold, ivory, giraffes, leopards, and enslaved people. Egyptians also hired Nubians to fight in their armies because of their skills in battle.

Kerma's craft-makers made fine pottery, jewelry, and metal goods. As in Egypt, Kerma's kings were buried in tombs with their personal belongings. These belongings often included gold, jewelry, and pottery.

In the 1400s B.C., the armies of Egyptian pharaoh Thutmose III invaded Nubia. After a 50-year war, Kerma collapsed. The Egyptians ruled it for the next 700 years.

During this time, the people of Nubia adopted many Egyptian beliefs and ways of doing things. For example, they worshiped Egyptian gods and goddesses along with



Defining

1. What are *savannas*?



Explaining

2. How was Nubia's land different from Egypt's?



Marking the Text

3. Underline the items that Egypt received in trades from Kerma.



Reading Check

4. Why did Kerma become an important center for trade?

Ancient Egypt and Kush

Lesson 4 The Kingdom of Kush, *Continued*



Marking the Text

5. Circle the names of the first two Kush rulers of Egypt.



Critical Thinking

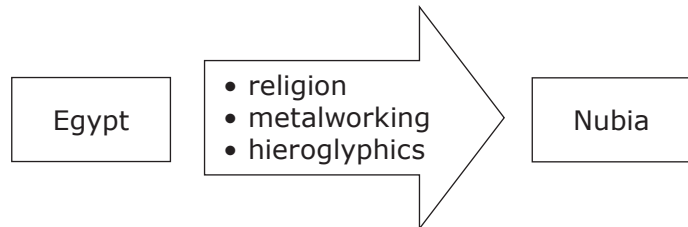
6. How did learning to make iron help the Kushites?



Identifying

7. Name two items that helped Meroë become an iron-making center.

their own. They worked with copper and bronze to make tools. They also adapted Egyptian hieroglyphics to their own language and created an alphabet.



The Kushite Kingdom

By 850 B.C., the Nubians had formed the kingdom of Kush. Powerful Kushite kings ruled for the next few centuries. Their capital was the city of Napata. It was located along the upper part of the Nile River. Trade caravans carried gold, ivory, valuable woods, and other goods from central Africa to Kush and then on to Egypt.

In time, Kush became strong enough to stand up to Egypt. About 750 B.C., a Kushite king named Kashta headed north. He began the conquest of Egypt. After Kashta died, his son Piye completed the conquest in 728 B.C. He ruled both Egypt and Kush from the city of Napata. Even though the Kushites had become the rulers, the people continued to have a high opinion of Egyptian culture. The kings of Kush built temples and monuments similar to those built by the Egyptians. The people of Kush built small pyramids in which to bury their kings. They also continued to believe in Egyptian gods.

Kushite Kings

Kashta	Piye
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Led Kushites north Began to conquer Egypt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed conquest Ruled Egypt and Kush from Napata

Kush's rule over Egypt was short. In 671 B.C., the Assyrians invaded Egypt. They drove the Kushites back to their homeland. The Kushites, however, gained something from the Assyrians—the secret to making iron. The Kushites became the first Africans to make iron. Soon, farmers in Kush could use iron to make stronger plows.

Ancient Egypt and Kush

Lesson 4 The Kingdom of Kush, *Continued*

With better tools, they could grow more crops. Kush's warriors also began using iron spears and swords.

In about 540 B.C., Kush's rulers moved to the city of Meroë. It became the capital city. Like Napata, the new capital was near the Nile River. In addition, the land near Meroë had iron ore and trees for fuel. As a result, Meroë became an iron-making center. Kush's kings rebuilt Meroë to look like an Egyptian city. It included small pyramids, a grand avenue, and a huge temple.

Meroë also became an important center of trade in the ancient world. Kush's traders received leopard skins and valuable woods from other places in Africa. They traded these items, plus iron products and enslaved workers for cotton, **textiles**, or woven cloth, and other goods.

Kush stayed a powerful trading kingdom for nearly 600 years. By the A.D. 200s, the kingdom began to weaken. Then another kingdom called Axum came to power. Axum started near the Red Sea in eastern Africa. It was located in the present-day country of Ethiopia. Around A.D. 350, the armies of Axum invaded Kush and destroyed Meroë.

Check for Understanding

Name three ways that Egypt influenced Nubia.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

List two tools the Kushites made out of iron.

4. _____
5. _____



Defining

8. What are *textiles*?



Identifying

9. Circle the name of the kingdom that conquered Kush.



10. Place a three-tab Venn diagram Foldable along the dotted line to cover the Check for Understanding. Label the top tab *Egypt*, the middle tab *Both*, and the bottom tab *Nubia*. On both sides of the tabs, list facts about Egypt and Nubia to compare and contrast the kingdoms. Use your notes to help you with the lists under the tabs.