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Egypt Packets – Study Guide

The Geography of the Nile

About the Nile

- The Nile River is the world's longest river.
- It is 4,000 miles long.
- It has two main sources: the Blue Nile and the White Nile.
- It flows south to north.
- It empties into the Mediterranean Sea.
- It contains areas with **cataracts**, or rock-filled rapids.
- The Nile River spreads out to form a fertile, marshy area that is shaped like a triangle called a delta.

Lower Egypt vs. Upper Egypt

- These phrases refer to the **elevation** (height) of the land.
- Upper Egypt is in the **south** and Lower Egypt is in the **north**.
- The Nile River flows **north** because it is flowing downhill from the higher elevation in the south to the lower elevation in the north (Lower Egypt).

The Gift of the Nile

- Each spring water rushes down from the highlands of central Africa carrying **silt**.
- When the Nile floods the dry land, that silt is deposited. It is ideal for farming.
- Farming is most successful along the banks of the Nile and in the Nile River delta.

Black Land and Red Land

- **Kemet** – “black land.” This refers to the fertile soil that is left after the floods came.
- **Deshuret** “red land.” This refers to the desert lands that surround Egypt. The deserts protected Egyptians from invaders.

Trade and Transportation

- The Nile River flows north, so ships could float downriver toward Lower Egypt.
- The wind blows towards the south, so ships could raise their sails and travel south toward Upper Egypt.
- It was hard to travel through the cataracts, so trade routes over land developed along the Nile River Valley.
- Since people could travel along the river in both directions, trade developed.

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Power Point Packet Review Guide – Egypt's Powerful Kings and Queens.

General information about Pharaohs:

- All-powerful leaders
- Religious leaders
- Believed to get their power from the gods
- Decided what fields to plant and were thought to be the providers of the yearly floods.

Dynasties and Kingdoms:

- A dynasty is a family of rulers.
- A kingdom is a period of time.
- There were three main kingdoms:
 - Old Kingdom (Age of Pyramids)
 - Middle Kingdom
 - New Kingdom (Age of Empire)
- The dates of the kingdoms are not important.
- The intermediate periods were the times between the kingdoms. These were unstable times for Egypt.

Pharaoh	Important facts
Menes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founding king of 1st dynasty • Believed to have unified Upper and Lower Egypt. • Also known as the Scorpion King.
Djoser (or Zoser)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st pyramid was built for him (step-pyramid)
Khufu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Built the Great Pyramid at Giza
Menhotep II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reunited Egypt after the first intermediate period.
Hatshepsut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Female pharaoh • Ruled in place of Thutmose III when he was too young to rule. • Did not give up power. • Her rule marked a time of peace and prosperity.
Akhenaten and Nefertiti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changed Egyptian religion to monotheism (belief in one god) • Worshipped the Aten (sun disc)
Tutankhamun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restored Egypt to polytheism (many gods) • Boy-king began ruling at age 9. • His tomb was discovered in 1922 and it had not been robbed.
Ramses II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conquered many lands and expanded Egypt's size. • Made a peace treaty with the Hittites. • Built huge monuments of himself.

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Power Point Packet Review – Egyptian Religion

The Afterlife

- The Egyptians believed in life after death.
- They believed that a person needed to have a body to go to the afterlife, so they **mummified** important people when they died.
- **Mummification** is a process by which the body is preserved from excessive decay.
- Those who were mummified were buried with everything they would need for their journey to the afterlife, including valuable treasures.

Religion

- Egyptians believed in many gods. They had a polytheistic society.
- Gods controlled all aspects of life, from sickness to flooding.
- Egyptian gods were portrayed as having human bodies and animal heads.

Egyptian Gods

- **Amon-Re** – the sun god and **most important god** and he watched over humans and judged them.
- They believed that **Amon-Re** was born in the east each day, and that he died in the west each night. As a result, the Egyptians associated death with the west, and tried to stay on the east bank of the Nile at night.
- **Osiris** – the god of the afterlife. He was once a beloved pharaoh that was murdered by his evil brother **Set**. Set chopped up Osiris' body and hid the pieces all over the desert. Osiris' wife **Isis** found all of Osiris' body parts and put him back together, proving that there was life after death.
- **Osiris** was also the judge of people's deeds. He used his scale, called a **libra** (the balance) to judge the souls of those who died. Evil people were eternally punished. Osiris also taught his people how to **farm**.
- **Anubis** – the god of mummification.

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Power Point Packet Review – The Culture of the Egyptians

Social Classes:

- ❑ **Pharaoh** – top social class – the pharaoh is viewed as a god-king.
- ❑ **Priests and Nobles** – the next most important social class.
- ❑ **Middle Class** – Merchants, artisans, and skilled workers.
- ❑ **Lower Class** – bottom social class – the lower class included the peasants and contained the most people. Peasants worked on farms, dug irrigation channels, worked on the pyramids, and built temples and roads.
- ❑ **Movement** – people could move up to the next social class by serving the pharaoh.

Women:

- ❑ Women had many of the same rights as men. They could:
 - Own property
 - Run businesses
 - Enter into contracts
 - Be priestesses in temples

- ❑ Some women were even pharaohs, like Hatshepsut and Cleopatra.

Egyptian Achievements

- ❑ Egyptians had a writing system, using **hieroglyphs** (picture writing) and **papyrus** (a type of paper).
- ❑ The meaning of the hieroglyphs was lost until a French soldier found the **Rosetta Stone** in 1799. The Rosetta Stone had three types of writing on it, including hieroglyphs and an early form of Greek.
- ❑ The Rosetta Stone was deciphered in the 1820s by **Jean Francois Champollion**.
- ❑ Astronomers figured out the length of a year (365 days)
- ❑ Egyptians knew a lot about the human body thanks to their work with mummies.
- ❑ They used plants to create medicines.