

Ancient Egypt

Nicknamed "The Gift of the Nile"



- Egypt was first settled about 5000 B.C. (7000 years ago) by **nomads**
- Egyptian Civilization developed because of the **Nile River**

[Click photo for "A Kid Explains History"](#)

Egyptian Geography

- ❖ Located in the northeast corner of Africa
- ❖ Surrounded by natural barriers:
 - desert
 - mountains
 - Mediterranean Sea

PROVIDED
PROTECTION



Egypt is in Africa



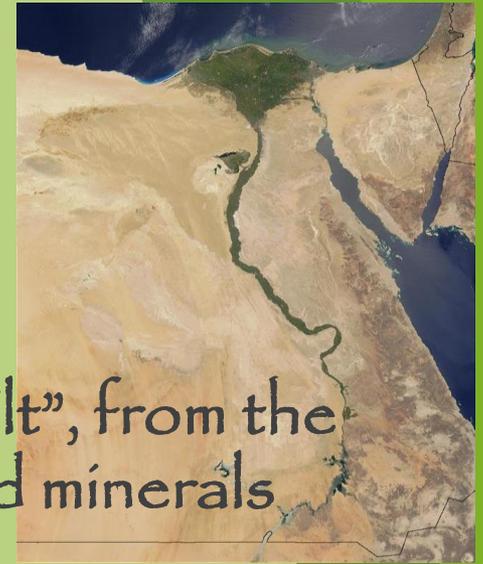


Egypt and the Nile



The Nile River

- ▶ Flooded every year
- ▶ Provided fertile soil for crops when the “silt”, from the bottom of the river bed, full of vitamins and minerals would flood the earth
- ▶ Was the “Lifeline” for Egypt
- ▶ Transportation Route
- ▶ Used for Irrigation
- ▶ Flows south to north
 - ▶ (opposite of every other river)
- ▶ Mouth = “Delta”



[Click for Nile Video](#)

The Important Uses of the Nile

Uses: Drinking & Bathing, Agriculture, & Transportation

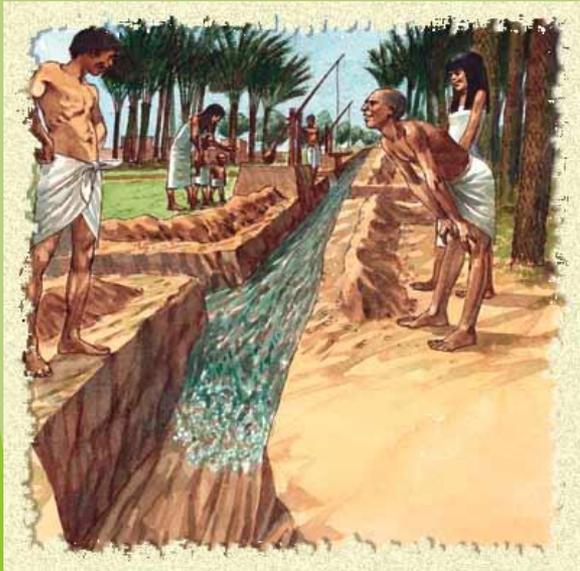
The Egyptians had 3 seasons, based on the river.

- ▶ **Inundation:** *June - October - SHAIT*
 - ▶ time of rising flood waters
 - ▶ farmers had time to build (pyramids and other projects)
- ▶ **Emergence:** *November - February- PIRUIT*
 - ▶ the return of the water to the river
 - ▶ planted crops & trapped water for irrigation
- ▶ **Drought:** *March - June - SHEMU*
 - ▶ Harvest time (picking the crops)



Food

- ▶ Irrigation systems watered crops
- ▶ Main crops were barley, wheat and flax
- ▶ Main food was bread, fish, vegetables and fruit.
- ▶ Only the wealthy ate meat.



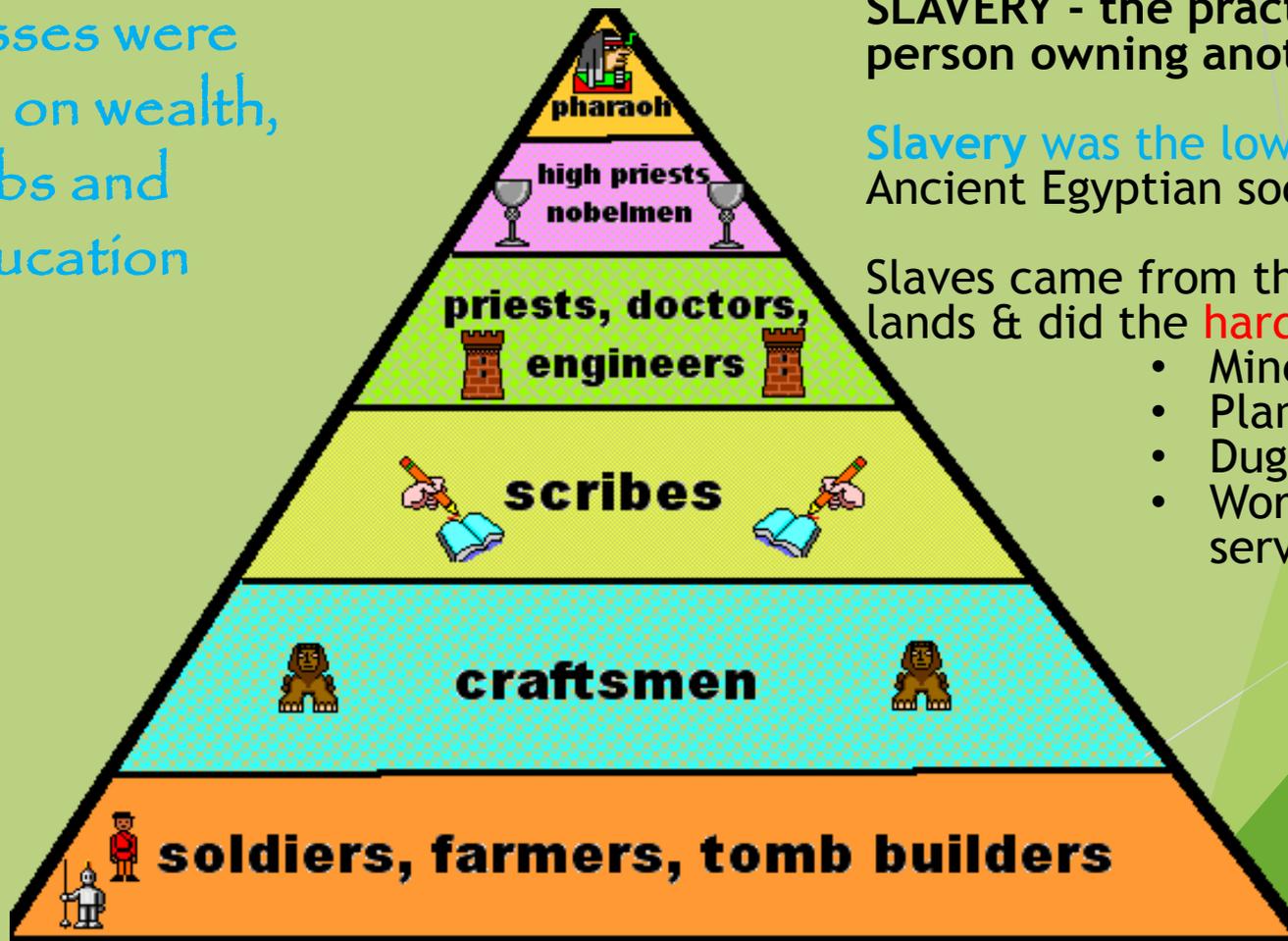
Clothing

- ▶ Egypt's weather is very warm
- ▶ People wore linen robes
- ▶ Women wore make-up and jewelry
- ▶ People shaved their heads and wore wigs for special occasions.



Egyptian Social Pyramid

Egyptian Social Classes were based on wealth, jobs and education



- Egypt's lowest class were slaves.

SLAVERY - the practice of one person owning another person.

Slavery was the lowest level in Ancient Egyptian society.

Slaves came from the conquered lands & did the **hardest** work:

- Mined gold
- Planted crops
- Dug canals
- Worked as house servants

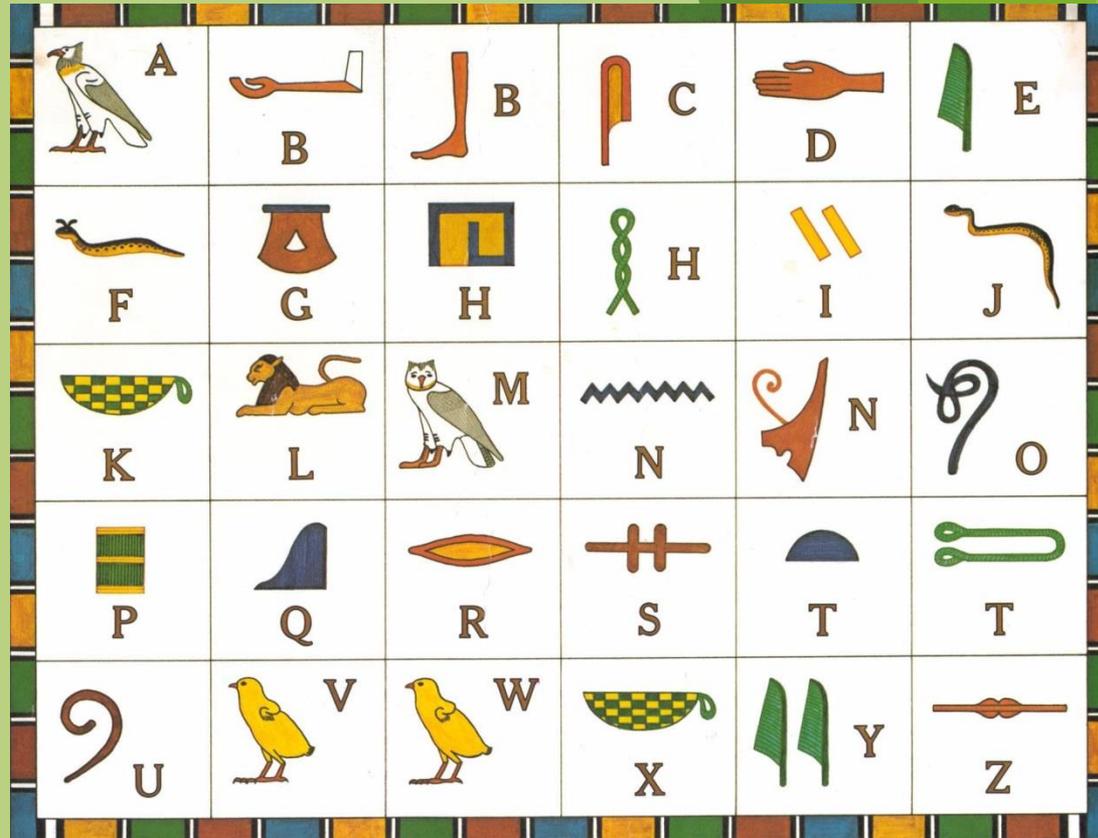
Homes

- ▶ People built homes from mud bricks
- ▶ More important people had better houses.
- ▶ Only the wealthy had “bathrooms”



Language

- ▶ Egyptians developed a form of picture or symbol writing known as **hieroglyphics**.
- ▶ They developed this language in order to keep track of government records and **laws, taxes, and the passage of time**
- ▶ This Egyptian “alphabet” was made up of about 800 picture-symbols called hieroglyphs.
- ▶ The word hieroglyphics means “sacred writing”
- ▶ Had Scribes like the Mesopotamians



Language/Writing Continued

- ▶ Writings carved in wood or stone
- ▶ Later, painted with ink on papyrus



PAPYRUS:

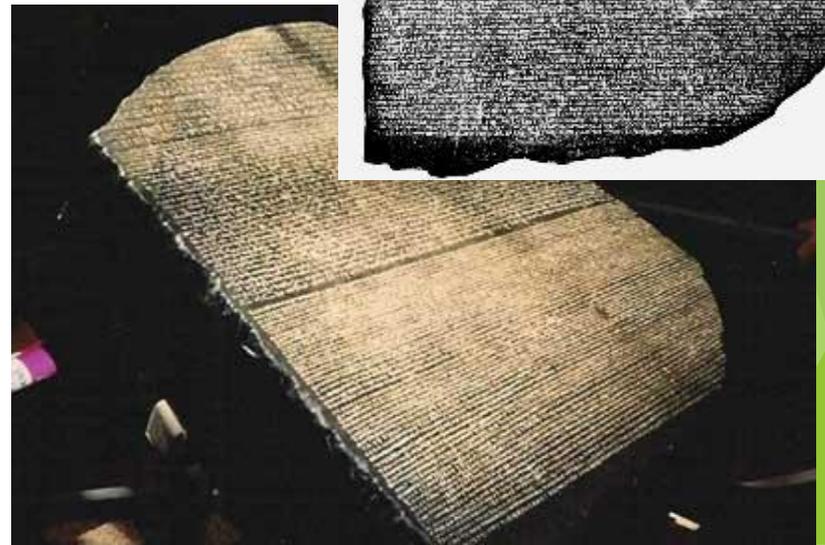
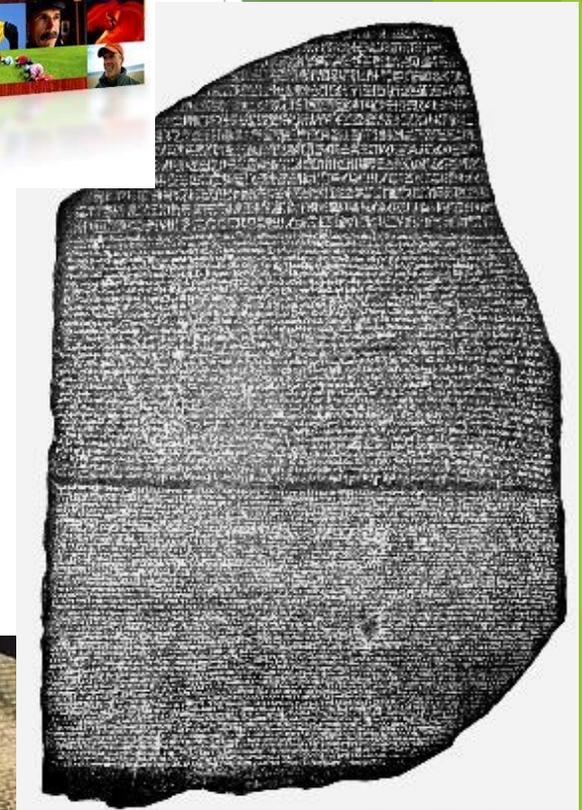
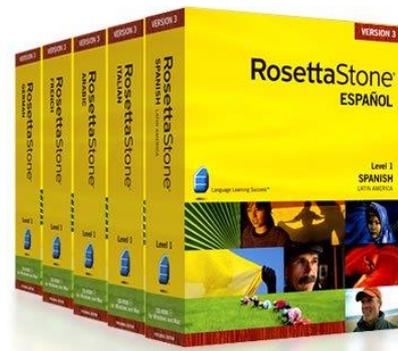
- ▶ The Egyptians wrote on **Papyrus**, the earliest form of paper
- ▶ Made from the papyrus reed that grew in the Nile
- ▶ The reeds would be criss-crossed and pounded down to a paper-like thickness.



How to make Papyrus video

The Rosetta Stone

- ▶ Slab of black rock carved in three languages
 - ▶ Hieroglyphics
 - ▶ Greek included
- ▶ Allowed hieroglyphics to be translated
- ❑ 1799: found a stone with a message written in 3 languages
 - ▶ → Hieroglyphics
 - ▶ → Aramaic
 - ▶ → Greek
- ❑ 1822: Jean Francois Champollion finally broke the code



[Rosetta Stone Video](#)

Pharaohs

- ▶ The king or ruler of Egypt was called a Pharaoh.
- ▶ **The Pharaoh was seen as a god.**
- ▶ Everyone worked for the pharaoh.
- ▶ When he died, the pharaoh was mummified and buried in a beautiful chamber along with his belongings.
- ▶ Like all civilizations, Egyptians had the need for laws. The Pharaoh was the supreme judge of what was right and wrong under the law.



Pharaohs Rule As Gods

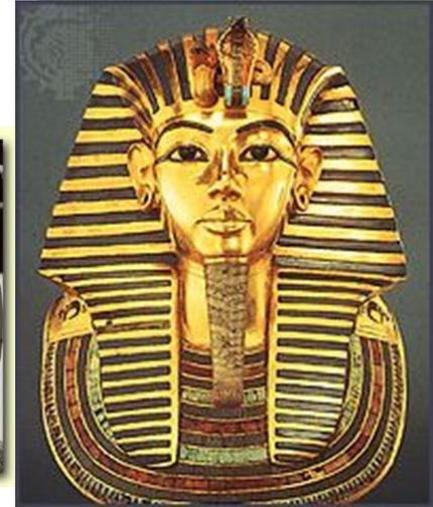


- ❑ Pharaohs were in charge of:
 - ❑ **Economy**- Pharaoh collected a portion of crops for taxes, Trade was the way in which Egyptians were paid for their services
 - ❑ **Government**- Pharaoh appointed powerful local leaders called governors, then the Governors collected taxes and served as local judges, And made sure local flood waters were shared equally
 - ❑ **Religion**- believed that the Pharaoh was the child of Ra, the sun-god, that Pharaoh gave life to Egypt & its people, worshipped the Pharaoh
- ❑ Pharaohs cause sun to rise, Nile to flood, crops to grow
- ▶ **Pharaohs you may have heard of ...**
 - ▶ **King Menes: United Upper and Lower Egypt**
 - ▶ **King Tut: Much of what we know today is due to the discovery of his elaborate tomb!**

King Tutankhamen's Tomb

The Boy Pharaoh

- ▶ King Tutankhamen was 9 years old when he was chosen to replace Akhenaton.
- ▶ The priests of Egypt controlled King Tut, who died when he was only 19 years old.



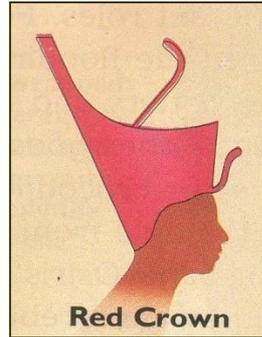
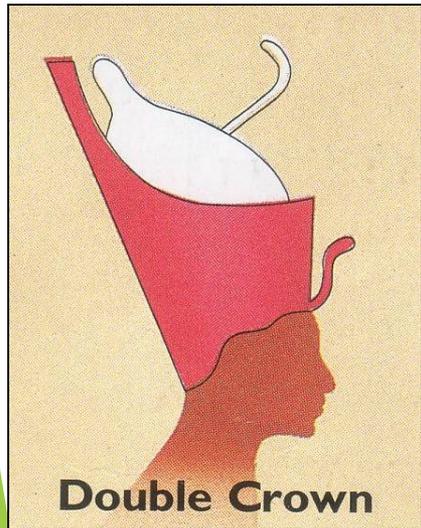
- ▶ His tomb was discovered in 1922. The tomb contained everything Tut would need in the afterlife.

- ▶ We know about the Egyptian belief in the Afterlife mainly through the discoveries made by archeologists, like Carter. Tombs which contained riches, food, and other worldly provisions told us that the Ancient Egyptians expected their dead to need these things in the "next life".

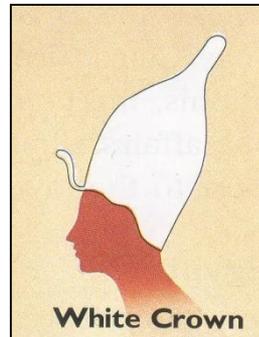


An Important Pharaoh- King Menes

Was known for Uniting Upper and Lower Egypt



**Menes's Upper
Egypt army
invades and
conquers
Lower Egypt**



Some Famous Egyptian Pharaohs

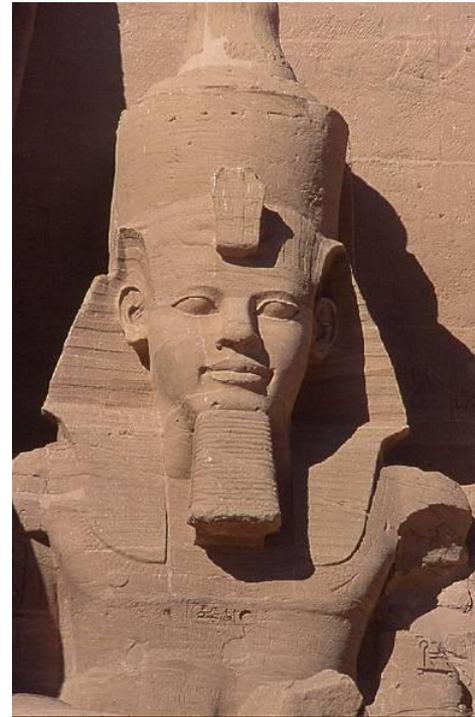


Thutmose III
1504-1450 B. C.

Hatshepsut



-Hatshepsut was one of Egypt's few **female pharaohs**
-She expanded trade further than any other pharaoh



Ramses II
1279-1212 B. C.

Khufu



Built the great pyramids (Giza)

[Brain Pop Video](#)

(weddington Moby1)

Religion

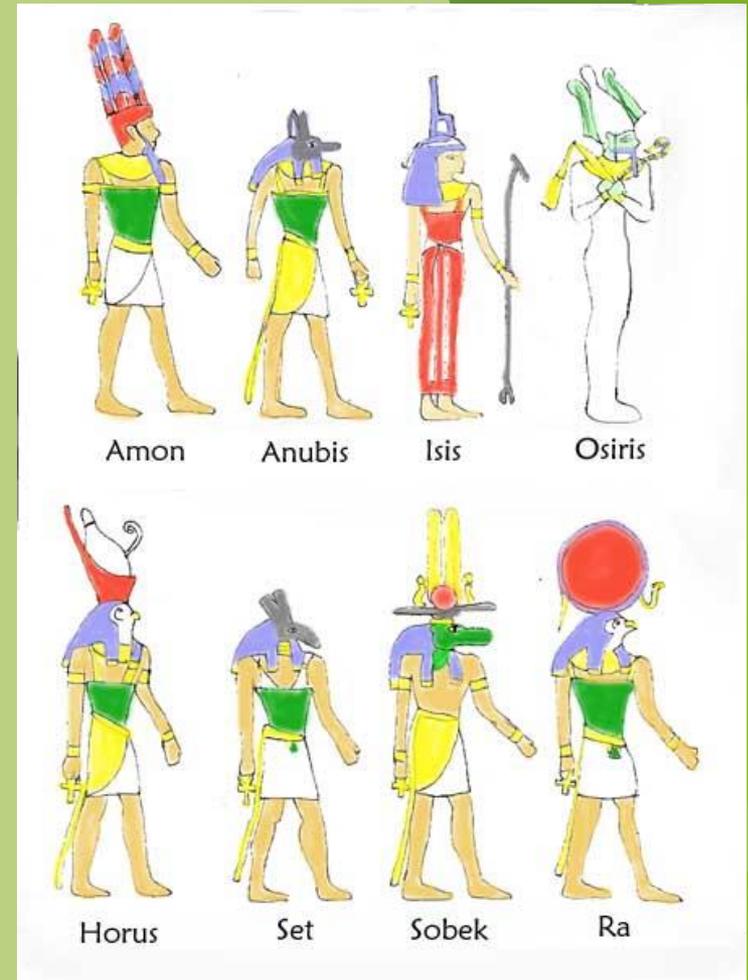
▶ The Egyptians believed in many gods. (*Polytheistic*)

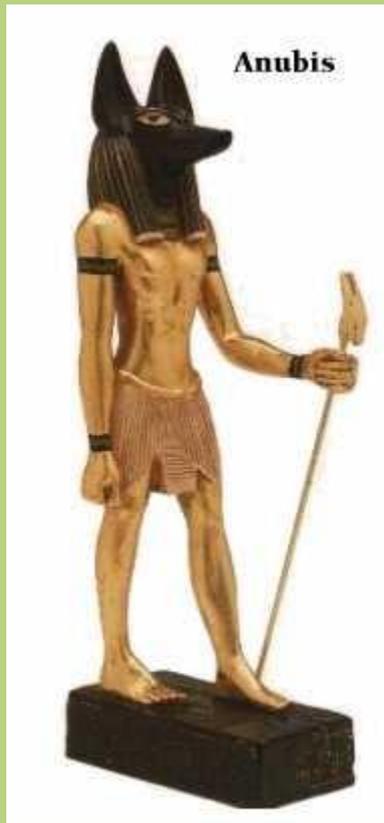
▶ Egyptians prayed to different gods who controlled different things.

▶ They built temples and shrines to honor their gods.

▶ The Egyptians believed in an “afterlife.”

▶ -Most of their gods were part human, part animal





**Anubis –
God of
Preserving
the Dead**



**Horus –
God of
the Sky**



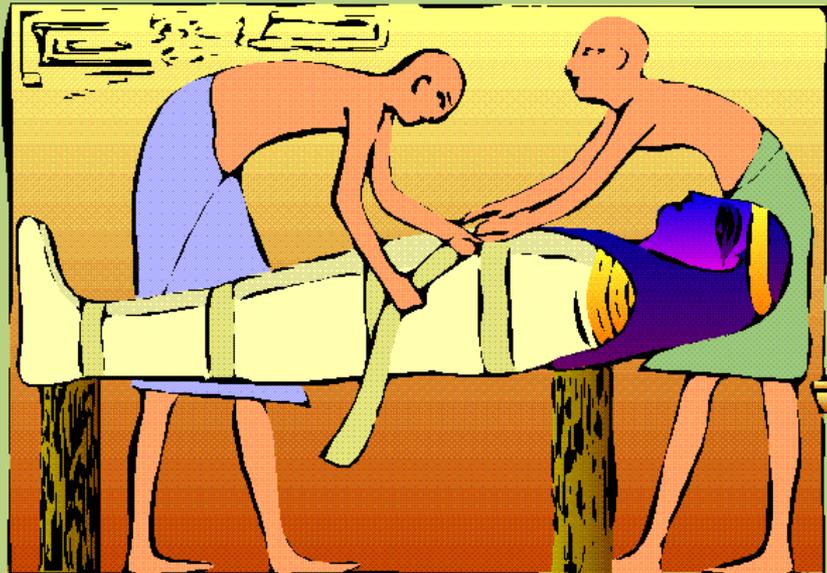
**Osiris –
God of the
Dead and
the
Underworld**



**Ra – God
of the Sun**

Mummification

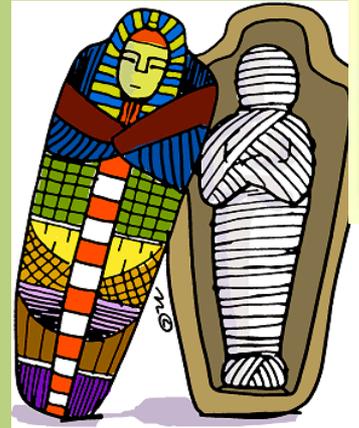
- ▶ Egyptians believed that when people die, they move on to another world.
- ▶ Since people needed their body in the afterlife, it would need to be “preserved.”
- ▶ The process of mummification was developed.



EMBALMING AN EGYPTIAN MUMMY

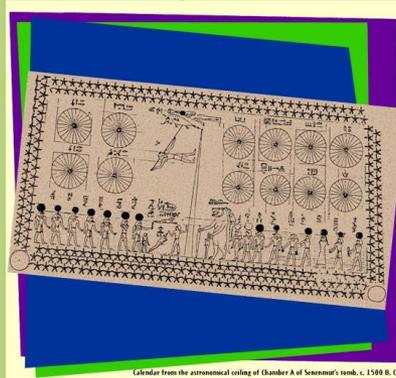
The Process of Mummification

- ▶ First they would remove the organs. These would go into canopic jars.
- ▶ They would take the brain out through the nose.
- ▶ They packed the body with natron (a salt mixture) that would remove all the moisture.
- ▶ After several weeks, they would apply oil, wrap the body in bandages and place the body in a sarcophagus. They would put a decorated mask on the body.
- ▶ The body would be put in a chamber with all the things needed for the afterlife...food, riches, etc.

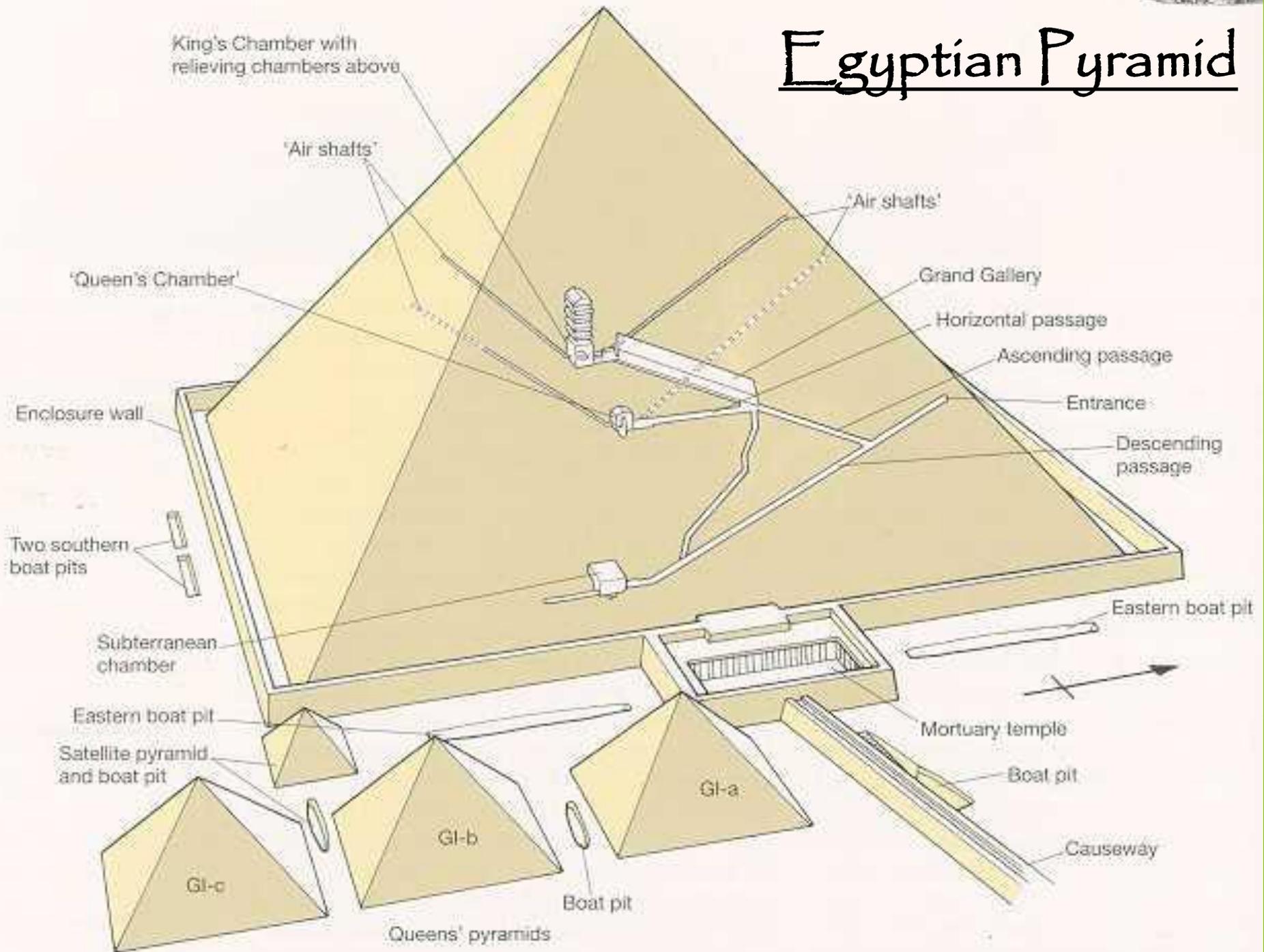


Contributions of Egypt

- ▶ Language: Hieroglyphics
- ▶ Architecture: Pyramids
- ▶ Inventions: 365 day calendar, papyrus (paper), irrigation system, mathematics, weapons, chariots
- ▶ Medicine/surgery
 - ▶ Medical discoveries
 - ▶ Magic heavily used
 - ▶ Developed surgery
 - ▶ Greeks & Romans based much of their medical knowledge on that of the Egyptians
- ▶ Art: statues, paintings, jewelry



Egyptian Pyramid



The Great Pyramid & Sphinx



Inside The Great Pyramid



Comparing Life in Mesopotamia and Egypt

Mesopotamia

Egypt

Geography

Fertile Crescent (Southwest Asia)

Africa

Rivers

Tigris and Euphrates

Nile

Natural Barriers

Flat plains

Deserts, seas, cataracts

Religion

Polytheistic

Polytheistic

Government

City-states; theocracy; large bureaucracy; kings ruled

Rural villages; dynasties; divine kings ruled

Social Structure

Nobles, commoners, slaves

Upper classes, merchants, artisans, peasants

Economy

Farming and trade

Farming and trade

Written Language

Cuneiform



Hieroglyphics



Ancient Egyptian Time

An Explanation

First, the Egyptians developed a lunar calendar of 354 days.

In time, the Egyptians created a more accurate 360-day solar calendar

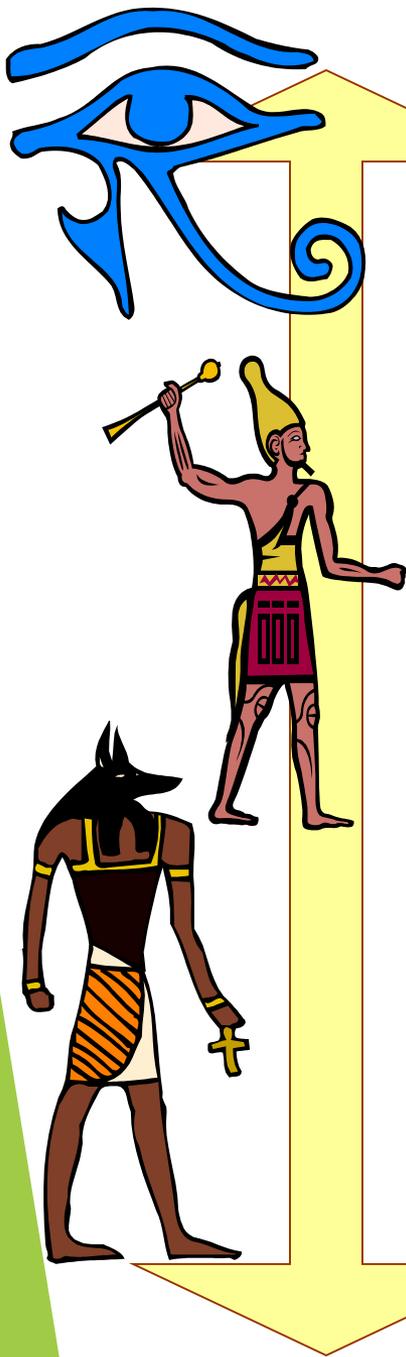
BC – Means "Before Christ" (a.k.a. B.C.E – before common era)

AD – Means "Anno Domini" (The Year of Our Lord)
(Also can be shown as C.E. Common era)

Both of these terms were adopted during the early formation of the Roman/Christian calendar.

BC counts backward (kind of like a negative number) until it gets to year 0, then you are in AD time period and count going up.

Ancient Egyptian Timeline



Archaic Era
6000 bc

Egypt was a grassland. Nomads traveled in search of food

Early Dynastic
3200 bc - 2780 bc

King Menes united Upper & Lower Egypt. Established capital at Memphis.

Old Kingdom
2780 bc - 2258 bc

Age of Pyramids. First man made mummies

Middle Kingdom
2134 bc - 1786 bc

Rise of the Middle Class – trade becomes the center of the economy.

New Kingdom
1570 bc - 1085 bc

Major trading expeditions. Akhenaten and Queen Hatshepsut

Ptolemaic Dynasty
304 bc - 30 bc

Alexander the Great conquers Egypt. Cleopatra is the last Pharaoh

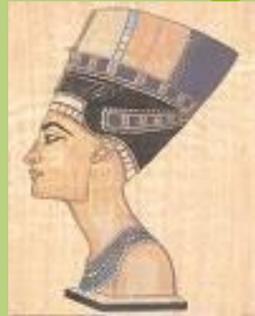
Roman Period
30 bc - 640 ad

Romans take control of Egypt. Egypt never rises to greatness again.

Other Symbols of Egypt



King Tut



Queen
Hatputshut



Scarab Beetle



amulets



The Sphinx



Cartouche



Eye of Horus

Ancient Egypt Song

Quiz

- ▶ Next to what river did Egypt develop?
- ▶ In what direction does the Nile River flow?
- ▶ Name three ways a river is important to a civilization?
- ▶ What is the fan-shaped mouth of a river called?
- ▶ What was the main food eaten by Egyptians?
- ▶ What did most Egyptians live in?
- ▶ What was Egyptian language called?
- ▶ What is an Egyptian king called?
- ▶ What was the “afterlife?”
- ▶ Describe the mummification process.
- ▶ Name four contributions of Ancient Egypt.