

_____ Name _____ Date _____

NOTES: Ancient Egypt #1

Score: _____

1. Between 6000 B.C. And 5000 B.C. Hunter-gatherers moved into the lush green Nile River valley.
2. Egypt was a warm, sunny area that received little rainfall.
3. For water the Egyptians relied on the Nile river.
4. They drank from it they bathed in it, used it for farming, cooking, and cleaning. The river also provided them with fish and supported plants and animals.
5. To them the Nile River was a precious gift.
6. The Nile is the worlds longest river it flows North from the heart of Africa to the Mediterranean Sea.
HOW LONG DO YOU GUYS TINK IT IS?
A: 4000 Miles long. That would be like driving from Atlanta GA. To San Francisco, CA.
(show on map)
7. The Nile begins as two separate rivers: the Blue Nile and the White Nile.
8. They meet and form The Nile just south of Egypt.
9. Cataracts are wild rapids that are throughout the Nile.
10. Delta a fertile area of soil where a river branches out into many channels.
11. the Nile goes into the Mediterranean Sea. This is where the delta is.
12. It is important to know the terrain of Egypt because it is very important to why they were able to last so long as a civilization.
Q: Why do you think that they were able to last so long as a civilization?
A: because there was such a barrier of protection around it wit the deserts on either side as well as the cataracts that ran through the south of The Nile. So there were very few ways for conquerors to get in and try to take over such a powerful civilization.
13. The largest desert in the world - the Sahara Desert is to the East side of the Nile.
14. The deltas in the North also offer no harbors for their enemies to get due to the fact that the deltas fertile soil was mostly marshes.
15. They were far luckier than the ancient Mesopotamians due to the fact that these

natural barriers protected them well.

16. The Nile like the Euphrates and the Tigris rivers would also flood but unlike them the Nile flooded more regularly. It would flood every spring due to heavy floods in central Africa as well as the snows melting off of the high lands in Eastern Africa.

17. It would send a flood of water down the Nile raising the waters as it went causing the flooding.

18. So from July to October the Nile would spill over onto its banks.

19. When the waters receded they left behind a rich dark fertile mud called silt.

20. The ancient Egyptians called their land kemet, which meant "the black land"

21. The Egyptians took advantage of this and became successful farmers.

22. They would grow wheat, barley, and flax seeds.

23. They were able to grow more than enough to feed themselves and the animals they raised.

24. A major reason for their success was the wise use of irrigation.

25. The farmers would dig basins, or bowl shaped holes, in the earth to trap floodwaters. The farmers would then dig canals to carry water from the basins to fields beyond the rivers reach. They also built dikes, or earthen banks, to strengthen basin walls.

Q: what is a shadoof?

A: a bucket attached to a long pole to lift water from the Nile to the basins, many Egyptian farmers still use this tool today.

26. The Egyptians developed geometry to survey or measure the land. Because the floods would at times wash away the boundary markers.

27. Papyrus- a reed plant that grew along the Nile River.

Egyptians would use this to make baskets sandals and river rafts out of these. Later they would even use this to make paper.

Hieroglyphics - Egyptian form of writing- originally made up of thousands of symbols. Some symbols stood for objects or ideas.

28. Some lucky men in Egypt were able to learn how to read and write in temples and became scribes very much like in Mesopotamia. This was a very rare thing and also mostly available to only the very wealthy.

29. Scribes in Egypt kept records and worked for the wealthy such as pharaohs, priests,

and traders.

30. For everyday purposes scribes wrote or painted on papyrus.

31. They would also carve into stonewalls and monuments.

32. It is believed that Egypt like Mesopotamia may have had a surplus of food and thus began trading with other civilizations that were located close by and thus picked up some of their culture such as laws and skills.

33. The earliest rulers of Egypt were village chiefs.

34. Over time strong chiefs united villages into kingdoms. The stronger of these kingdoms eventually overpowered the weaker ones.

35. By 4000 bc Egypt was made up of two large kingdoms.

36. In the north near the delta was Lower Egypt to the South upriver lay Upper Egypt.

37. Around 3100 B.C. The two kingdoms became one. Narmer was given credit for this, as king of Upper Egypt he took armies North and took over Lower Egypt. He ruled from Memphis a city that he built on the border between the two kingdoms. His united kingdom held together long after his death with the power of king being passed down from father to son to grandson through many generations. Dynasty - a line of rulers from one family is called this.

38. Over time ancient Egypt would be ruled by 31 dynasties, which together lasted for about 2800 years.

39. Historians group Egypt's three main periods into kingdoms. The Old Kingdom, The Middle Kingdom, and The New Kingdom. Each was marked by a period of strong leadership and unity.
SHOW ANCIENT EGYPTIAN CLASS DIAGRAM

40. upper class government officials and priests. Men and women dressed in white linen robes and wore heavy eye makeup and jewelry.

41. Middle class were businessmen or people that produced goods, lived in smaller houses and dressed more simply. Artisans were middle class produced clothing, jewelry, pottery and metal goods.

42. Farmers made up the largest group of early Egyptians. Most worked the land of wealthy nobles and some rented land from their rulers and paid them heavily in their crops to do so. They lived in villages along the Nile in one-room huts with roofs made of palm leaves. They mostly ate bread, vegetables and fruit and drank water and beer.

43. Many of Egypt's dwellers were unskilled workers who just performed physical labor. Some unloaded cargo from boats while others would make and stack mud bricks for buildings. They lived in crowded city neighborhoods.

44. In ancient Egypt the father headed the household. However Egyptian women had more rights than most women of other cultures. They could own and pass property, buy and sell goods, make wills, and obtain divorces. Upper class women were in charge of temples and could perform religious ceremonies.

45. Few Egyptians sent their children to school. Mothers would teach their daughters to sew cook and run a household. Both learned farming and skilled trades from their fathers. Egyptian children also had time for fun they would play board games, dolls, spinning tops, and stuffed leather balls. The Egyptians also invented bowling.