

Name: _____

Date: _____

ALEXANDRIA

Egypt's natural borders protected its civilization for centuries, but in time warfare improved enough so that portions of the kingdom were conquered by Assyria from the north and Kush from the south. The Egyptians fought the Assyrians with the help of Greek mercenaries. Mercenaries are soldiers who are paid for their service in a foreign army. The wars with Assyria and Kush weakened Egypt, which allowed the Persians to capture almost the entire ancient kingdom by 525BC.

Persia controlled Egypt for almost two centuries until Alexander the Great led an army from Greece. The Egyptian people welcomed Alexander because he rescued Egypt from Persian rule. Many Egyptian people worshipped Alexander as a pharaoh. Alexander soon left Egypt to continue his conquests, but he established a new capital he named for himself in Alexandria.

Alexander's successors constructed the greatest library of the ancient world at Alexandria. The

Royal Library at Alexandria collected books from all over the known world and attempted to gather all of the world's knowledge in one place. Legends say that books were seized from ships sailing into Alexandria's port. Scribes at the library would copy the books by hand and send back only the copies to their original owners.

The library was partially destroyed by several armies through the next nine centuries. The final destruction of the Royal Library at Alexandria seems to have occurred in the seventh century of the Common Era. We don't know the details because the library, where ancient records were kept, had been destroyed. A new library, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, was constructed in Alexandria in 2002. It houses a copy of the Internet Archive, a vast computer collection that attempts to keep a record of nearly anything ever posted on the Internet. You can access the Internet Archive and see copies of what websites looked like in the past at www.archive.org.

Fill in the Blanks

Egypt remained safe from f_r_e_n invasion for many years due to its n_t_r_l borders, but by the sixth century b_f_re the c_m_on era, the civilization had been conquered by armies from A_s_r_a, Kush, and P_r_ia. A warrior named A_e_a_d_r rescued Egypt from P_r_i_n rule 332BC. Alexander established a new c_p_t_l in a city he called A_e_a_d_ia, where his successors later constructed the greatest l_b_a_y of the ancient world.

The Royal Library at Alexandria attempted to gather all of the world's k_o_l_dge in one place. Legends say books were *c_n_i_c_t_d from ships sailing into Alexandria's p_____. The library lasted almost a m_l_e_n_um before it was destroyed. A new library was constructed in A_e_a_d_ia in 2002. The B_b_i_t_e_a Alexandrina houses a collection of nearly every In_e_n_t website ever created.

Answer in complete sentences

1. List three civilizations that conquered all or part of ancient Egypt.

- *2. Irony can be defined as an occurrence that is the opposite of what you would expect to happen. Why is it ironic that we do not know why the Royal Library at Alexandria was destroyed?

*This is a higher order learning question. You must answer the question to the best of your ability, but any reasonable answer will be graded as correct.