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
Egyptian Geography

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

PROVIDED PROTECTION
Egypt is in Africa

Map of North Africa
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”
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”
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 François 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”.

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An Important Pharaoh - King Menes

Was known for **Unifying 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

1279-1212 B.C.

Ramses II

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

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.
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
The Great Pyramid & Sphinx
Inside The Great Pyramid
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<td>City-states; theocracy; large bureaucracy; kings ruled</td>
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<td>Upper classes, merchants, artisans, peasants</td>
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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 is a river 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.