

# Egypt – Nile River Valley

## River Valley Project Cornell notes

<p><b><u>Social</u></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Egyptian thought it would be helpful to have a way to communicate with each other mainly</li><li>• Written scripts were then invented to collect this information</li><li>• Hieroglyphics were they most used and known form of egyptian writing</li><li>• Life revolved around the Nile for farming purposes</li><li>• polytheism- practiced the belief of believing in more than one God</li><li>• Social classes<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Pharaoh government officials nobles and priests soldiers scribes merchants artisans farmers slaves and servants</li></ol></li></ul>
<p><b><u>Religion</u></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Egyptians had about 2000 gods and goddesses</li><li>• God of Amun worshipped by the WHOLE country</li><li>• Gods and goddesses were represented as part human and part animal</li><li>• Considered animals such as the bull, the cat, and the crocodile to be holy</li><li>• Chief gods were Amon-Ra and Osiris, Amon-Ra was the sun god and the lord of the universe and Osiris was the god of the underworld</li><li>• The Egyptian "Book of the Dead" contains the major ideas and beliefs in the ancient Egyptian religion</li><li>• Egyptians believed life started ...<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. With an ocean in darkness. Then a mound of dry land rose up and the sun god Re appeared. He created light and all things</li><li>2. With the sun God emerging from a sacred blue lotus that grew out of the mud</li><li>3. With the sun god appearing as a scarab beetle on the eastern horizon</li></ol></li><li>• Temples were considered dwelling places for the gods</li><li>• Each city had a temple built for the god of that city</li><li>• Temples were a cosmic center by which men had communication with the gods</li><li>• The priests duty was to care for the gods and attend to their needs ( funeral rites, teaching school, supervising the artists and works, and advising people on problems)</li></ul>
<p><b><u>Artistic</u></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Egyptian build pyramids to preserve the pharaohs</li><li>• Drawings of everyday life will help the deceased to help them to</li></ul>

<p><b><u>Technology</u></b></p>	<p>live forever by giving them instructions they would need on the way to god for their eternal life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pottery-for internal organs and a place to put items. (canopic jars)</li> <li>• Sculptures represented gods and pharaohs and queen in physical form</li> <li>• Art was a form of communication for those who can not read.</li> <li>• Wall murals are drawing of egyptian lifestyle.</li> <li>• Art is created more than five thousand years ago</li> <li>• Art is used to keep history.</li> <li>• Hieroglyphs</li> <li>• The Egyptians invented and used many basic machines, such as the ramp and the lever, to aid construction processes.</li> <li>• They use ramps to pull stones up for the pyramids.</li> <li>• There was no explosion to dig for gold.</li> <li>• They would heat it up and then shock it with cold water which then scatters apart.</li> <li>• They would use the sun to know what time of the day it is</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Political</u></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most powerful person was the Pharaoh <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pharaoh titles='Lord of the Two Lands' and 'High Priest of Every temple</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ruler of upper &amp; lower Egypt, owned all land, in charge of the laws, collected taxes, and protected Egypt against foreigners</li> <li>• Pharaoh=the political and religious leader</li> <li>• Pharaohs no longer rule Egypt</li> <li>• By the fourth century the old ways weren't used anymore</li> <li>• Last pagan sanctuaries in the Nile Valley were closed in 553 AD</li> <li>• Egyptian language was replaced by Arabic after the invasion in 640 AD</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>How civilization declined</u></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Egyptians began to interact with those of Mesopotamia in 3200 B.C.</li> <li>• Egyptians started trade</li> <li>• Known as an ancient command economy</li> <li>• There were planned economies</li> <li>• Private landowners and managers were known as bureaucrats</li> <li>• They managed and took charge over state farms and public works</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Economy</u></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Their government was in a certain order, which was called the Royal Domain which normally consisted of tens of thousands of</li> </ul>

<p><b><u>Intellectual</u></b></p>	<p>people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Egypt mostly had autarkic domains and households</li> <li>• Autarkic means the conditions of self-sufficiency</li> <li>• Since “coined money” was introduced in the Late period, the early barter system began to have major changes</li> <li>• The vast majority of Egypt’s population lived in states close to serfdom</li> <li>• This land in which people labored upon belonged in theory to the gods</li> <li>• Farther back than this time period of Egypt, Horus had an earthly incarnation which was pharaoh, This is where leadership started to take place</li> <li>• Farming and fishing were very common sources of wealth</li> <li>• built homes of sun-dried bricks, made of mud and straw</li> <li>• invented brick molds, a mix of mud and straw was placed into the molds. then molds were left out in the sun to dry, desert heat dried the bricks for them</li> <li>• poor placed the bodies of their dead relatives out in the sun, in the desert sand. The bodies mummified naturally</li> <li>• pharaoh was in charge of everything</li> <li>• Each pharaoh had an organized army, a police force, and a huge number of ministers and government officials to assist him</li> <li>• The Vizier reported to the Pharaoh every day on what was happening all over Egypt</li> <li>• The Vizier was also the judge of the high court. If you had a problem and it was not solved in the local courts, or in the provincial courts, you could bring your problem in front of the Vizier on a first come, first served basis. It was dangerous. The Vizier's decision was final. You could end up in more trouble than you started with. But the Vizier tried to be fair. He had to explain aloud the reason for his decision in each case so that everyone who came to court that day could hear those reasons</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Summary</u></b></p>	<p>Ancient Egyptians mostly communicated with written script known as hieroglyphics, with art being a form of communication for those who could not read. The Egyptians were mostly run by a “Pharaoh” who was the ruler of upper &amp; lower Egypt. The Pharaoh owned all land, and was in charge of the laws, collected taxes, and protected Egypt against foreigners. The Pharaoh also had an organized army, police force, and a huge number of ministers and government officials. The highest official (besides the Pharaoh” was the Vizier who was the judge of the high court. The Vizier would have to report to the Pharaoh everyday on what was going on in Egypt.</p> <p>When a Pharaoh died, the Egyptian would build pyramids in which to preserve their dead bodies. Most dead bodies would be mummified. Poor people would even leave dead bodies out in the open so that</p>

their body would be mummified naturally. Drawings of everyday life were also given to help the deceased “live forever” by giving them instructions they would need on the way to god for their eternal life. The Egyptian religion had over 2,000 gods and goddesses with chief gods being Amon-Ra and Osiris. Amon-Ra was the sun god and the lord of the universe and Osiris was the god of the underworld. The Egyptians created a “Book of the Dead” which contained the major ideas and beliefs in the ancient Egyptian religion.

In 3200 B.C., Egyptians started trading and interacting with Mesopotamia and started a planned economy called the “ancient command economy”. “Coined money” was introduced in the late period with common sources of wealth being farming and fishing. The Egyptians also invented and used many basic machines, including the ramp and the lever, to aid construction processes. Ancient Egyptians also started building their own houses out of sun-dried bricks made of straw and mud.

Civilization started to decline by the fourth century. Pharaohs no longer ruled Egypt and the last pagan sanctuaries in the Nile Valley were closed in 553 A.D. The Egyptian language was also replaced by Arabic after the invasion in 640 A.D.

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