



CHAPTER
18

Egypt and North Africa

1

HISTORY

**Ancient Egypt:
Pyramids and
Pharaohs**

2

FOCUS ON

**Modern Egypt
and Sudan**

3

FOCUS ON

**Other Nations of
North Africa**



ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How have people in North Africa adapted to the region's arid climate?

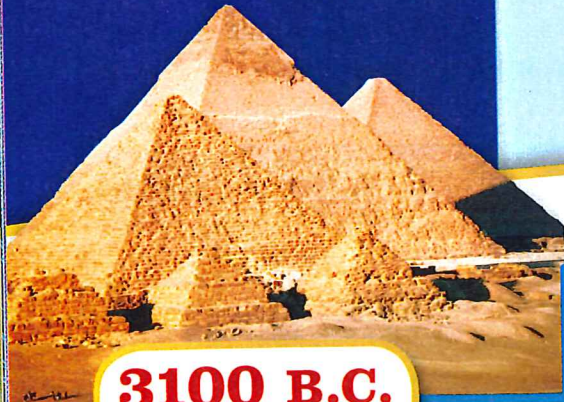
CONNECT

Geography & History



Use the map and time line to answer the following questions.

1. Which country receives the most rainfall?
2. About how many years separate the building of the Great Pyramid and Suez Canal?



3100 B.C.

History

3100 B.C. Upper and Lower Egypt united

Culture

◀ 2600 B.C.–2500 B.C.
Great Pyramid built

History

1516 Selim I rules the Ottoman Empire at the time of Egypt's conquest. ▶

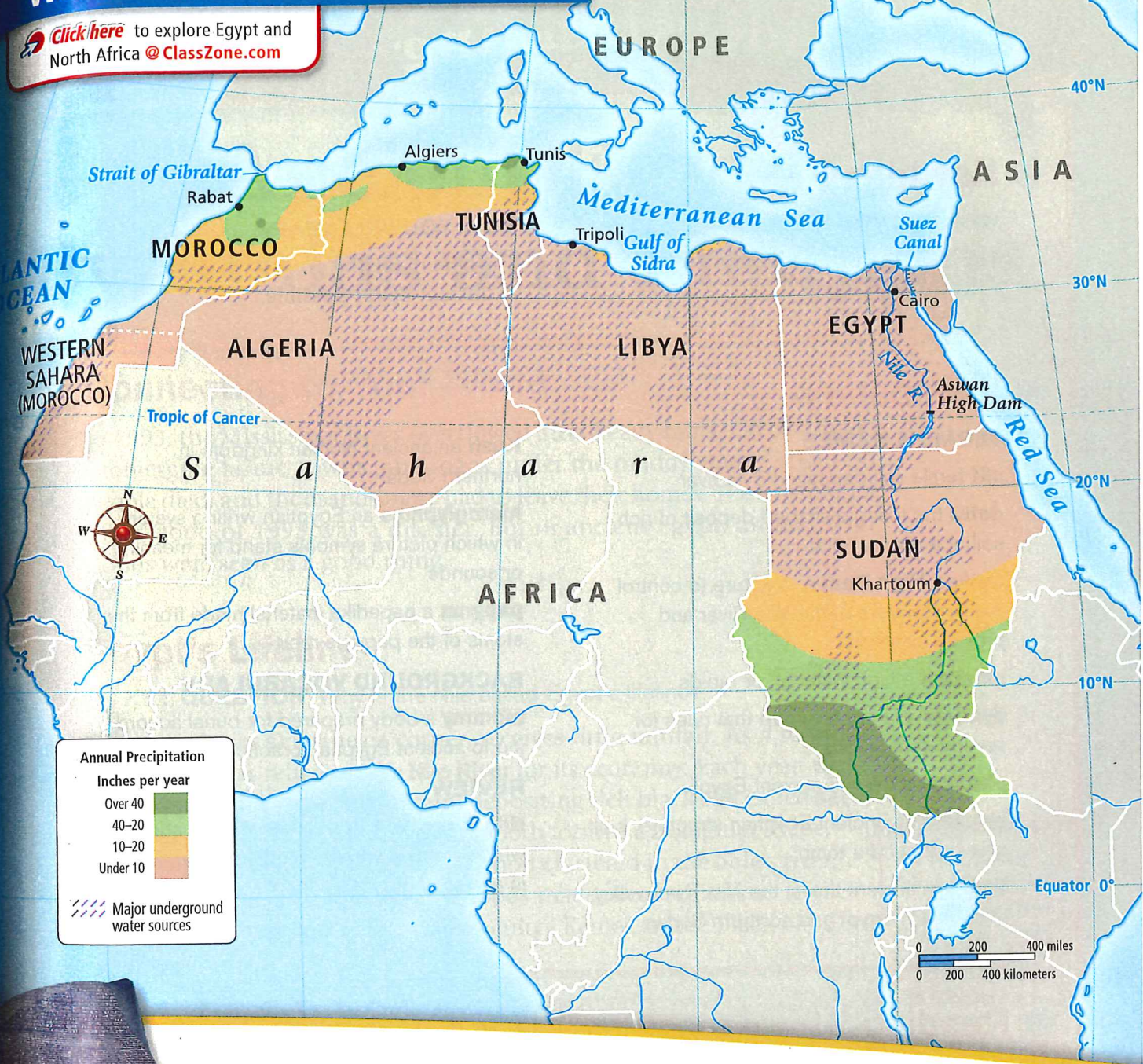


History

A.D. 642 Muslim invaders spread Islam to North Africa.

Water Sources of North Africa

[Click here](#) to explore Egypt and North Africa @ClassZone.com



Culture

◀ **1799** Rosetta Stone discovered in Egypt

Government

1951-1962 Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria become independent from European nations.

Today

Economics

1869 Suez Canal completed ▶

History

2003 Darfur crisis erupts in Sudan.



SECTION
1

Reading for Understanding

▶ Key Ideas

BEFORE, YOU LEARNED

The Nile, the world's longest river, runs through Egypt.

NOW YOU WILL LEARN

The Nile made the great civilizations of ancient Egypt possible.

▶ Vocabulary

TERMS & NAMES

silt fertile soil deposited by a river

delta the triangle-shaped deposit of rich soil at a river's mouth

Aswan High Dam a structure to control the floodwaters of the Nile River and provide electricity

cataract a high waterfall or rapids

dynasty a family or group that rules for several generations

pharaoh a ruler of ancient Egypt

pyramid an ancient Egyptian structure, built over or around a tomb

Nubia in ancient times, the Nile River valley of southern Egypt and northern Sudan

Kush an ancient Nubian kingdom in northern Sudan

hieroglyphics an Egyptian writing system in which picture symbols stand for meanings or sounds

papyrus a paperlike material made from the stems of the papyrus reed

BACKGROUND VOCABULARY

mummy a body prepared for burial according to ancient Egyptian practice

REVIEW

Nile River the longest river in the world, which empties into the Mediterranean Sea in northeast Egypt

▶ Reading Strategy

Re-create the chart shown at right. As you read and respond to the **KEY QUESTIONS**, use the chart to analyze causes and effects related to the Nile River's annual floods.



See Skillbuilder Handbook, page R8

ANALYZE CAUSE AND EFFECT

CAUSE	EFFECT
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.



GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS

Go to Interactive Review @ ClassZone.com

Ancient Egypt: Pyramids and Pharaohs

Connecting to Your World

In 1993, the Mississippi River overflowed after heavy rains. Levees broke, submerging farms, towns, and roads under the muddy water. About 50 people died, and thousands more had to leave their homes. The Mississippi River flood of 1993 was a disaster. But in ancient Egypt, annual river floods were seen as a good thing.

Egypt's Lifeline

KEY QUESTION Why is the Nile called Egypt's lifeline?

Egypt, in Africa's northeast corner, receives little rainfall. As a result, the country has relied on the **Nile River** for its economy. Each year, the Nile flooded due to upstream rain, depositing rich black soil called **silt** along its banks. The silt at the river's mouth formed a triangular shape, called a **delta**. Most of Egypt's population clustered in the Nile's river valley and delta. The Nile's yearly floods made these regions so fertile that ancient Egyptians called their country Kemet, or the Black Land.

Animated GEOGRAPHY

The Nile Valley

The world's longest river creates a ribbon of fertile soil, cutting through the desert.

[Click here](#) to take a journey down the ancient Nile @ [ClassZone.com](#)

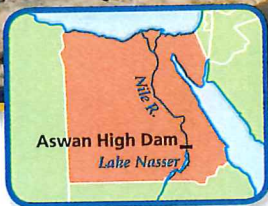
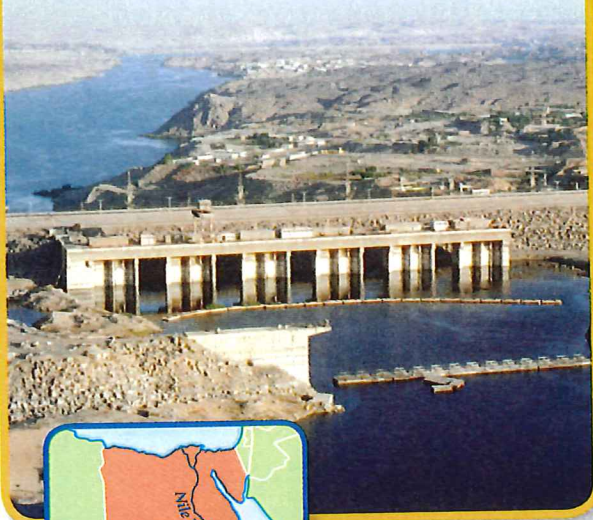
Desert

Fertile soil irrigated by the Nile

Nile River

Aswan High Dam

The Aswan High Dam contains the Nile floodwaters in a reservoir called Lake Nasser. In addition to increasing irrigated land, the dam provides electricity for factories and farm villages. But with little silt reaching the Nile's mouth and flood plain, farmers must now use costly chemical fertilizers, and the Nile delta is actually decreasing in size.



The Nile Then and Now In ancient Egypt, the Nile Valley provided various grasses and reeds used for huts, sandals, baskets, simple boats, and other products. Ancient Egyptians also dug canals to irrigate their fields and channel the Nile's water. Each June, floods would leave behind silt in a narrow strip along the flood plain and at the delta. Today the **Aswan High Dam** controls the Nile's flooding and provides year-round irrigation. Since the Aswan High Dam opened in 1970, Egypt has doubled its agricultural production.

 **FIND MAIN IDEAS** Describe how the Nile has acted as Egypt's lifeline.

History of Ancient Egypt


 **KEY QUESTION** What other civilizations competed with ancient Egypt for power?

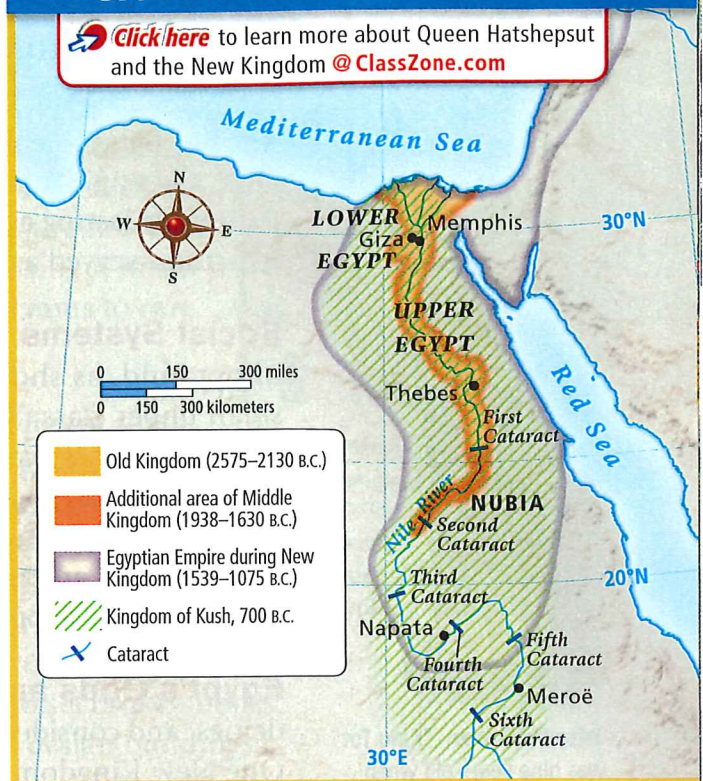
Ancient Egypt, one of the world's first great civilizations, arose along the banks of the Nile. For centuries, geography kept Egypt isolated. Six **cataracts**, or high waterfalls and rapids, make the Nile hard to navigate in the south. Deserts surround the Nile in the west and east, and the Mediterranean Sea borders Egypt to the north. People created farming villages along the Nile by about 4000 B.C. Eventually these villages became two kingdoms, Upper Egypt in the south and Lower Egypt at the Nile delta.

Uniting Upper and Lower Egypt Tradition says that around 3100 B.C., King Menes of Upper Egypt conquered Lower Egypt, uniting the two kingdoms. Modern historians believe King Menes may have been a legend, and that it probably took several rulers to join the kingdoms. King Menes is said to have founded the first Egyptian **dynasty**, or series of rulers from one family. These rulers came to be known as **pharaohs**, from the Egyptian words for "great house."

Old, Middle, and New Kingdoms Historians divide ancient Egyptian history into three periods. During the Old Kingdom, a strong central government supervised the construction of gigantic tombs called **pyramids**. Farmers and laborers built these structures when the Nile's floodwaters covered their fields. During the Middle Kingdom, Egypt conquered its southern neighbor, **Nubia**. Nubia provided Egypt with slaves, soldiers, and gold. Instead of pyramids, Middle Kingdom

Egyptian and Kush Kingdoms

 [Click here](#) to learn more about Queen Hatshepsut and the New Kingdom @ [ClassZone.com](#)



pharaohs built tombs in the desert sands. During the New Kingdom, Egypt became the strongest power in the world. A powerful pharaoh named Queen Hatshepsut led armies, sent off trade expeditions, and built splendid temples. Egypt's power peaked under the 66-year reign of Ramses II. He regained Asian territories that earlier pharaohs had lost. Statues of Ramses II still stand all over Egypt.

Conquest by Foreigners After Ramses' death in 1213 B.C., Egypt began to decline. Eventually, it fell to foreign invaders, including the **Kush** kingdom of Nubia. After an Assyrian invasion ended Kushite rule of Egypt, the Kush civilization withdrew south. In 332 B.C., Alexander the Great of Macedonia conquered Egypt. After Alexander's death, one of his generals, Ptolemy (TAHL•uh•mee), became king of Egypt, starting a dynasty that lasted nearly 300 years. One of the last Ptolemies, Queen Cleopatra, married the co-ruler of Rome, Mark Antony. Antony and Cleopatra's attempt to seize power from Antony's co-ruler failed in 31 B.C. The next year, Egypt became a Roman territory.

CONNECT Geography & History

Movement Which kingdom extended farthest north?

 **SUMMARIZE** List the civilizations that interacted with ancient Egypt.

CONNECT to History

Egyptians decorated pyramid walls with elaborate paintings. They honored pharaohs by giving them "perfect" features, no matter how they really looked. Scenes might show pharaohs' accomplishments in life, or show them enjoying the afterlife.



Activity

Make a Pyramid



Materials

- construction paper
- ruler
- scissors
- tape
- markers

1. Research Egyptian pyramids and art.
2. Draw and cut out a six-inch square and four six-inch equilateral triangles (triangles whose sides are of equal length).
3. Decorate one side of each triangle with hieroglyphics and Egyptian paintings.
4. Tape the four sides together so that their top points meet. Then tape three of the bottom sides to the square base.
5. Leave one of the triangles unattached to the square so you can see inside.



Tutankhamen "King Tut" was nine years old when he became pharaoh, and he ruled with the help of advisors.

Culture of Ancient Egypt

KEY QUESTION What were some of the accomplishments of ancient Egyptian culture?

Ancient Egyptians built great cities, where architects, doctors, artisans, and engineers worked. They also invented a form of paper. But their most lasting achievement is probably the pyramids. These giant structures served as both monuments and tombs for the pharaohs.

Social Systems Ancient Egyptian social classes formed a kind of pyramid, as shown below. At the top was the pharaoh, then a small upper class. Skilled or educated workers made up the middle classes. The largest groups, farmers, laborers and slaves, were at the pyramid's base.

Most boys followed their fathers' occupations, and girls usually became wives and mothers. Women could own, buy, sell, and inherit property, and divorce their husbands.

Egypt's Gods and the Afterlife Egyptians worshiped several deities, and considered their pharaohs to be earthly versions of them. One New Kingdom pharaoh, Akhenaton, promoted the worship of only one deity, the sun god Aton. When Akhenaton died, the new king, Tutankhamen, brought back worship of the old gods.

Animated GEOGRAPHY

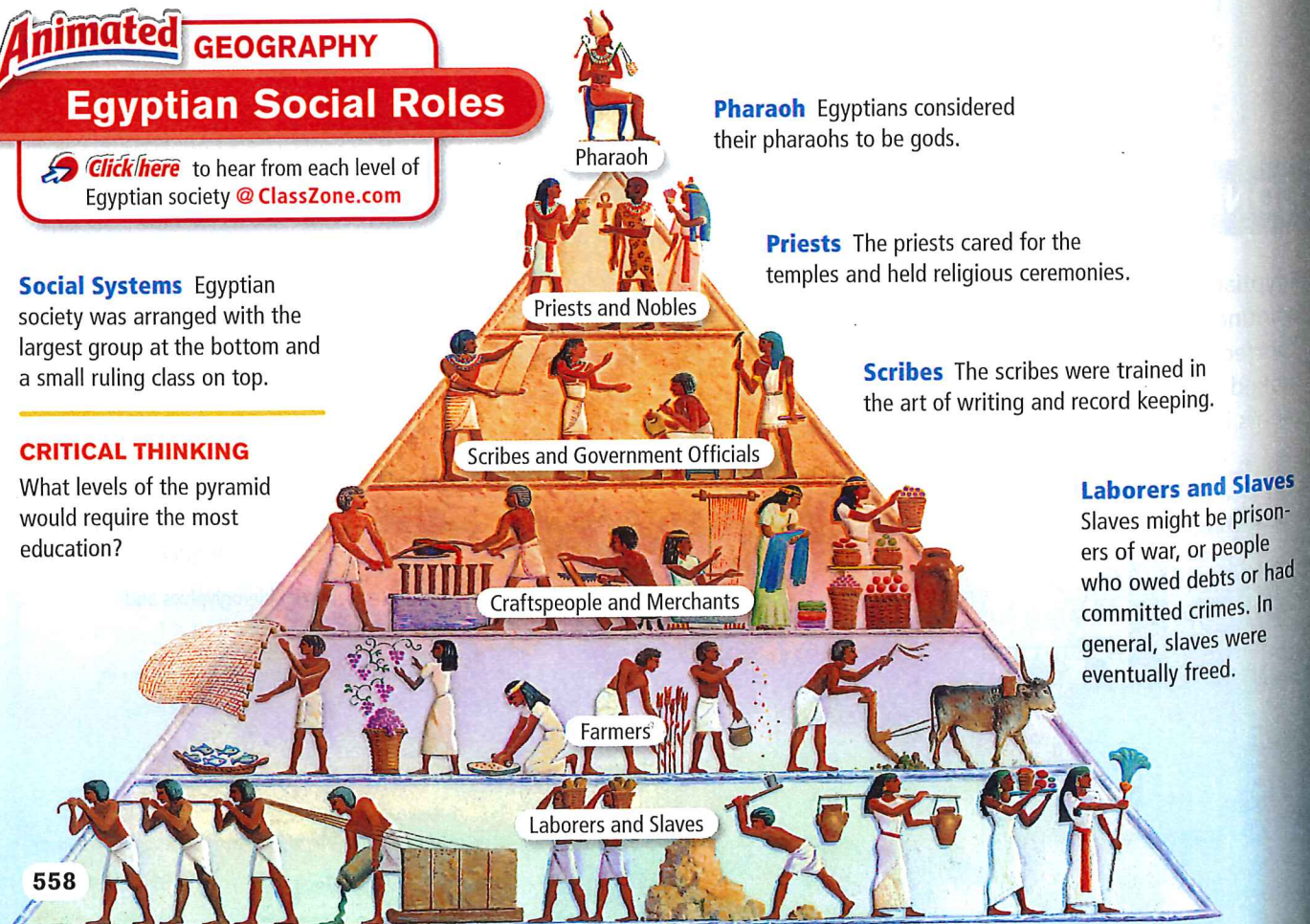
Egyptian Social Roles

[Click here](#) to hear from each level of Egyptian society @ [ClassZone.com](#)

Social Systems Egyptian society was arranged with the largest group at the bottom and a small ruling class on top.

CRITICAL THINKING

What levels of the pyramid would require the most education?



Egyptians believed in an afterlife that resembled life on Earth. To preserve a person's body for the next life, they embalmed and dried it, and wrapped it in linen bandages, making a **mummy**. Egyptians also mummified pets, such as cats and monkeys. They packed their family members' tombs with items they thought they would need in the afterlife: clothes, food, makeup, and jewelry. Egyptian rulers had the fanciest tombs of all. The pharaohs' burial chambers were full of items such as sparkling gold treasures and statues of servants to care for them in the afterlife.



Ancient Egyptian Contributions Ancient Egypt made advances in language, science, and mathematics. Egyptians invented a form of picture writing called **hieroglyphics** which was used in temples, tombs, and on monuments. A different script was used on scrolls of **papyrus**, a paperlike material made from papyrus grass. The Egyptian calendar was based on the Nile farming cycle of flooding, planting, and harvesting. Doctors in ancient Egypt understood that a person's pulse was connected to the heart, and knew how to set broken bones. Egyptians used geometry to set land borders and design buildings.

Hieroglyphics The word hieroglyphics comes from the Greek word for "sacred carving." Why might the Greeks have called hieroglyphics "sacred"?

SUMMARIZE Name some of the advancements of ancient Egypt.

Section 1 Assessment



ONLINE QUIZ

For test practice, go to
Interactive Review
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TERMS & NAMES

1. Explain the importance of

- Nile River
- delta
- Kush
- hieroglyphics

USE YOUR READING NOTES

2. Analyze Cause and Effect

Use your completed chart to answer the following question:

What were the results of the Nile's annual floods?

CAUSE	EFFECT
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

KEY IDEAS

3. Why did ancient Egyptians cluster around the valley and delta of the Nile River?
4. What three periods make up ancient Egyptian history?
5. What was the largest social class in ancient Egypt?

CRITICAL THINKING

6. **Summarize** What are some positive and negative effects of the Aswan High Dam?
7. **Evaluate** What rights did women have in ancient Egypt?
8. **CONNECT to Today** What are the risks and benefits of living near a great river?
9. **SCIENCE** **Create a Multimedia Presentation** Using the library or Internet, research mummification and create a slide show to demonstrate the process. Show all the steps from removal of organs and embalming to drying and wrapping.

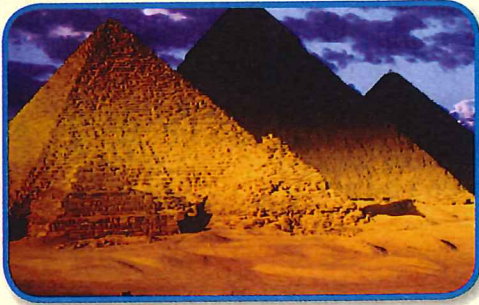
Animated GEOGRAPHY

The Great Pyramid

[Click here](#) to enter the Great Pyramid
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PYRAMIDS

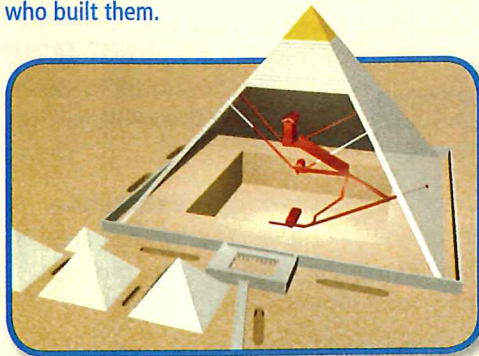
The Great Pyramid of Khufu is Egypt's largest pyramid, originally standing 481 feet high. For more than 4,000 years it stood as the world's tallest building.



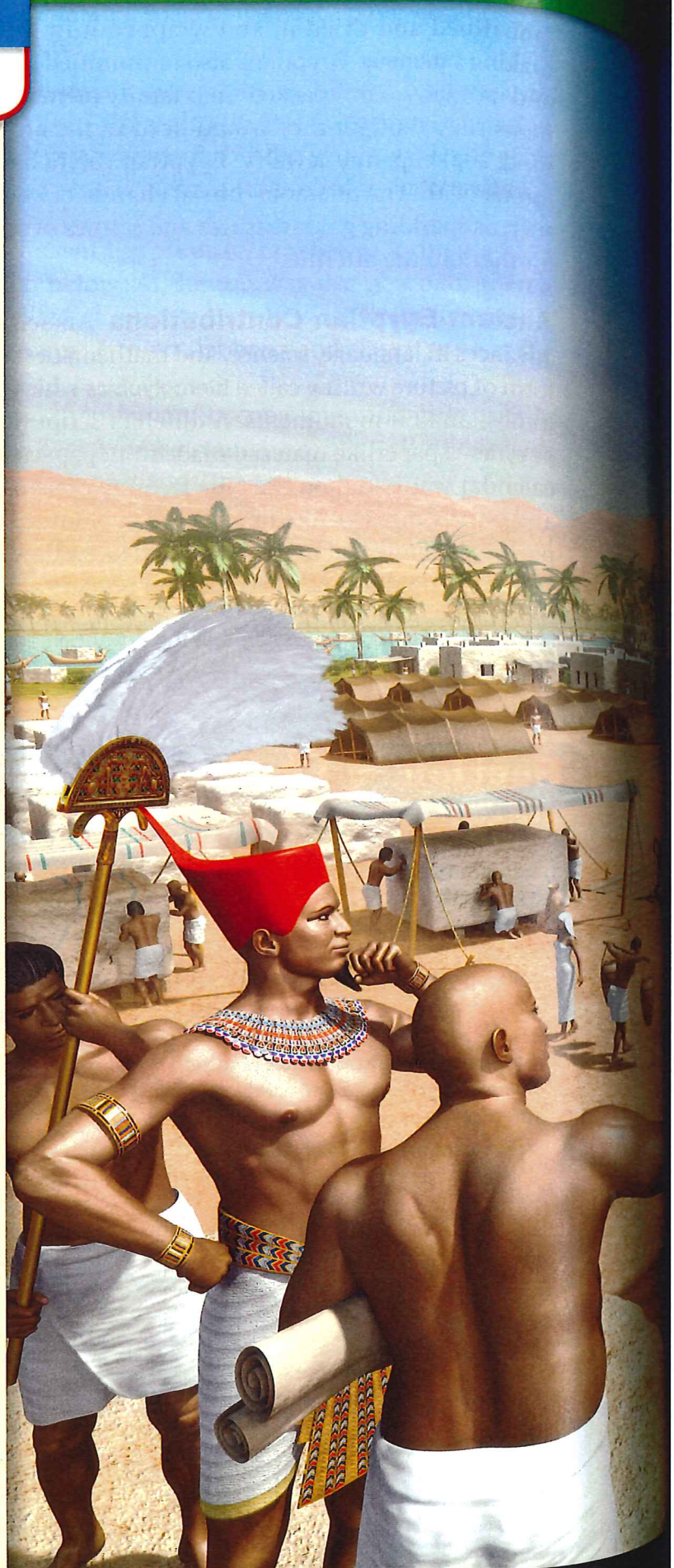
[Click here](#) to visit the pyramids of Egypt today. Learn about the rulers of ancient Egypt and their belief in the afterlife.



[Click here](#) to see how a pyramid was built. Learn about the materials and methods and the people who built them.



[Click here](#) to explore the passageways and chambers of the Great Pyramid's interior.





GeoActivity

Plan a Pyramid Split into groups of three and plan a pyramid for a newly crowned pharaoh. Consider how to keep the burial chamber safe from thieves and what sort of facilities the workers will need.