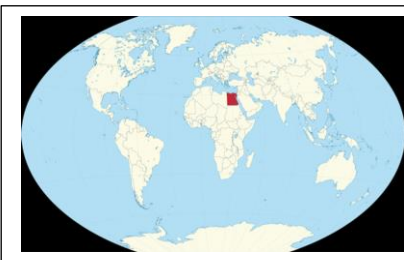
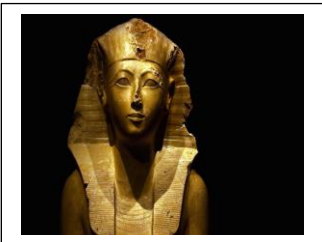
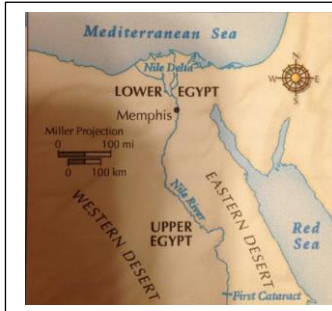


# Aim #7: How did ancient Egypt develop?

## Egyptian Civilization

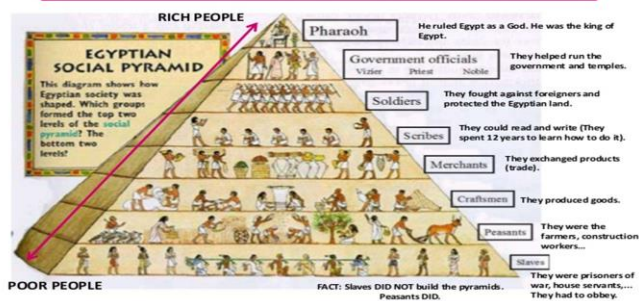
NYS SS Framework: 9.1c



### Mini Lecture

- Fertile land along **the Nile River** brought early peoples to Egypt, & overtime, a powerful Egyptian civilization arose.
- Farming flourished in the rich soil deposits from annual river floods. The surrounding desert served as a buffer from frequent invasions. Early governments formed to organize an irrigation system.
- Egypt's history is divided into three main periods: the Old Kingdom, the Middle Kingdom, & the New Kingdom. During the Old Kingdom, **pharaohs**, or Egyptian kings, organized a strong central government & established a **bureaucracy**, with different jobs & authority levels. A **vizier**, or chief minister, was the pharaoh's chief of government business. The **Great Pyramids** stand at Giza today as a lasting reminder of Old Kingdom achievements.
- The Middle Kingdom saw unpredictable flooding & rebellion.
- After more than 100 years of Hyksos rule, powerful Egyptian leaders ushered in the New Kingdom, an age of expansion. One of these leaders was **Hatshepsut**, the first female pharaoh. She sent trading expeditions along the eastern Mediterranean & Red Sea
- Ancient Egyptians made lasting contributions to civilization in many fields. Their religion, written language, art, science, & literature have fascinated people for thousands of years.
- During the Old Kingdom, the chief god was the sun god, Re or **Amon-Re**. Most Egyptians related to the god **Osiris**, who ruled the dead. They also worshipped the goddess **Isis**, who promised life after death. People believed the afterlife was much like life on Earth, so they buried people's possessions with them.
- The Egyptians also learned to preserve bodies by **mummification**, or embalming & wrapping in cloth, so that the soul could return to the body.
- Ancient Egyptians made advances in learning. Their first writing system, **hieroglyphics**, used symbols. Symbols were originally carved in stone. They used a simpler script called hieratic for everyday use. Later, they developed a similar script called **demotic**. They also developed material to write on, made from **papyrus** plants.
- Egyptian civilization eventually declined, yet its written records survived. No one understood them until the early 1800s, when a French scholar, **Jean Champollion**, **deciphered**, or figured out meanings for, carvings on the **Rosetta Stone**. On this stone, the same passage was written in three ways: hieroglyphics, demotic, & Greek. By comparing these, Champollion decoded the hieroglyphs, allowing later scholars to read thousands of surviving records and inscriptions.
- Egyptians also made advances in medicine, astronomy, & mathematics. Egyptian physicians diagnosed illnesses, performed surgeries, & prescribed medicines, some of which are still used today.
- Priest-astronomers mapped constellations, charted planets, & created a 12-month calendar that became the basis of the modern one. Mathematicians developed basic geometry.
- Egyptian artwork has endured for thousands of years. It includes monuments, statues, wall paintings, temple carvings, jewelry, furniture, & other objects. Ancient Egyptian literature includes hymns, practical advice, love poems, & folk tales.

### ANCIENT EGYPTIAN SOCIETY



### Three Kingdoms of Ancient Egypt

OLD KINGDOM (2575-2134 BCE)	MIDDLE KINGDOM (2040-1640 BCE)	NEW KINGDOM (1532-1070 BCE)
Pharaohs organized a strong central state, were absolute rulers, and were considered gods.	Large drainage project created arable farmland.	Powerful pharaohs created a large empire that reached the Euphrates River.
Khufu and others built pyramids at Giza.	Traders had contacts with Middle East and Crete.	Hatshepsut encouraged trade.
Power struggles, crop failures, and cost of pyramids contributed to the collapse of the Old Kingdom.	Corruption and rebellions were common.	Tutankhamen: boy-king
	Hyksos invaded and occupied the delta region.	Ramses II expanded Egyptian rule to Syria.
		Egyptian power declined.

### Review Questions:

- How did Egypt benefit from the Nile River?
- Who was Hatshepsut?
- What did Egyptians do to prepare for the afterlife?
- What contributions did ancient Egyptians make to science?
- How did French scholar Jean Champollion use the Rosetta Stone to decipher the meaning of hieroglyphs?

**Further Reading:** Chapter 2, Sections 3 & 4



