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The Arab World

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Location and Boundaries

The **Arab world** is located in the middle of the Ancient world. The boundaries of the Arab world are: the Atlantic Ocean in the west; Iran and the Arabian Gulf in the east; Turkey and the Mediterranean Sea in the north; and Central Africa, the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea in the south.

The **Ancient world** is comprised of Asia, Africa and Europe and is considered ancient because it existed before the discovery and exploration of the Americas and Australia.

The Arab world is located on the continents of Asia and Africa. It is comprised of 22 countries, and every country has a capital city.



A **capital city** is the city where the country's main **government** facilities and administration are located.



Look at the map on the previous page.

If you live in the Arab world, point to the country where you live. If you don't live in the Arab world, choose a country that you think would be interesting to visit.

What is the capital city of that country?

Which two continents does the Arab world extend on?

_____, _____

What bodies of water surround the Arab world?

Oceans: _____, _____

Seas: _____, _____, _____



Did
You
Know?

- The total area of the Arab world is about 14 million km².

- Somalia has the longest water boundaries in the Arab world.

A Strategic Location

What is a **strategic location**?

A strategic location is a place that can be easily accessed by land or water by many countries of the world in order to trade valuable resources.

The Arab world is distinguished by its strategic position because it links three continents: Asia, Africa and Europe. These continents contain 145 of the 192 countries in the world. It is surrounded by important bodies of water, straits and canals giving it multiple points of access. Adding to its value, it is also a source of oil and other mineral resources.





What is the importance of straits and canals?

A **strait** is a narrow passage that links two bodies of water.

A **canal** is a man-made waterway constructed to enhance shipping or irrigation.

Straits and canals are important because they link seas and oceans together, and they improve the transportation process from one country to another.



Fill in the blanks:

The Strait of Hormuz links _____ and _____.

The Suez Canal links _____ and _____.

The Strait of Gibraltar links _____ and _____.

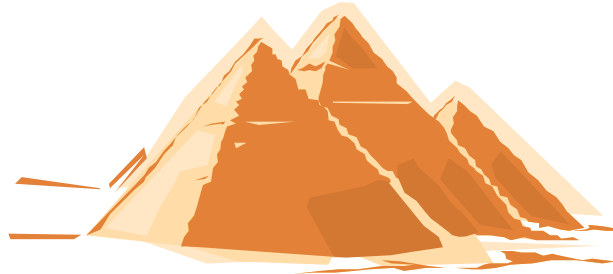
The Strait of Bab al-Mandeb links _____
and _____.

Ancient Ruins and Religion

Ancient Ruins

In many Arab countries, the ruins that still stand today reflect the importance of this region in ancient times.

Look at the pictures below.



The pyramids in Egypt are an evidence of the civilization that had developed near the Nile River.



Petra in Jordan is an ancient crossroad of trade routes between east and west.



Did
You
Know?

In 2007, Petra became one of the Seven Wonders of the World.

Religion

The majority of the Arab world are Muslims, in addition to some Christians and Jews.

The Arab world has religious importance since it is the birthplace of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.



The Dome of The Rock:
a religious site in Jerusalem



Name other religious sites that are located in the Arab world.

Population

Population refers to the number of people living in a specific area at a given time.

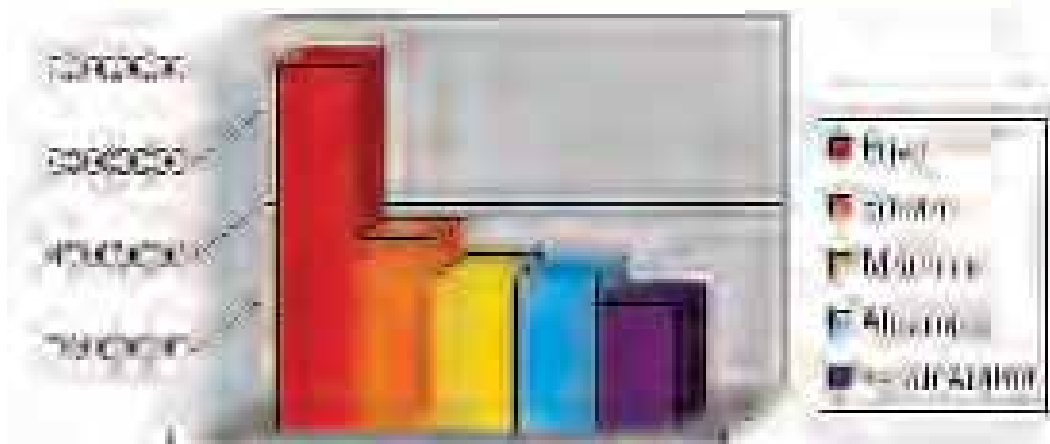
The population of the Arab world is about 350 million. The majority of the population is comprised of Arabs. There are some Berbers in North African countries, like Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and Libya.



Did
You
Know?

The most populated country in the Arab world is Egypt. Djibouti is the least populated.

The five most populated Arab countries

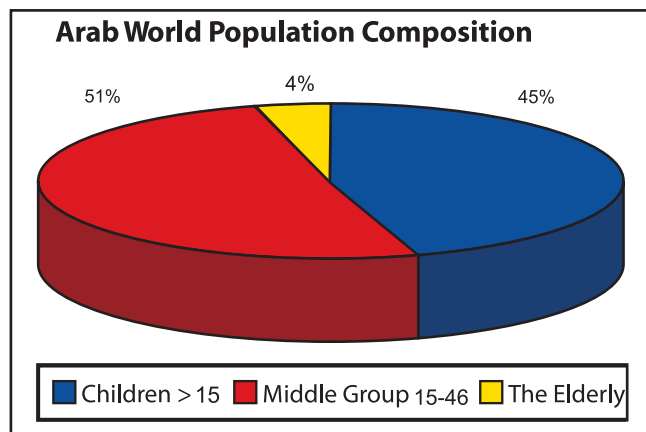


Population Composition

Population composition divides populations according to age as described below:

1. Children, who are below 15 years old.
2. The elderly, who are 65 years old and above.
3. The middle group, which includes people between the ages of (15-64).

Children make up about 45% of the Arab world population. The percentage of the middle group, which is considered the "productive group," is also high compared with the rest of the world. This means that the Arab world has



a large resource of people who are able to work, produce and consume. On the other hand, the percentage of old people in developed countries, such as the United States and Canada, is almost five times higher than the percentage of old people in the Arab world. The population of the Arab world is concentrated in coastal areas, around rivers and in large cities.

Landforms and Climate

Landforms are the natural features of the Earth's surface.



The landforms of the Arab world are divided into three main parts:

- The **mountainous** areas are areas of land that rise far above the sea level. Some of these mountains are close to seas and oceans (coastal) and others are inland.
- **Plateaus** are fairly level or flat, high areas of land, such as the Badiet Al-Sham Plateau (Syria Desert), the Najd Plateau in Saudi Arabia and Al-Shutout Plateau in Algeria.
- **Plains** are areas of flat land that are very close to sea level. Some of them are coastal, whereas others are located along the banks of rivers. River-plains are known for their fertile soil.

As a result, ancient civilizations, such as Mesopotamia and Ancient Egypt, were founded on these types of plains.



List two ancient civilizations that were founded along river-plains.

Look at the map on the previous page and answer the questions:

Think about where you live, and list the landforms around you _____
_____.

Using the map on the previous page, find and list the following :

1. Three coastal mountains _____,
_____, _____.

2. Two inland mountains _____, _____.

3. Two plateaus _____, _____.

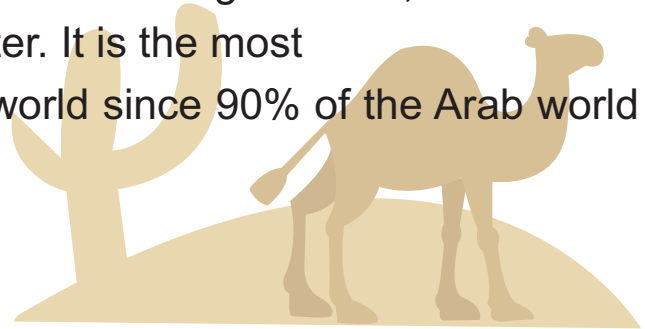
Which landform is most prevalent in the Arab world?

Climate

Climate is the pattern of weather over a long period of time.

The climate of the Arab world is divided into:

-The desert, which is a hot dry place where few plants grow. It is hot in the daytime and throughout the long summer, and cold at night and during the short winter. It is the most prevalent climate in the Arab world since 90% of the Arab world is made up of deserts.



Did
You
Know?

Lebanon is the only country in the Arab world that does not have a desert.

The Mediterranean climate, which is found in the coastal areas of the Mediterranean Sea.

- The tropical climate, which is found in the southern part of the Arab world, such as Sudan. It is hot throughout the year with rain in the summer.

The Economy of the Arab World

Economy is the relationship between production, trade and the supply of money in a particular country or region. As a result, **natural resources**, such as minerals, soil, climate and water, affect the economy of any country. In addition, human resources, which take into consideration the efficiency and qualifications of the workforce and its contribution to scientific research, can be another important factor that can affect the economy.

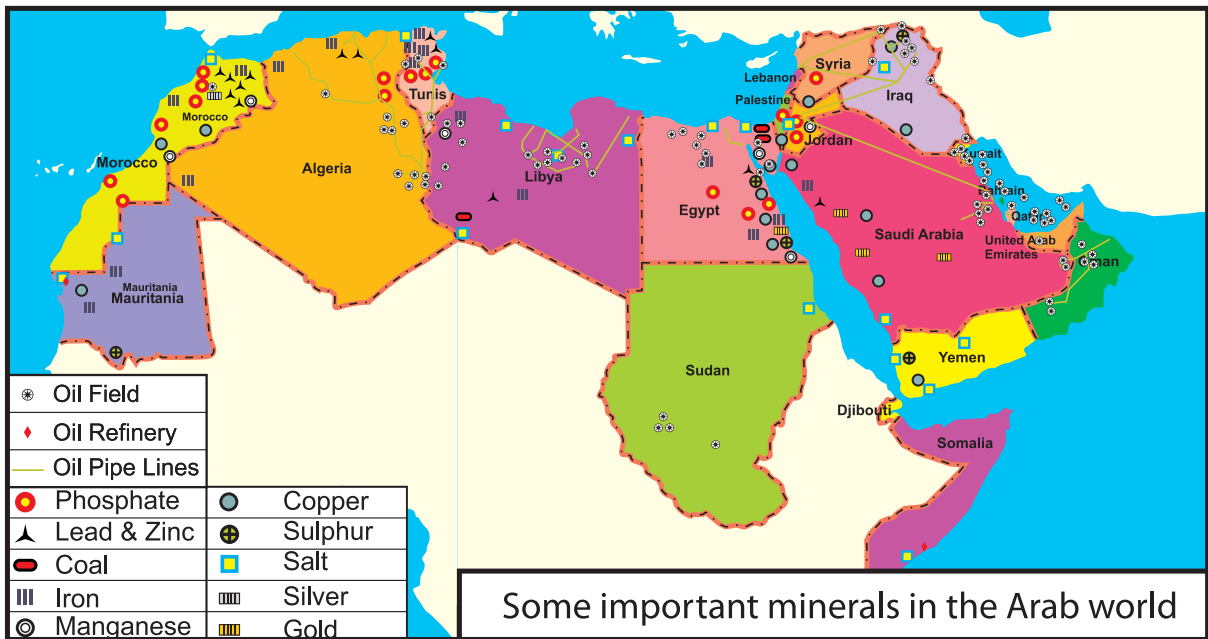
Conditions such as political stability and peace also enable people to work and improve their economy.

The Arab world is region a rich with large deposits of oil and other minerals found throughout the Arab countries. The income generated by the production and sale of oil enables the oil-producing countries to achieve great progress in health, education and standard of living, as well as providing jobs for other Arabs in these countries.



Did
You
Know?

- Saudi Arabia has the largest exports of oil in the whole world.
- Two thirds of the deposits of oil in the world are found in the Arab countries.



Refer to the map of important minerals in the Arab world and answer the following questions.

Which countries have phosphate?

Which countries have copper?

Which countries have manganese?

Which countries have iron?

List one product that is made from each of the following:

phosphate _____

copper _____

manganese _____

iron _____

Explain why oil is referred to as black gold.

What resources does your country have?

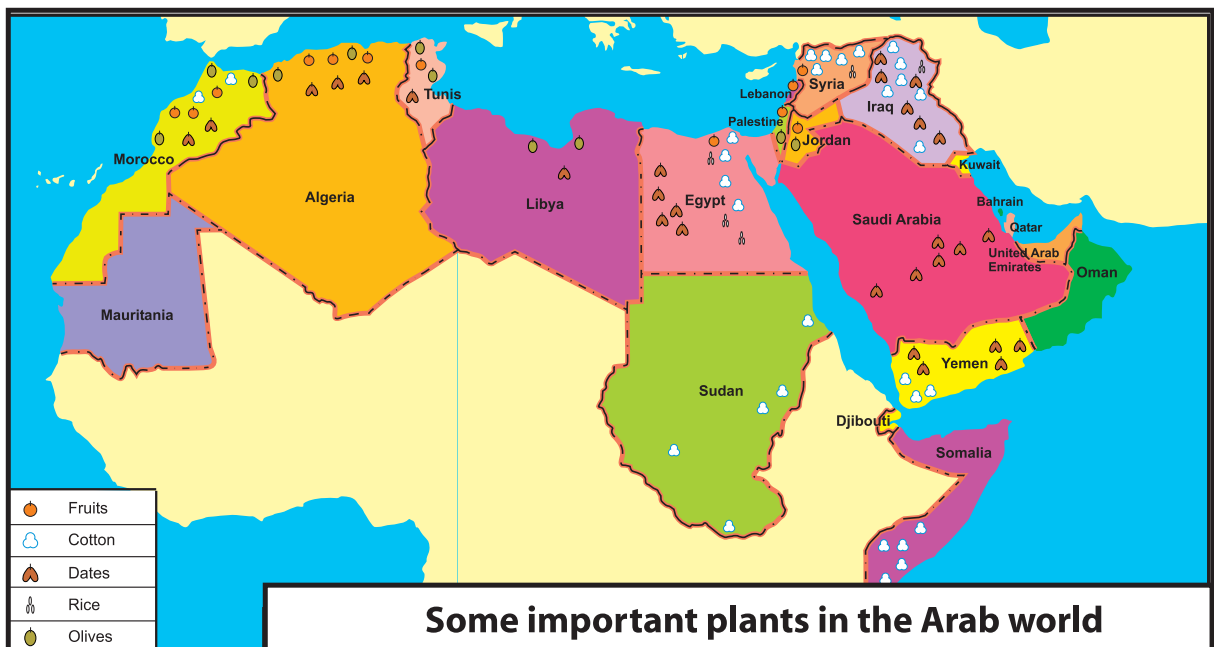


Did
You
Know?

The Arab world produces 28% of the world's production of phosphates

Plants and Animals

Agriculture makes up 50% of the income in the Arab world. About half of the workforce works in agriculture. Countries that have rich, fertile soil, an abundance of water resources, a temperate climate and a large human workforce are the agricultural countries.



Which countries produce cotton?

Which countries produce citrus fruits?

Which countries produce dates?

Which countries produce olives?

There is a great diversity of agricultural products in the Arab world owing to the variations in climate and soil. For example, Saudi Arabia and Iraq have a desert climate, which is considered ideal for producing dates, whereas the soil, climate and abundance of water in Egypt are the ideal conditions for producing the best cotton in the world. This variation of agricultural products can lead to economic integration.



Economic integration is a plan between two or more countries, according to which each country produces a different product than the other and then these countries exchange what they produce.

For example:

Saudi Arabia produces dates and Lebanon produces fruits and vegetables. The two countries satisfy each others' needs by exchanging products.

Economic integration leads to self-sufficiency, by which Arab countries could exchange products and therefore fulfill each others' requirements. This kind of cooperation could make this region of the Arab world economically strong.

Moreover, the Arab countries raise animals, such as chickens, camels, cows, goats and sheep, which provide the people with meat, eggs, leather and dairy products (yogurt, cheese and butter). Fishing is also an important industry since many countries of the Arab world have long water boundaries.



Refer to the map of important animals in the Arab world above and name the animals that are raised in each of the following countries.

- Iraq _____
- Yemen _____
- Somalia _____
- Saudi Arabia _____
- Morocco _____
- Djibouti _____
- Algeria _____

Which Arab country raises the largest number of animals? Why?

GLOSSARY CHAPTER (2)

Ancient World: The continents of Asia, Africa and Europe.

Capital City: The city where the country's main government, facilities and administration are located.

Government: A political authority that is officially responsible for directing the affairs, policies and economy of state, country, or organization.

Strategic Location: A location that can be easily accessed by land or water by many countries of the world in order to trade valuable resources.

Strait: A narrow passage that links two bodies of water.

Canal: A man-made waterway constructed to enhance shipping or irrigation.

Ruins: The parts of buildings or cities that remain after having been destroyed long ago.

Population: The number of people living in a specific area at a given time.

Population Composition: Dividing the population up according to age.

Developed Countries: Those countries located in North America, Europe, Australia and Japan. They contain about one third of the world's population.

Developing Countries: Those countries located in Latin America, Africa and Asia. They contain about two thirds of the world's population.

Mountain: A high and often rocky area of land mass with steep or sloping sides.

Plateau: A raised area of land with a level or flat top.

Plains: Areas of flat land that are very close to sea level.

Climate: The average weather or the regular variation in weather in a region over a period of years.

Economy: The relationship between production, trade and supply of money in a particular country or region.

Natural Resources: Plants, animals, fossil fuels, water, fertile soil, forests, minerals and so on that are found in nature and used by humans to meet their needs.

Agriculture: The art, science, and industry of managing the growth of plants and animals for human use.

Economic Integration: A plan between two or more countries according to which each country produces a different product than the other so they can exchange what they produce.

Self-Sufficiency: The ability to provide what is needed without depending on others.

Chapter 5

A Journey into the Past Ancient Egypt

Lesson 1: The Geography of Ancient Egypt

Lesson 2: The History of Ancient Egypt

Lesson 3: The Pharaohs

Lesson 4: The Social Life of Ancient Egypt

Lesson 5: Egyptian Religion

Lesson 6: The Pyramids

Lesson 7: Language and Learning

Lesson 8: Egyptian Contribution to Civilization

The Geography of Ancient Egypt

Ancient Egypt is located in northeastern Africa. It is still a part of today's modern Egypt.

The boundaries of Ancient Egypt are the Mediterranean Sea in the north and Aswan to the south.

The Nile Valley, however, is the most important geographic feature in the area since the Nile runs throughout the country flowing from the south to the north.

Ancient Egypt was divided into two regions: Upper and Lower Egypt.



Lower (northern) Egypt included the Nile River and its Delta.

Upper Egypt was the long, narrow strip of Ancient Egypt located south of the Delta in the Nile Valley on both sides of the Nile River.

There were two types of soil in Ancient Egypt: black and red. They can still be found today.

The black soil was found in the fertile land on the banks of the Nile. The Ancient Egyptians used this land for growing their crops. This was the only land in Ancient Egypt that could be farmed because a layer of rich, black silt was deposited there every year after the Nile flooded.

Black silt: Small particles of sand or earth that are carried in moving water.

The red soil, however, was found in the barren desert that protected Egypt on two sides. These deserts separated Ancient Egypt from neighboring countries and protected it from armies. They also provided the ancient Egyptians with a source of precious metals and semiprecious stones.

As a result, the Greek historian, Herodotus, described Egypt as "the gift of the Nile," because most of the country is a hot, dry desert with little rainfall. Therefore, people settled around the Nile over 10,000 years ago; the Nile gave life to the desert.

The History of Ancient Egypt

The pharaonic civilization dates back to 3000 BC up until Alexander the Great conquered Egypt in 323 BC.

Historians divided the pharaonic era into three successive divisions: Old Kingdom, Middle Kingdom and Modern Kingdom.

The pharaonic era is further divided into 31 dynasties as follows:

Dynasty: A succession of rulers from the same family

The Ancient Age dynasties (the first and the second dynasties that ruled until 2700 BC)

The most famous ruler in this era was Menes, who managed to unify Upper and Lower Egypt. He also established the city of Memphis near the Delta in 3200 BC.

The Old Kingdom dynasties (the third to the sixth dynasties that ruled from 2700 BC to 2200 BC)

During the Old Kingdom, Egypt enjoyed stability, security and peace. Therefore, economic, cultural and artistic achievements flourished during this era. This was clearly represented in the building of the three Giza pyramids: Khufu, Tehafre and Menkaura.

Lesson 2

The First Middle Kingdom dynasties (the seventh to the **fourteenth dynasties**)

This age began in 2200 BC and ended in 1700 BC. It started when Menthotpe II, the Prince of Thebes, managed to reunify the country and founded a strong government; Egypt flourished economically.

The kings and the queens of the twelfth dynasty acquired fame all over the world, such as:

- Tuhutmos I, the warrior who expanded the Egyptian borders north and south and who spread education everywhere.
- Akhenaton, who was the first to call for the one Creator, and Tutankhamun, his son, who gained fame in modern times and who was also known as the "Boy-King."
- The most famous queens of this time were Nefertiti, the wife of Akhenaton; and Hatshepsut, who ruled Egypt for 20 years.

The Second Middle Age dynasties (the fifteenth to the **seventeenth dynasties**)

In 1725 BC the Hyksos annexed Egypt and occupied the Egyptian lands. Yet the Prince of Thebes, led by Ahmos I, managed to expel them out of Egypt.

Hyksos: The members of an ancient nomadic people who conquered and ruled Egypt between 1725 BC and 1560 BC.

The Modern Kingdom dynasties (the eighteenth to the twentieth dynasties that ruled between 1600-1100 BC).

After Ahmos I expelled the Hyksos, he worked on establishing a well-equipped army.

Ramses II, one of the most famous kings of the Modern Kingdom, signed the first peace treaty in history with the Hittites.

Hittites: A member of an ancient people of Anatolia whose empire flourished in parts of western Asia during the second millennium BC.

The Late Age dynasties (the twenty-first to the thirty first dynasties that ruled Egypt between 1100-332 BC).

During this era, the Assyrians and Persians occupied Egypt. The rule of the pharaohs, however, was ended during the reign of the thirty-first dynasty when Alexander the Great conquered Egypt in 332 BC.

The Pharaohs

The pharaoh was the most powerful person in Ancient Egypt. His title was "Lord of the two lands." He was the high priest of every temple.

As lord of the two lands, the pharaoh was the ruler of Upper and Lower Egypt. He owned all of the land, made laws, collected taxes, and defended Egypt against invaders.



As the "high priest of every temple," the pharaoh represented the gods on Earth. He performed rituals and built temples to honor the gods.



Did
You
Know?

The pharaoh wore a special crown with a cobra on it. The Egyptians believed that the cobra was a goddess who would spit poisonous fire at the pharaoh's enemies.

Lesson 3

The throne of Egypt was primarily intended to be succeeded from father to son; pharaohs often intermarried with daughters, granddaughters, sisters and brothers to keep the throne within the family.

In addition to Menes, there were many famous pharaohs who contributed to the history of Ancient Egypt, such as: Ramses II, who was a strong pharaoh and who made Egypt more powerful and safe through war and conquest; Tutankhamun, who was called the "Boy-King" because he died at the age of 18; and Queen Hatshepsut, who was the first female to become a pharaoh. She used to wear the clothing of a king and a false beard. She encouraged trade with other countries using ships, and she was very powerful.

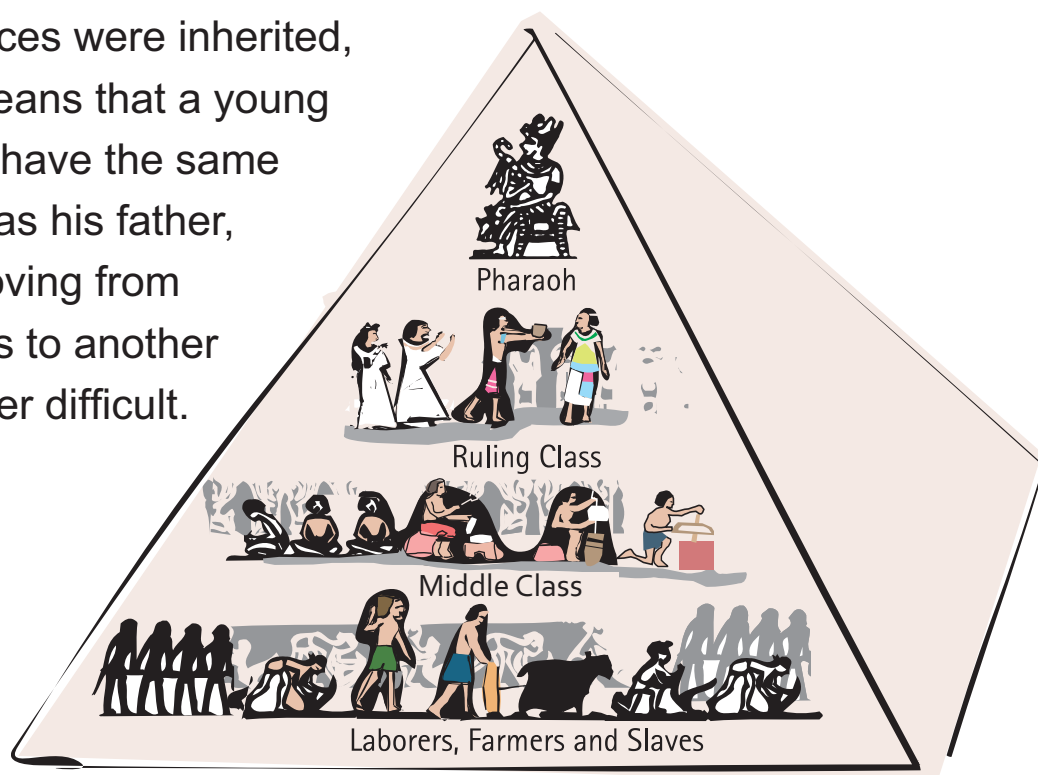


The Social Life of Ancient Egypt

The structure of the Egyptian society was similar to the shape of a pyramid. The pharaoh, the most powerful figure in the society, was at the top of the pyramid. The next most powerful group was the ruling class, which consisted of nobles, government officials and army generals. Less powerful was the middle class, which consisted of priests, artists, soldiers, merchants and craftsmen.

At the bottom of the pyramid came the majority of the society, which included laborers, farmers, and the least powerful of all-slaves.

Most offices were inherited, which means that a young man will have the same position as his father, since moving from one class to another was rather difficult.





Did
You
Know?

Egypt was divided into 42 districts run by governors who carried out the pharaoh's orders.

Women in Ancient Egypt

In Ancient Egypt, as in Egypt today, the family was very important. Women used to raise children, prepare food and make clothes for their families, and those from poor families also worked in the fields.

Women were considered unequal to men. However, they could own property, go to school, buy and sell goods and even be a pharaoh. In other ancient civilizations, they did not enjoy such rights.

Ancient Egyptians usually had one wife. Only pharaohs were allowed to marry more than one wife to guarantee an heir or to strengthen alliances with other countries by marrying foreign princesses.

Egyptian Religion

Egyptians believed in many different gods. For example, they believed that the sun was a god named Ra. On a daily basis, the Egyptians used to watch the sunrise and sunset.

Egyptians believed in life after death. They had a special book called "The Book of the Dead," which was written to help dead people find their way to heaven.

In order to preserve the body after death, the Egyptians performed a process called **mummification**.

First, they put chemicals on the body and wrapped it in long strips of cloth. Then they covered the body with a substance similar to tar in order to waterproof and protect it. The Mummy was then laid in a coffin.



A **mummy** is a dead body that has been preserved by adding preservative substances to prevent it from decaying.

Second, the dead body was placed in a tomb with food, water, games, clothing and other objects the dead person might need in his expected life after death. To help the dead person remember his life, they decorated the walls of the tomb with drawings and paintings of scenes from his daily life, such as fishing, or swimming in the Nile.

A **tomb** is an underground chamber or a room used for burial of a dead person.

Temples

The Ancient Egyptians believed that the temples were the homes of gods and goddesses.

Every temple was dedicated to a god or goddess and he or she was worshipped there by the temple's priests and the pharaoh as well.

Over a long period of time, the Egyptians built numerous temples along the Nile. Some of these temples were built with no rooftops to worship Aten, the sun god.

However, the most famous temples are Al-Karnak and Luxor temples in Luxor.

Lesson 5

Writings, sculptures and paintings are found on the walls of the temples. Most of them depict pharaohs as brave warriors killing their enemies or killing lions in order to reinforce the image of the pharaoh as a divine ruler.

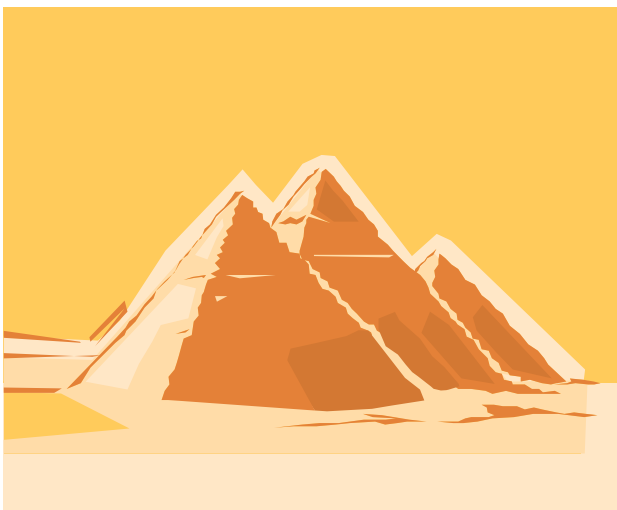


The Pyramids

Ancient Egyptians built the pyramids as tombs for the pharaohs and their queens. There are about **80** pyramids known today from Ancient Egypt.



Saqqara Pyramid



The first pyramid built was for King Zosar in Saqqara near Cairo; it is the oldest standing structure in the world.

The most famous pyramids are the Giza pyramids. The first and largest pyramid, Cheops, was built for the pharaoh Khufu about 4,500 years ago. The second largest pyramid, Chephern, was built for Rehufee's son, Rehafra. The third largest pyramid Mycerinus, was built for Menkaura.

Lesson 6

The Egyptians also built statues to protect these pyramids, such as the Great Sphinx, which was thought to be a god with the head of a man and the body of a lion.



Facts about the pyramids

- A pyramid has four triangular sides. The four sides of a pyramid face the four cardinal directions: north, south, east and west. The entrance of the pyramid is located in the middle of the side facing north.
- The pyramids of Egypt are considered to be one of the Seven Wonders of the World.
- The Great Pyramid is the largest pyramid that was ever built.

To prevent robbery of the pyramids, later pharaohs built their tombs in a remote valley west of Thebes known as the Valley of the Kings. For more than 1,000 years, kings, queens and nobles were buried in this Valley. The most famous of all is Tutankhamun's tomb.

Language and Learning

How many letters do you have to memorize in order to read and write? What do we call people who can read and write?

When you write, what tools do you need?

The Ancient Egyptians were among the very first people to record their history in writing. They used symbols and pictures for writing. Each symbol was called a **hieroglyph**. People who knew how to read and write hieroglyphs were called **scribes**. A scribe had to learn more than 700 symbols in order to read and write. Priests used to teach hieroglyphs in the temples only to the children of rich nobles or people of high ranks. Scribes used red or black ink. Their pens were made from reeds. They wrote on a special kind of paper called **papyrus**.

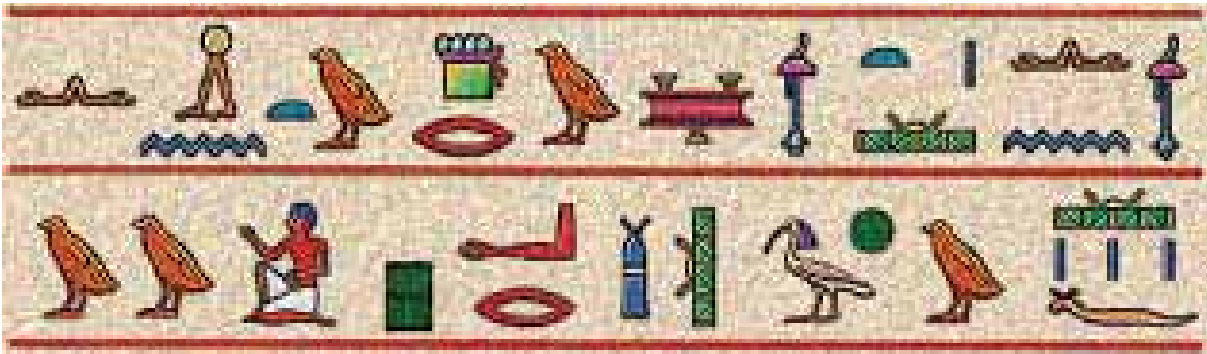
Egyptians wrote hieroglyphs in rows or columns that could be read from left to right, right to left or top to bottom.



Lesson 7

The key to reading hieroglyphs is to look at the direction the animals or humans are facing; this is the direction from which the lines should be read.

For instance, the picture below would be read from left to right since all the animals are facing the left.



Sometimes, two or more pictures are found on top of one another. If this happens, the top picture is always read before the bottom.

In Egyptian culture, rows were used in legal documents and on tombstones, whereas columns were used on doorways, tomb walls and monuments.



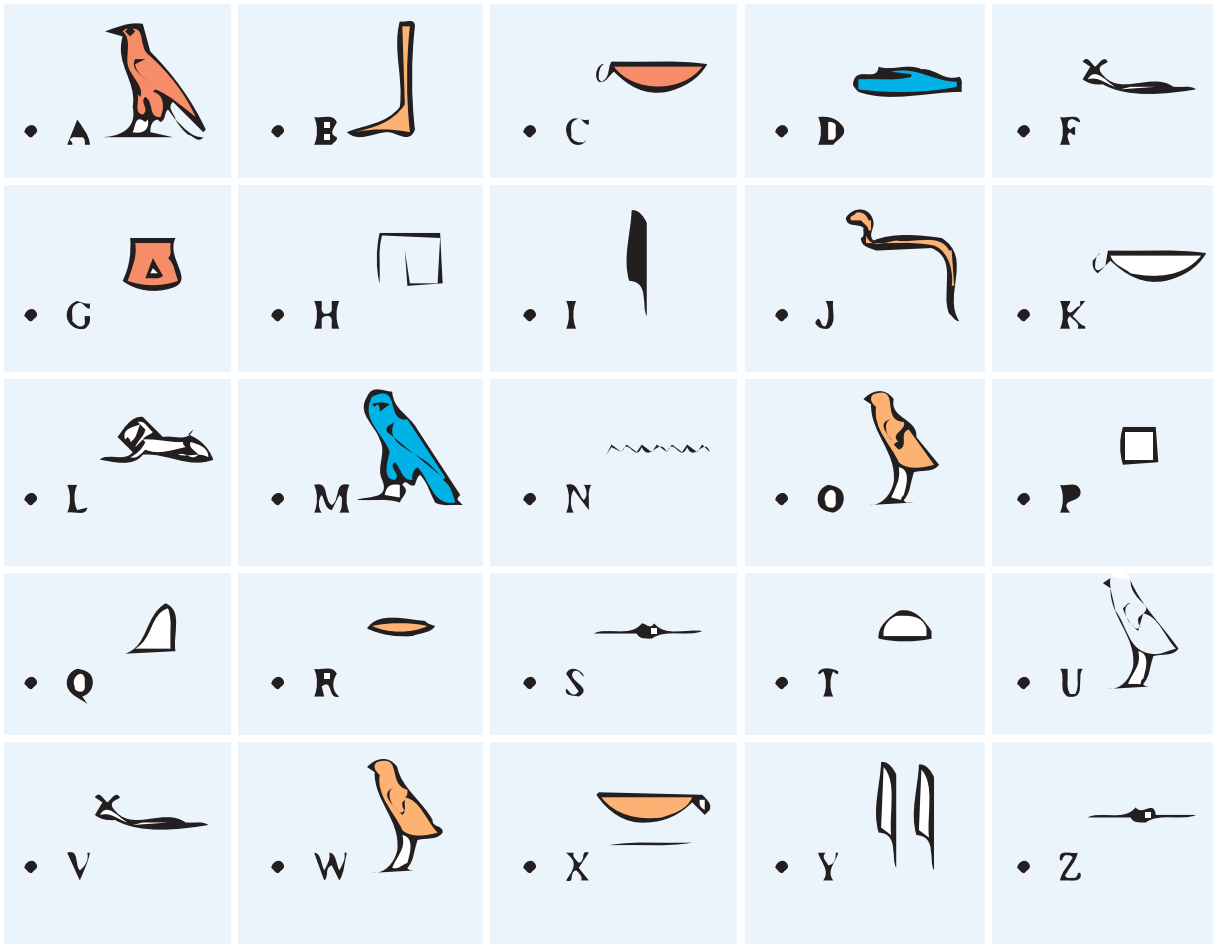
But how are people today able to read and understand hieroglyphics?



Rosetta Stone

About 200 years ago, a stone was found in an Egyptian town called Rosetta (also called Rashid). On the stone, a piece of text was written in three scripts: Greek, hieroglyphics and demotic (a simplified form of hieroglyphics). Scientists were able to break the code and figure out how to read hieroglyphics.

Lesson 7



Use the hieroglyphics above to write your name.

Egyptian Contribution to Civilization

The Ancient Egyptians contributed greatly to the world. They invented a calendar. They noticed that the Nile flood came once every 365 days at the same time of the year. This gave them the idea that time could be divided into equal periods, and that was how the Egyptians made a calendar with days, months and years.

The Egyptians also made an early form of paper from a plant called papyrus, or paper reed, that grew in abundance along the banks of the Nile River.

The Ancient Egyptians were the first to build dams in order to save the Nile's flood water for the summer when water was in short supply.

The Ancient Egyptians were also great architects who worked together to make this great civilization. They built magnificent pyramids that survived through time to tell the tale of one of the first civilizations in the world.

- Their hieroglyphs may well represent humankind's earliest attempt to write.
- The Ancient Egyptians advanced in mathematics and geometry. This was shown in the building of the pyramids and other large structures.

Lesson 8

- Physicians who dealt with medicine, surgery, pharmaceutical remedies, dental procedures and veterinary medicine were prevalent in Ancient Egypt.
- The Greeks were influenced by Egyptian art and architecture. For example, early Greek statues of youths, which were called Kouroi, were clearly modeled after Egyptian statues, and Greek fluted columns are similar to columns constructed in Egypt.
- The Ancient Egyptian's influence can be seen today. For example, the obelisk, which is an architectural feature of many temples, is still used. The Washington Monument in Washington, DC, USA, is an example of an obelisk.
- The Ancient Egyptians also developed a calendar based on their observation of the sun and the stars.



GLOSSARY CHAPTER (5)

Lower Egypt: The area in Ancient Egypt that included the Nile River and its Delta.

Upper Egypt: The long, narrow strip of Ancient Egypt located south of Delta in the Nile Valley on both sides of the Nile River.

Black Silt: Small particles of sand or earth that are carried in moving water.

BC: An abbreviation used to indicate a date that is a specified number of years before the birth of Jesus Christ.

Dynasty: A succession of rulers from the same family.

Hyksos: Members of an ancient nomadic people who conquered and ruled Egypt between 1725 BC and 1560 BC.

Hittites: Members of an ancient people of Anatolia whose empire flourished in parts of western Asia during the second millennium BC.

Mummification: The process of preserving a dead body by adding preserving substances to prevent it from decaying.

Mummy: A dead body that has been preserved by adding preservative substances to prevent it from decaying.

Tomb: An underground chamber or room used for burial of dead person.

Sphinx: An Egyptian composite creature with a lion's body and head of a man.

Valley of the Kings: A valley on the western bank of the Nile River, southern Egypt, it was a burial site of pharaohs.

Hieroglyphy: The symbols and pictures used for writing in Ancient Egypt.

Scribes: The people who knew how to read and write hieroglyphs.

Papyrus: An early form of paper made from the stem of the papyrus plant.

Obelisk: A pillar of stone , especially one built as monument, that has a square base and sides that taper like a pyramid toward a pointed top.