Chapter 5 Ancient Egypt and Kush

Lesson 5.1 - The Nile River

The Nile River Valley

A. As empires were flourishing and falling in Mesopotamia, two new civilizations, _______ and _______ were emerging in Africa, in the Nile River Valley.

I. Valley Civilization
   a. The Nile River Valley was ideal for settlement because of its ________________.
   b. Early hunters and gatherers arrived around 500 B.C and built permanent settlements in the Nile River valley.
      i. These people were the earliest Egyptians and ________________.
   c. Early Egyptians lived in the Northern region of the Nile River Valley and called their land Kemet, meaning “_________________________”, after the dark, rich soil.
      i. Later, this northern Nile area would be called ____________________.

II. The Gift Of The River
   a. Egypt has a _______ and _______ climate. This is one of the reasons many of Egypt’s ancient structures were able to survive.
      i. Since the region receives little rainfall, Egyptians depended on the _______ as their source of water for drinking, bathing and watering their crops.
   b. The Nile River is the world’s ________________ river, flowing north about 4,000 miles from central Africa to the Mediterranean Sea.
   c. The Nile River starts as two separate rivers, the _______ Nile and the White Nile, before joining just South of Egypt.
      i. Where the rivers come together, steep cliffs and boulders create fast moving waters called _____________________.

III. A Protected Land
   a. Throughout centuries, the flow of the Nile has created a ________________.
      i. Before the Nile reaches the Mediterranean Sea, it splits into many branches that resemble a plant’s bloom. These waterways form a fan-shaped fertile marshland known as a ________________.
      ii. The lush, green Nile Valley and Delta contrast with the barren _______________ that stretch on either side of the river.
   b. The Nile borders one of the largest deserts in the world.
      i. To the West is the Libyan Desert which forms part of the ________________.
      ii. To the ________________ lies the Eastern Desert which extends to the Red Sea.
   c. These deserts were not favorable to humans and animals, and kept Egypt ________________ from outside invaders.
   d. Other physical features protected Egypt:
      i. In the Far South, the dangerous cataracts of the Nile barred enemy ________________ from attacking.
      ii. In the North, Delta ________________ stopped invaders sailing from the Mediterranean Sea.
      iii. The deserts, cataracts, and Delta Marshes gave Egyptians an advantage that the Mesopotamian people lacked.
   e. While isolated, Egyptians were not cut off from trade, and used wind patterns to use sail boats to trade with other regions.

People of the River

A. Mesopotamian people had to learn to control the ________________ of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, but in Egypt the flooding of the Nile was ________________, so the Egyptians did not face the same challenges.

I. Predictable Challenges
a. Each year during late spring, heavy tropical ________ in central Africa as well as melting snow from mountains in Easter Africa causes the Nile to overflow its banks.

   i. When waters returned to their normal level in late fall, thick deposits of ____________ remained.

II. How Did Egyptians Farm?

   a. After the flooding of the Nile, Egyptians planted wheat, barley and ________ seeds while the soil was still wet.

   b. During the dry season, farmers irrigated their crops by scooping out ____________, or bowl-shaped holes in the earth to store river water, which they connected to their fields using canals.

      i. Egyptians also developed a new tool to make their work easier, a ________ was a bucket attached to a pole that could be used to lift water from the Nile and empty it into basins.

   c. To measure the area of their lands and determine ________________ lines after flood waters washed away markers, Egyptians used Geometry to recalculate where one field ended and another began.

   d. Egyptians used ____________, a reed plant that grew along the Nile to weave rope, sandals, baskets and river rafts. Later, Egyptians soaked strips of the stalk in water then pounded the strips together to make sheets of ________________.

III. How Did The Egyptians Write?

   a. Like Mesopotamians, Egyptians developed their own system of writing, first by using symbols to represent ________________, and later by developing symbols that represented ________________.

      i. This combination of using pictures and sound symbols created a complex writing system of writing called ________________.

   b. Few ancient Egyptians could read or write hieroglyphics. Some men went to special schools to train as ________________.

   c. Unlike Mesopotamian people who wrote on clay tablets, Egyptian scribes wrote or painted on ________________. However, Egyptian scribes did carve hieroglyphics into stone walls and monuments.

Uniting Egypt

A. Egyptian villages along the ____________ traded with one another, and before long began trading with Nubia, Mesopotamia, and other places outside of Egyptian borders.

I. Forming Kingdoms

   a. A need for organized ________________ became increasingly important as farming and trade increased.

      i. Government was needed to oversee construction of irrigation systems and dams, to develop a process for storing and distributing ____________ during famine, and settle conflicts over land ownership.

   b. Over time villages formed small ________________, which were ruled over by kings. Eventually, smaller kingdoms fell to the control of stronger ones, and by 4000 B.C., Egypt was made up of two kingdoms;

      i. ________________ Egypt- in the south-central part of the Nile River Valley.

      ii. ________________ Egypt- located on the Nile River’s north Delta.

II. Who Was Narmer?

   a. The King of ________________ Egypt

   b. Around 3100 B.C., his army conquered Lower Egypt and he married one of their princesses, which ________________ the kingdoms.

   c. Narmer established a new capital at ________________, a city on the border of the two kingdoms, and he governed both sides of the kingdom from there.

   d. Narmer’s kingdom lasted long after his death and rule was passed from father to son to grandson.

      i. A line of rulers from one family is called a ________________.

   e. From 3100 B.C. to 332 B.C., Egypt was ruled by a series of ________ dynasties.

      i. These dynasties are organized into three time periods:
Lesson 5.1 Review Questions:

1) How does a dynasty work?

2) What physical feature is to the east and west of the Nile River? How did this help Egyptians?

3) What was significant about joining the two kingdoms under Narmer?

Lesson 5.2 - Life in Ancient Egypt

Egypt’s Early Rulers
A. Around ______ B.C., the Egyptian Civilization entered what was known as the Old Kingdom
   a. For their government, they developed a ________________, a government in which the same person is both the political and religious leader.

I. A Political Leader
   a. At first the Egyptian leader was called a king. Later, the king was known as a pharaoh, meaning “____________________” –referring to the palace where the king and his family lived.
   b. Pharaoh’s held ____________ power over their kingdom, and Egyptians believed that his wise and far-reaching leadership would enable them to survive.
   c. The Pharaoh appointed ________________ to carry out his orders, oversee building projects, and collect taxes.
   d. The ________________ owned all the land in Egypt.
      i. Sometimes the pharaoh distributed land to officials, priests, and wealthy Egyptians whom he favored.

II. A Religious Leader
   a. Egyptians believed the pharaoh was the son of ______, the Egyptian sun god
      i. They believed the pharaoh was a god on earth who protected Egypt.
   b. As their ________________ leader, the pharaoh participated in ceremonies to help the kingdom thrive such as being the first person to cut the grain at harvest time.

Religion in Egypt
A. Egyptians worshipped many gods, whom they believed controlled natural forces as well as human activities.
B. Egyptians depended on the sun and river to harvest their crops, so their most important gods were Re (___________________) and ________________ (the river god).

I. The Afterlife
   a. Egyptians believed life after death was better than present life
   b. One of the most important writing in ancient Egypt was ___________________________, which explained what a person can expect in the afterlife.
   c. Earliest Egyptians believed only the __________________ could enjoy the afterlife
      i. They believed his soul resided in his body and had to be protected in order for him to complete the journey to the afterlife and continue to watch over Egypt.
d. As centuries passed, Egyptians began to believe everyone could enjoy the afterlife with the help of the god ______________, ruler of the dead.
   i. ______________ emerged so Egyptians could protect bodies for the afterlife

e. Before embalming, priests removed the body’s __________ to be stored in special jars and buried with the body.
   i. The body was then covered with a salt called ____________ and stored for several days to dry up the remaining water in the body.
   ii. Finally, the shrunken, dried body was wrapped in strips of linen and sealed in a coffin.

f. The wealthy had their coffins sealed inside ____________, while poorer people had their coffins buried in caves or in the sand.
   i. Egyptians viewed animals not only as pets, but as __________ creatures. Even animals were embalmed.

II. Medical Skills
   a. Egyptians learned about the human body through embalming, and became the first to learn how to ________ open wounds and set __________ bones.
   i. They wrote down their medical information on papyrus, and these became the world’s first ____________________________.

Pyramid Tombs
   A. To honor their pharaohs, Egyptians built giant burial tombs called ________________.
   a. Inside the tombs, Egyptians placed clothing, jewelry, furniture, and other personal belongings for the pharaoh to use in the ____________________________.

I. How Were The Pyramids Built?
   a. Building the pyramids took _______________ of workers.
      i. Surveyors, carpenters, architects, and engineers were needed, as well as _______________ during the summer months when the Nile River was flooded and they were unable to farm.
   b. Workers searched the Nile river valley for stones to be used in building the pyramids. Artisans would use __________ tools to cut the stones into huge blocks then workers moved the stones using wooden __________ and pulley systems.
   c. Egyptians wanted the entrance to each pyramid to face _______________. To find north, they studied the skies and developed an understanding of astronomy.
      i. Using this knowledge, they developed a 365-day calendar which is the basis of our modern calendar.
   d. Advances were also made in ________________. Egyptians had to study angels and calculate the number of blocks it would take to build a pyramid.
      i. They developed a system of written numbers based on ten, and created ________________________________.

II. An Egyptian Wonder
   a. The ______________ Pyramid, built around the mid-2000s B.C., is the largest pyramid built by the Egyptians.
      i. Around the height of a 48-story building, the pyramid stands _____feet above the desert.
      ii. More than ___ million stone blocks were used in the construction, each weighing on average 2.5 tons.
      iii. The pyramid extends over an area of about ___ football fields.

Daily Life
   A. At its peak, Egypt was home to about ___ million—about the number in Colorado today.
   a. Most lived in the fertile Nile Valley and Delta—about 3% of Egypt’s land mass.
I. Egypt’s Social Groups
   a. Highest Class: ______________ and his family
   b. Upper Class: Priests, nobles, army commanders
   c. __________ Class: Artisans and other skilled workers
   d. Lower Class: Farmers and herders
II. How People Lived
   a. Upper class Egyptians had homes along the Nile River, some 2-3 stories tall and constructed of ____________ and sun-dried mud bricks.
      i. The Upper class dressed in white _________ clothing and wore dark eye makeup.
   b. ____________ (artisans and skilled workers) lived in smaller homes and dressed more simply than the upper class.
   c. The lower classes; farmers, herders, unskilled workers, and enslaved people made up the majority of the population.
      i. Farmers rented their land from wealthy ____________ and lived in small, usually one room homes made from mud bricks with palm leaf roofs.
      ii. Unskilled workers performed ______________ labor such as loading and transporting cargo.
          1. Most unskilled workers settled in crowded city neighborhoods in small mud-brick houses with dirt floors.
          2. Families often gathered on ____________ to socialize and because of the hot Egyptian climate, they cooked on their rooftops to help keep the home cooler.
          3. Some of the unskilled workers were ______________ people, and many could earn their freedom over time.

III. Egyptian Families
   a. The _______________ was the most important group in Egyptian society
   b. The father was the head of the household.
   c. Women had more rights than in the past and could own land, and obtain a divorce
      i. Wealthy women sometimes served as ________________.
      ii. Wives of farmers worked in the fields with their husbands.
      iii. Women of higher social class stayed home.
   d. Few Egyptian children attended school:
      i. They had time to play board games, with dolls, balls and spinning tops.
      ii. ________________ learned to sew, cook and run the household from their mother.
      iii. Boys learned a ________________ from their father.
   e. Boys and girls were expected to marry and begin a family in their ____________ years.
      i. People generally lived in ________________ family households, but some farm families lived as extended families.
   f. The oldest son or sometimes oldest daughter was expected to take care of the parents when they became too old or sick. This included giving the parents a proper ____________.

Lesson 5.2 Review Questions:

1) Explain the role a pharaoh played in a theocracy.

2) What kind of religion did the ancient Egyptians practice? Describe at least one way that their religion was tied to agriculture.

3) Why did the Egyptians spend years and many resources to build enormous tombs for their dead pharaohs?
Lesson 5.3 - Egypt’s Empire

A Golden Age
A. Around 2200 B.C., ruling Pharaohs in Memphis began to ________________, and nobles began to struggle for control of Egypt.
   a. Finally, a new dynasty of Pharaohs came to power and moved the capitol from Memphis to ________________.
      i. This began a new period of peace known as the ________________ Kingdom.

I. Conquests
a. During the Middle Kingdom, Egypt conquered and expanded to ________________ in the south, and to the northeast into present-day Syria. They also required tribute, or payments from the people they conquered.
b. Improvements made within Egypt included;
   i. thousands of acres of ________________ added to increase crop production
   ii. more irrigation dams and channels built to supply ________________ to the population
   iii. the construction of a canal between the Nile River and the Red Sea to be used for ____________________________

II. The Arts Flourished
a. ________________ were decorated with colorful paintings depicting the stories of deities and scenes from everyday life.
b. Sculptors carved hunting, fishing and battle scenes onto stone walls.
c. Pharaohs stopped building pyramids, and had their tombs constructed by carving out limestone ________________ west of the Nile River. This area became known as the Valley of the Kings.

III. The Hyksos
a. During the 1600s, Egyptian nobles challenged the Pharaohs. As civil war divided Egypt, people from ________________ Asia, known as the Hyksos swept into Egypt.
b. The methods of the Hyksos were unknown to Egyptians. They rode horse-drawn carriages and used sturdier weapons made of ____________ and ____________.
   i. The Hyksos used this technology to take control of Egypt.
c. Hyksos ruled Egypt for over _______ years but remained separate from the Egyptians.
d. Meanwhile, Egyptians learned to use this new technology and around 1550 B.C., Egyptian prince, ________________ formed an Army and drove the Hyksos out.

Building an Empire
A. Ahmose began a new empire, and began a new period of rule from 1550 B.C. to 1070 B.C. known as the ____________________________.

I. A Woman Pharaoh
a. A ________________ named Hatshepsut came to power around 1473 B.C. when her husband, the Pharaoh died and she ruled on behalf of her young nephew.
b. Because the title Pharaoh was reserved for a man she dressed in men’s clothing and wore the fake ____________ to copy the one worn by male Egyptian kings.
c. She built magnificent kingdoms and restored old ________________.

II. Growth of Trade
a. Hatshepsut valued ________________ over going to war.
b. During her reign, she made efforts to restore trade relations lost during the ________________ invasion.
c. ________________ travelled to ports in Arabia and East Africa to exchange Egyptian beads, metal tools, and weapons for gold, ivory, ebony wood, and incense.
d. For ________________ products, Egyptian traders travelled to the East of the Mediterranean Sea where present day Lebanon is located.
   i. People in that region were called Phoenicians, and culturally had a large impact on other societies with their ________________ of an alphabet and a system of writing different from other regions.
III. Trade and Politics
   a. Egyptians traded wheat, paper, gold, copper, tin and tools to the Phoenicians for __________________ dye, wood, and furniture.
      i. In turn, Phoenicians traded Egyptian goods with other people, which spread Egyptian goods and foods across __________________.
      ii. This trade helped make Egypt __________________, which Hatshepsut used to build monuments.
   b. The Egyptian kingdom also developed ties with other nations such as the Babylonia Empire in Mesopotamia, the Mittani in Syria, and the Hittite Empire in Anatolia by __________________ or by __________________.
   c. To maintain close ties, Pharaoh’s and rulers also traded __________________ – This was the first time in history a group of nations worked together to reach common goals.

IV. Expanding the Empire
   a. When Hatshepsut died, her __________________, Thutmose became Pharaoh and began expanding Egypt’s control north to the Euphrates River in Mesopotamia, and south to Nubia, which had once thrown off Egyptian rule.
      i. As Egypt’s armies conquered more area, the empire grew wealthy as __________________ became more common and Egypt acquired gold, copper, ivory and other valuable goods from the conquered people.

Two Unusual Pharaohs
   A. During the __________________, two Pharaoh’s; Amenhotep IV and Tutankhamen would come to power, and their actions would set them apart from other Egyptian rulers in history.
      I. A Religious Founder
         a. Amenhotep ____ came to power around 1370 B.C., and would try to change Egypt’s __________________, which was based upon the worship of many deities
            i. Fearing the power of Egypt’s priests, Amenhotep introduced the new religion of worshiping Aton, the ________ god as Egypt’s only god. He also removed the priests who opposed this change and took their lands.
            ii. He also moved changed his name to Akhenaton and moved the capitol of Egypt to Akhetaton, a city north of Thebes.
         b. Many Egyptians opposed this change in religion and continued to worship many __________________. Priests resisted their loss of power, and army leaders lost faith in the Pharaoh’s rule.
            i. Under Akhenaton’s weak rule, Egypt would lose most of its lands in western __________________.
      II. Who was King Tut?
         a. The nephew of Akhenaton who took over as Pharaoh at the age of 10.
         b. Ruled based on advice of priests and immediately restored the tradition of ___________
         c. King Tutankhamen died unexpectedly after ruling for ____ years.
            i. His __________ was discovered in 1922, perfectly preserved and undisturbed.
               1. Most tombs of the Pharaoh’s have been __________________ by thieves.

Recovery and Decline
   A. During the 1200s B.C., the pharaohs worked to restore Egypt’s greatness.
      I. Ramses II
         a. Ruled from 1279-1213 B.C., conquered the region of ___________ and fought with the Hittites.
         b. He had many new temples built throughout Egypt. One of the most famous was in ___________ , called Karnak.
            i. Temples were used for special occasions, to store valuable items, and as __________________.
      II. Why Did Egypt Decline?
b. In the 900s B.C., the ___________________ conquered Egypt.
   i. Next, Kush seized power.
   ii. Finally, in _____ B.C., Egypt was taken over by Assyrians from Mesopotamia.

Lesson 5.3 Review Questions:

1) Why was the Middle Kingdom period considered to be a “golden age” for Egypt?

2) Why was the New Kingdom a unique period in ancient Egypt's history?

3) In what ways were temples important to Egypt's economy?

Lesson 5.4 - The Kingdom of Kush

The Nubians
A. Another civilization in Africa was ____________, which would later be known as Kush. Kush was located south of Egypt along the Nile River in present day ________________.
B. __________________ were the first settlers to arrive in this region. Later, farming villages developed along the Nile River.
C. Nubians did not have to rely on the flooding of the Nile like the Egyptians, because they received rainfall all year long.

I. The Rise of Kerma
   a. The Nubians gradually took over smaller __________________ and formed the kingdom of Kerma.
   b. Kerma’s location next to the Nile river made it an important __________________ between Egypt and southern Africa.
   c. Workers in Kerma built ________________ for their kings, but on a smaller scale than the Egyptians.
      i. The kings of Kerma were buried with their personal belongings such as gems, gold, jewelry, and pottery.

II. Egyptian Invasion
   a. Egyptians invaded Kerma in the 1400s B.C., and after a ___ year war, conquered the kingdom.
   b. As a result of Egyptian rule, Nubians adopted many beliefs and customs from the Egyptians.
      i. Egyptian gods and goddesses
      ii. copper and ________________ tools
      iii. adapted hieroglyphics to fit their own language and __________________

The Kushite Kingdom
A. Egyptians were weak by the end of the Middle Kingdom and the Nubians were able to __________________ from Egyptian rule.

I. The Rise of Kush
   a. By 850 B.C. the Nubians developed an independent kingdom called __________________.
   b. Napata, the capital of Kush, was located where trade caravans crossed the upper Nile River.
i. Trade brought wealth to the traders and kings of Kush.

II. Kush Conquers Egypt
   a. About 750 B.C., a Kushite King named ____________ invaded Egypt, reaching the
city of Thebes before his death. His son, Piye became king and completed the conquest
for Egypt.
   b. The kings and people of Kush continued to admire Egyptian ________________.
      i. They built white ________________ monuments similar to those in Egypt.
      ii. They believed in a close relationship between gods and their rulers.
      iii. They built small ________________ as tombs for their kings.
   c. The people in Kush also adopted customs and styles similar to southern
      ______________________ and developed their own style of painted ________________.

III. Using Iron
   a. After ruling Egypt for ___ years, in 671 B.C., the Assyrians, armed with _______ weapons were able to defeat the Kush who fled from Egypt and returned to their
      homeland.
   b. Despite defeat, the Kushites learned how to make iron and were able to use this to make
      better __________________ for farming.

IV. The Capitol of Meroë
   a. Kush’s rulers moved the capital city from Napata to Meroë, near one of the Nile’s
      ________________. This location was safer from Assyrian attacks, and still useful in trade
   b. Modeled after Egypt’s great cities, Meroë had a temple dedicated to the god Amon-Re.
      Walls and palaces were decorated with ________________, and small ________________
      stood in the royal graveyard.
   c. Meroë was different in that its large deposits of ________________ and nearby trees made
      it prime for producing _______. As a result, the city contained iron furnaces which
      poured smoke in columns into the sky.

V. A trading Center
   a. Meroë was at the heart of a large web of ______________ that ran north to Egypt’s border
      and south into central Africa.
   b. From Africa, Kush received leopard skins and valuable ________________.
      i. Kush traded these items as well as enslaved workers, and their own iron products
to places as far away as Arabia, India, China, and Rome. In return, they brought
      back ________________, textiles, and other goods.
   c. Kush remained a great trade kingdom for nearly ________ years before the kingdom
      of Axum arose near the red sea in Eastern Africa.
      i. ____________ gained strength and around A.D. 350, invaded Kush and
      destroyed Meroë.

Lesson 5.4 Review Questions:

1) What are the characteristics of a savanna?

2) How did Nubia and Egypt influence one another?

3) How did natural resources help make Meroë a great trading city?