

Summary: Ancient Egypt

Life Along the Nile

Egypt is in the desert in northeastern Africa. The longest river in the world, the Nile, runs through Egypt. People settled beside the Nile River thousands of years ago. They built a great civilization. The first ruler of ancient Egypt came to power around 3100 B.C.E.

Each year the river flooded and left soil along its banks. Egyptians learned to control the floods and use the land to grow crops. Boats carried people and goods on the Nile. Egyptians traded for things they did not have, such as wood, copper, and spices.

Egyptian Life

Pharaohs ruled ancient Egypt. Their people believed the pharaoh was a god. Egyptians believed in a life after death. Pharaohs built pyramids as burying places. The Great Pyramid was built for King Khufu. After he died, his body was made into a mummy to protect it for the next life.

Government and Economy

The pharaoh controlled many things in ancient Egypt. Everyone paid taxes for the pharaoh's projects. Egyptians paid taxes with goods or by working. Workers in the government collected taxes. Scribes kept records with hieroglyphics.

At times Egypt ruled a land called Nubia, to the south. It had many things Egyptians wanted, such as stones and gold. Meroe, one of Nubia's largest cities, was built where the Nile met a trade route into Africa.

Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

ancient *adjective*, very old

pharaoh *noun*, king of Egypt

pyramid *adjective*, a stone monument that served as a tomb or burying place

mummy *noun*, a body prepared in a special way for burial

hieroglyphics *noun*, a kind of writing based on pictures and signs

After You Read

REVIEW In what ways did the ancient Egyptians use the Nile? Underline sentences that tell how the ancient Egyptians used the Nile.

REVIEW Why did the Egyptians build pyramids? Circle the sentence that tells why Egyptians built pyramids.

REVIEW In what ways did the Egyptians pay taxes? Draw a box around the sentence that tells the answer.