

Lesson 4 The New Kingdom

MAIN IDEAS

Economics Queen Hatshepsut ruled as pharaoh and expanded trade during the New Kingdom.

Belief Systems Akhenaton tried to change Egyptian religion by replacing the old gods with one god called Aton.

Government Ramses II ruled Egypt for decades and created a stable empire.

A Woman Pharaoh

ESSENTIAL QUESTION What was the significance of Queen Hatshepsut's rule?

Taking Power

- Powerful New Kingdom rulers set up new capital at Thebes
- Queen **Hatshepsut** was first woman pharaoh, wife of pharaoh who died
 - ruled with stepson Thutmose III; became sole ruler in 1472 B.C.

Trade Grows

- Hatshepsut expanded Egypt through trade as well as war
- Brought Egypt riches with trade expeditions, such as one to Punt

Hatshepsut's Monuments

- Built **obelisks**—four-sided shafts with pyramid-shaped tops
 - carved from red granite; hieroglyphs describe her deeds

Mysterious End

- Hatshepsut ruled for 15 years, then vanished
 - may have died peacefully or been killed by Thutmose III
- Thutmose became pharaoh, tried to destroy all records of Hatshepsut
 - archaeologists restored her damaged temple and tomb

REVIEW QUESTION

How did Hatshepsut try to make Egypt richer?

A Reforming Pharaoh

ESSENTIAL QUESTION How did Akhenaton try to change Egyptian religion?

A New Belief

- Akhenaton became pharaoh in 1353 B.C.
- Raised sun god Aton to highest status, closed other gods' temples
 - for first time in Egypt's history, Egyptians worshiped one god
- Priests serving other gods lost power, became angry
 - to avoid conflict, Akhenaton moved capital 200 miles away
 - new capital city was called Akhetaton

Realistic Art

- Under Akhenaton, art showed realistic pharaohs, not “perfect”

Reform Ends

- Akhenaton's new religion didn't last long after his death
- Three years later, young Tutankhamen became pharaoh in 1333 B.C.
 - the young king had advisers to help him rule Egypt
 - advisers convinced Tutankhamen to reject new religion, worship old gods

REVIEW QUESTION

What reforms did Akhenaton make?

A Powerful Pharaoh

ESSENTIAL QUESTION How did Ramses II expand Egypt?

Ramses II

- **Ramses II** ruled in 1279 B.C., 44 years after Tutankhamen died

Empire Builder

- Wanted to make Egypt powerful through war
 - extended territory south into Nubia and to eastern Mediterranean

Military Leader

- Ramses led army against old Egyptian enemies, the Hittites
 - nobody won battle, but Ramses claimed victory
 - negotiated first-known peace treaty with Hittites

Ramses' Reign

- Built city called House of Ramses with four 66-foot statues of self
 - wanted to appear godlike
- Reigned until age 90, 1213 B.C.
 - 66-year reign was among history's longest, stabilized government
- Reign was time of peace—no enemies after Hittite treaty
- Nile flooding was predictable during reign, crops were plentiful

Egypt's Decline

- Following Ramses' death, the central government weakened
- After about 1070 B.C., a series of foreign powers ruled Egypt
- Alexander the Great of Macedonia conquered Egypt
 - Macedonians ruled after Alexander's death
 - last Macedonian ruler was queen Cleopatra
- Eventually Roman Empire conquered Egypt

REVIEW QUESTION

What were Ramses II's accomplishments?

Lesson Summary

- Hatshepsut was first woman to rule as pharaoh. She expanded Egypt's trade with other lands.
- Akhenaton tried to change Egypt's religion to a belief in one god, but his religion did not last after his death.
- Ramses II built an extensive empire and ruled for 66 years. His reign was a time of peace and prosperity.

Why It Matters Now . . .

The ancient Egyptians rejected Akhenaton's idea of one supreme god, but that idea later became widespread. Today, many people believe in religions based on a single god.