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.