

Ancient Egypt Unit Test: Study Guide

Use your notes and the resources online to help prepare for your test. Below is a guide to help you prepare. ALL the powerpoints/textbook pages we've read in class are on the Website.

GEOGRAPHY: You will need to know about the Nile River and what it offered to the people of Ancient Egypt.

- The Nile is the world's longest river at 4,160 miles.
- It travels from Upper Egypt (south) to Lower Egypt (North)
- The Nile flooded at the same time each year, allowing farmers to predict when to plant crops.
- Ancient Egyptians called the land surrounding the Nile, Black Land, because of the fertile soil.
- The fertile soil gave ancient Egyptians the opportunity to grow a variety of crops.
- The Nile was also a major source of transportation. Egyptians would sail up and down the Nile to trade with one another.
- The Nile was full of wild life which the ancient Egyptians hunted as another source of food.

SOCIAL CLASS: Know the various levels of Ancient Egypt's social class.

- Top: Pharaoh
- 2nd Level: Priests and Nobles
- 3rd Level: Scribes and Government Officials
- 4th Level: Craftspeople and Merchants (skilled workers)
- 5th Level: Farmers (unskilled workers)
- Bottom (largest) level: Laborers and Slaves

DISCOVERIES: You will need to explain the contributions/discoveries ancient Egyptians made in *astronomy, geometry, medicine, writing*.

- Egyptians observed the star, Sirius, and how it returned to the same position in the sky every 365 days. The Egyptians developed the first functional calendar based off this.
- Egyptians created shapes like squares and triangles to serve as land boundaries. Every year, the Nile floods would wash away the land boundaries. Surveyors used precise geometric measurements to re-create the boundary lines. Egyptians viewed geometric shapes as sacred.
- Egyptian doctors were some of the first to really get to know the human body. They prepared dead bodies for burial. They performed some of the world's first surgery. They used local herbs as medicine.
- Egyptians developed a writing system known as Hieroglyphs. Over time, they went from about 700 to 6,000 symbols. They symbols represented sounds and whole words/phrases. They also created a paper like material called Papyrus, which they created scrolls off of. These ended up becoming some of the world's first books.

RELIGION/BELIEFS: You will need to know about the well-known Egyptian gods, mummification, and the afterlife.

- Egyptians were polytheists (believing in many gods). They worshiped over 2,000 gods.
- Well known gods: Ra (the sun god), Osiris (a god who judged Egyptians after death), Isis (the fertility goddess), Anubis (a god of the dead)
- Gods were related to the afterlife and nature.
- Egyptians believed in an afterlife. In order to make it to the afterlife, an Egyptian had to be mummified, and have their name written down somewhere.
- The mummification process took about 70 days. Embalmers removed all the organs except for the heart. Once dead, the heart would be weighed. If it was lighter than a feather, the person was allowed in the afterlife. Embalmers would dry the dead body for 70 days, then wrap the person using hundreds of yards of linen.
- A person's personal belongings were placed inside the tomb. These were to be used in the afterlife. If a grave robber stole, that person's happiness in the afterlife would be taken away. This is why grave robbing was the most serious crime in ancient Egypt.
- Mummification was expensive and not everyone could do it.
- At first, only pharaohs could be mummified, but over time, religious views changed and anyone had the opportunity, if they could afford it.

MIDDLE KINGDOM: You will need to know about the events that took place during the Middle Kingdom.

- There was a terrible drought that lasted for almost 100 years. Many people starved.
- The Egyptians were conquered by a people called the Hyksos, and were ruled for about 100 years before finally reclaiming their land.
- During this time, the age of pyramid building came to an end.

PHARAOHS: You will need to know about the following Egyptian pharaohs and what they did during their reign.

Djoser (had a 200 foot step pyramid build in his honor. It is the oldest large stone structure still standing in the world)

Khufu (Had the Great Pyramid of Giza built. It took 20 years to complete and is the largest pyramid in the world)

Hatshepsut (the first female Egyptian pharaoh)

Thutmose III (Hatshepsut's step-son. After her disappearance, he tried to destroy all records of her existence.)

Akhenaton (The Pharaoh who tried to turn Egypt into a monotheistic religion)

Tutankhamen (The boy Pharaoh who returned Egypt to a polytheistic religion. The discovery of his tomb was what made him very famous)

Ramses II (considered to be Egypt's greatest pharaoh. He ruled for 66 years and signed the world's first known peace treaty with the Hittites.)

Cleopatra (the last pharaoh of ancient Egypt. She killed herself after Egypt was conquered by the Roman Empire)

EGYPT'S DECLINE: You will need to know about the end of the Ancient Egyptian Empire.

- After Ramses II died, Egypt began to decline and a series of foreign powers ruled them.
- Egypt was conquered by the Persian Empire.
- Alexander the Great conquered the Persian Empire, and thus, controlled Egypt. He was loved and made Pharaoh.
- The Roman Empire ultimately conquered Egypt around the year 31B.C

WRITTEN RESPONSE: Both of the following short answer questions will be on your test. You will need to answer all parts and be specific to receive full credit.

- 1) Why did the Ancient Egyptians mummify their dead? Explain the steps in the mummification process and how long the process would take? Why types of things would be buried with the mummies, and what were those things to be used for? Could everyone be mummified? Explain.
- 2) How did the ancient Egyptians contribute to the world? Describe their discoveries in astronomy, geometry, medicine and writing (hieroglyphs).

HOW THE TEST IS ORGANIZED:

Part 1: 10 multiple choice questions

Part 2: Matching: Pharaohs with a statement that describes their reign.

Part 3: Written Response questions

THE ANCIENT EGYPT TEST WILL TAKE PLACE ON WEDNESDAY NOV. 13TH

A study guide with answers will be posted on the website the day prior to the test.