



Political History of Ancient Egypt

Pre-Dynastic era through the Late
Kingdom



Human-Environment Interaction

- Looking at the map how is it easy to see the Egyptians would have grown up near the Nile river?
- What advantages would they have with desert to the East and West of them? Disadvantages?





Pre-Dynastic Egypt

- Agricultural Revolution around 5000 BCE
- Irrigation methods developed
- Established Nomes (regions)
 - Ruled by Nomarchs
- Connected by common sets of language/writing

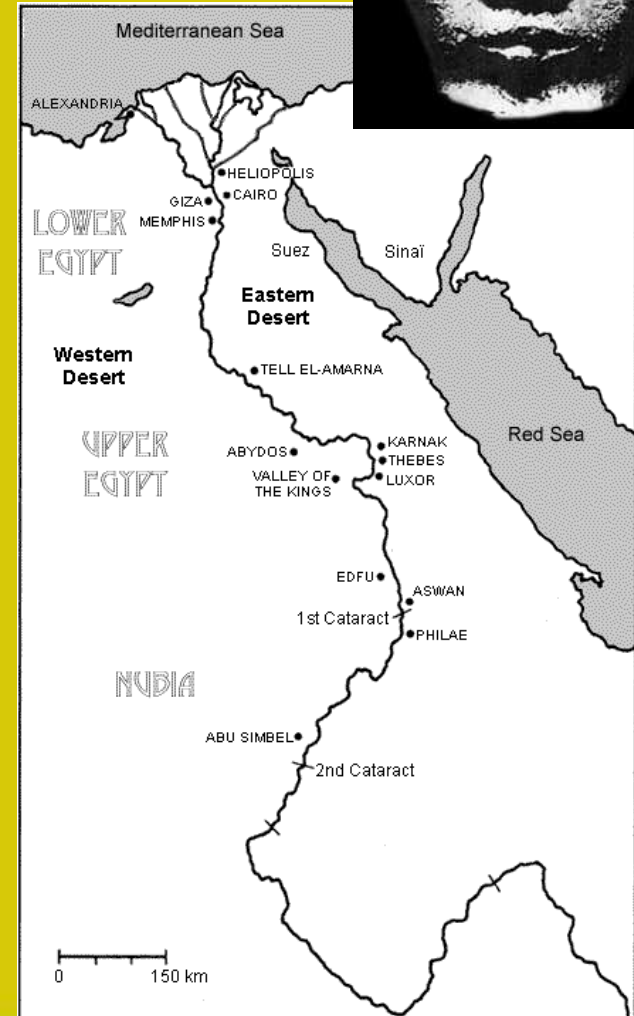




Archaic Period



- Empire unified by Menes
 - Joined Upper and Lower Egypt
- Established Capital at Memphis
- Established divine position of Pharaoh
- First tombs built at Abydos





New Idea: Dynasties

- Sequence of rulers from the same family
- Egyptian history divided between 31 dynasties
- Believed position of Pharaoh passed Matrilineal
 - Pharaohs almost always men





Critical Thinking

- Why would convincing the people you were selected by the gods to be a ruler be such a helpful idea?





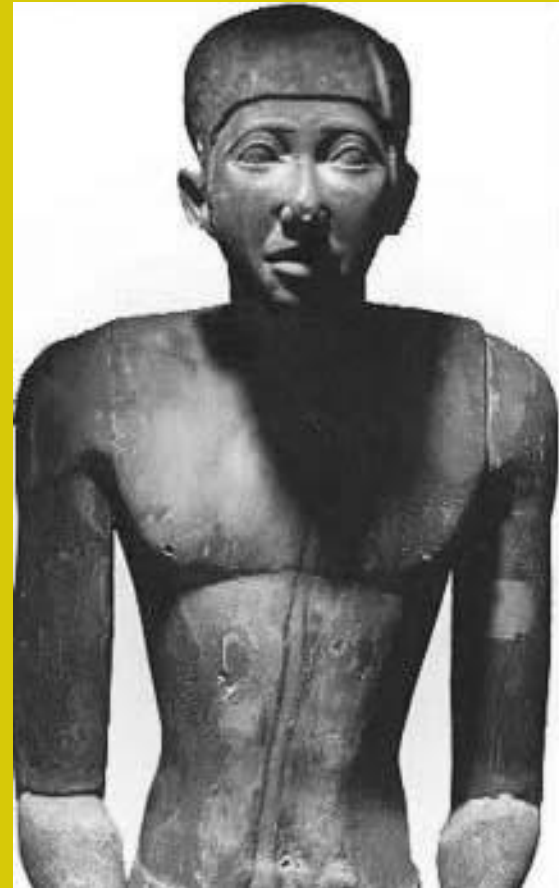
The Old Kingdom

- 2650-2150 B.C.E.
- Characterized by the Pyramid Builders
- Social Classes created
- Consisted of 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th Dynasties
 - Zoser (3rd)
 - Khufu (4th)



New Idea: Architects/Engineers

- Imhotep
- Designed pyramids through planning, trial, and error
- Designed columns
 - Early air conditioning





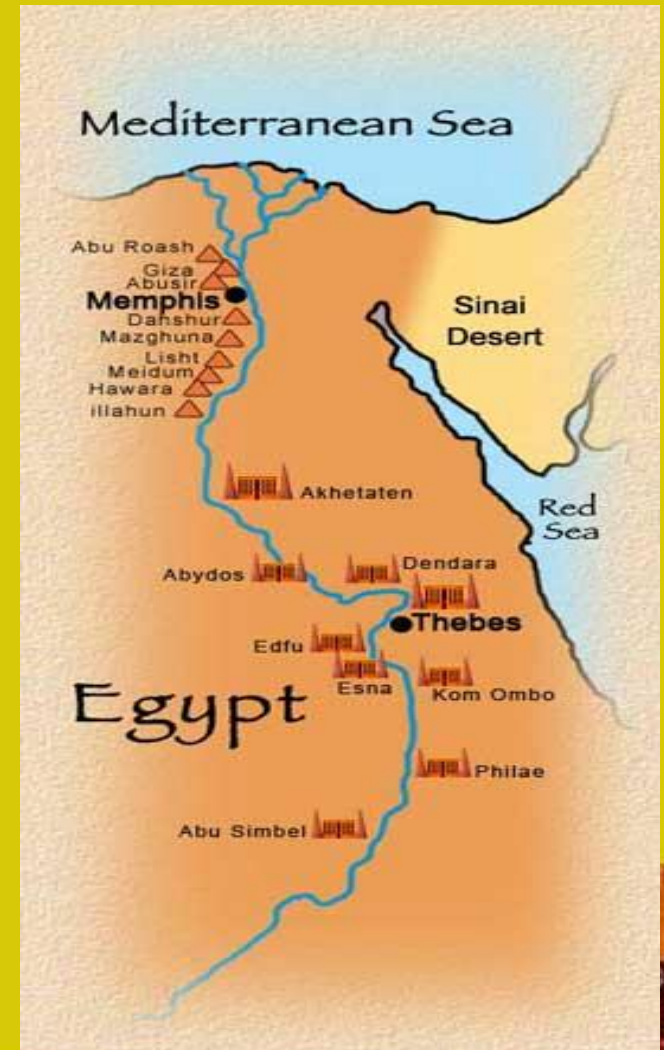
Temple at Luxor





Critical Thinking

- Looking at the map explain where the Pyramids are primarily located?
- How might you explain this?





Problems of Empire

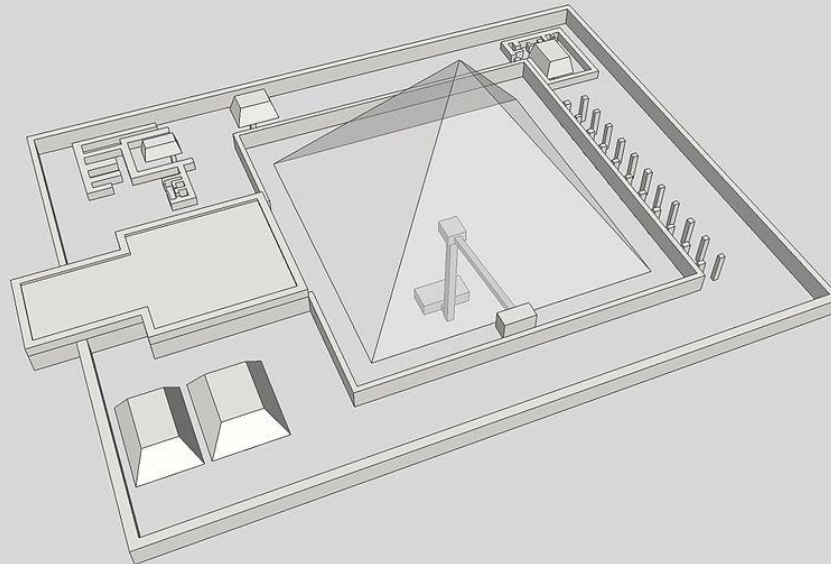
- Era of Unrest
 - 2475-2160 B.C.E.
- Conflict between Nomarchs and Pharaoh
 - Collapse of Central Government





The Middle Kingdom

- 2160-1788 B.C.E. Dynasties re-established by Amunemhet I
 - Moved capital to Lisht
 - Built pyramid in the style of Khufu





Critical Thinking

- What might Amunemhet been saying by moving the capital?
- What might he have been saying by building a pyramid in the style of the Old Kingdom?





Second Intermediate Period

- 1788 - 1580 B.C.E.
- Kingdom is split after Death of Queen Sobekneferu
 - Allows Hyskos to invade



Advancing while Subjugated

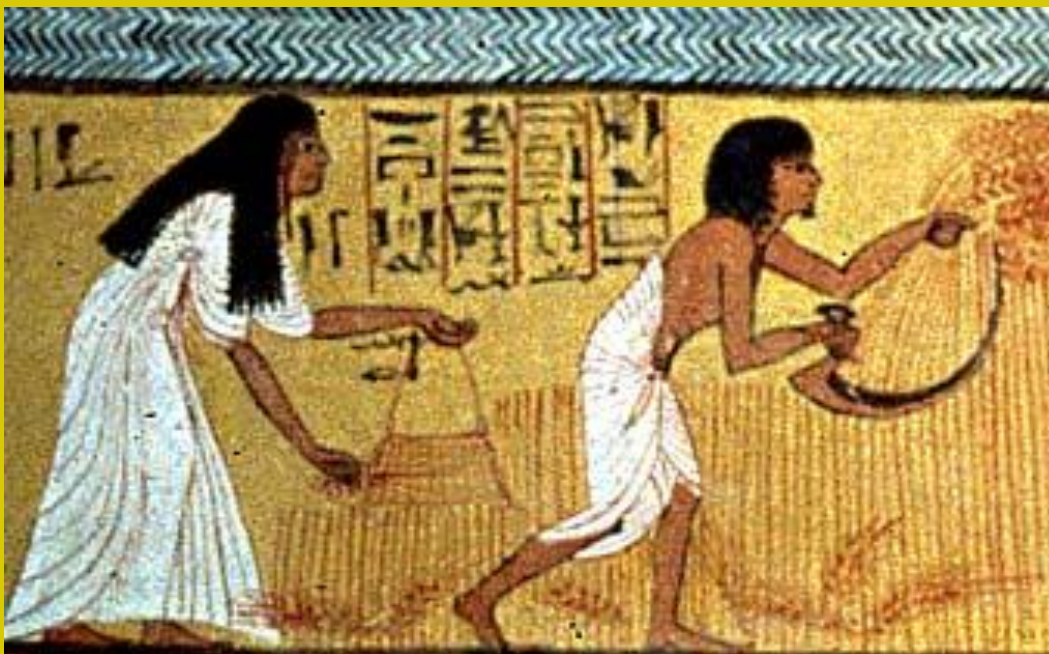
- Hyskos bring Mesopotamian technology with them
 - Including Bronze, Chariots, Composite Bows
 - Use papyrus to help preserve history





The New Kingdom

- 1580-1150 B.C.E.
- Ahmose I expels Hyskos
- Period marked by Military expansion and Military rule



New Idea: Female Ruler

- Hatshepsut
 - 1479-1458 B.C.E.
- Regarded as first great woman in history
 - Built up trade networks
 - Massive building and restoration projects





Djeser-Djeseru



Empire Builder: Ramses II

- Pushed Egypt north towards Hittites
- Hittites had Iron, Egyptians still only copper
- Used propaganda very well



New Idea: Propaganda

- Ramses very good at spreading news of his victory
- Tomb filled with 10k+ scrolls and walls tell of accomplishments





Decline of the Egyptians

- Slow decline due to number of factors
 - War with Hittites and Libyans
 - Corruption
 - Civil disobedience leading to division of empire
 - Famine





The Late Kingdom

- 752-343 B.C.E.
- Regions of empire begin breaking away and forming new empires
- Invaded by Libyans, Kushites, Ethiopians, Assyrians, and Persians
- Finally taken over by Alexander

