

Chapter 4 Section 3: The Middle and New Kingdoms

Social Pyramid

1. Pharaoh
2. Nobles (gov't officials/priests)
3. Scribes/Craftsmen
4. Farmers
5. Servants/Slaves

Roles of women

- A. Priestesses
- B. Business deals/contracts
- C. Own property/ could run family practice
- D. Witness in court
- E. Own property
- F. Could inherit land/money

Middle Kingdom (c. 2050-1750 BC)

- Time of stability
- Around 1750 BC, Hyksos conquered Lower Egypt with use of chariots/horses
- Middle 1500s Ahmose of Thebes drove Hyksos out of Egypt

Pharaoh Senusret (1971-1926 BC)

- “Patron of the Arts”
- Art/literature/architecture flourished
- Jewelry made out of gold/copper/gems
- Religious architecture thrived (ex: White Chapel- alabaster)

The New Kingdom 1570-1070 B.C.E.

Hatshepsut

- Nephew/brother Thutmose III too young to rule (10 years old)
- Ruled for 20 years, never returned power
- Built a great temple in her own honor at Deir el Bahri
- Designed by her advisor Senmut, and possible secret love
- Built two obelisks (granite pillars) at the temple of sun god Amon-Ra at Karnak

- Trade with Punt
 - ** Gold, Ivory, Leopard skins, ostrich feathers, incense, rare woods, monkeys
- Restored temples that were destroyed
- Workers sent to mines for ores

Thutmose III

- Despised Hatshepsut for stealing his crown
- Successful military leader (16 military raids)
- Conquered Palestine/Syria
- Maintained border of 4th Cataract through fear
- Those conquered sent yearly gifts- brought wealth
- Unconquered Babylonia/Assyria sent gifts to prove loyalty

Amenhotep IV

- Rejected Amun and replaced him with Aten, sun's disk in its brightest form
- Changed name to Akhenaten
- Put into place his own religious practices
- Focused on the arts and his religion- Caused a decline in wealth/prosperity

Ramses the Great (1200sBC)

- Constantly fought the Hittites
- Known for diplomacy and war tactics
- Believed to have over 100 kids
- Built great temples to honor himself

Chapter 4 Section 4: Egyptian Achievements

A Writing System

Hieroglyphics- earliest Egyptian writing

- Very few people were scribes
- For long time historians could not translate Egyptian hieroglyphics
- 1799 French soldiers found black stone slab in Rosetta
 - ** Greek, Egyptian hieroglyphics, Egyptian cursive**
- Each language had part of same passage
- Jean Champollion decoded the text since he knew Greek
- Could now read Egyptian hieroglyphics
- Now historians could translate Laws, songs, jokes, magic spells, contracts
- Very few people became scribes- hard tedious schooling

Calender

- A. Babylonians had a lunar calendar based on the moon
- B. Egyptians based calendar on moon/start (Sirius)
- C. Star appeared at the exact time of Flooding Season

Medicine

- 1500 BCE oldest known scientific document
- Described 48 injuries/symptoms and their treatments

The Arts

- Paintings of tombs describes daily life's
- Painters/sculptors did work to serve Kings/gods