

Ancient Egypt



I. Geography of Egypt

A. Ancient Egypt was divided in

two parts:

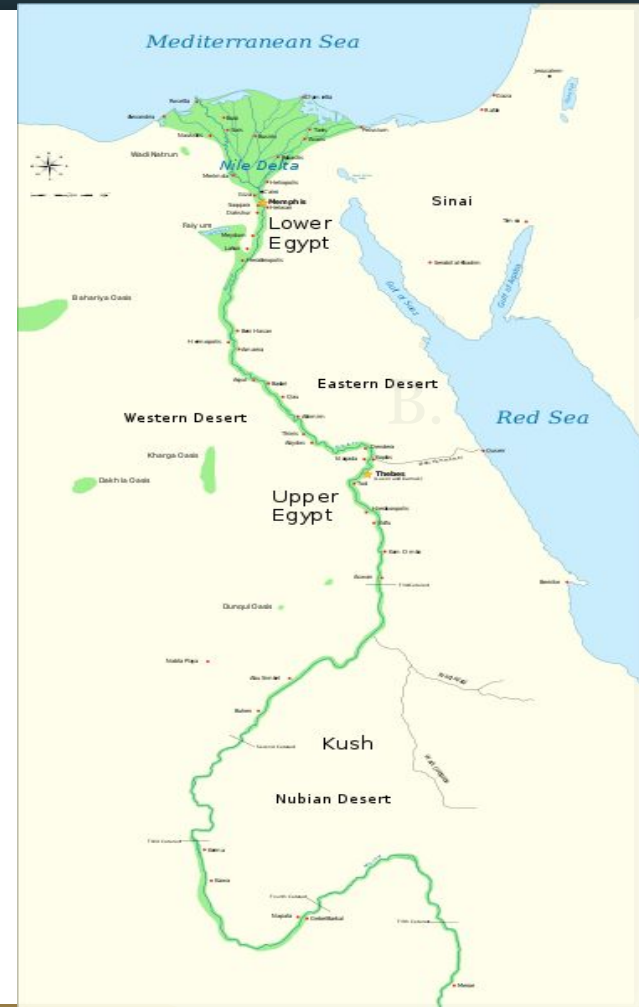
Lower Egypt

Upper Egypt

B. Egypt is mainly made up of the Sahara Desert

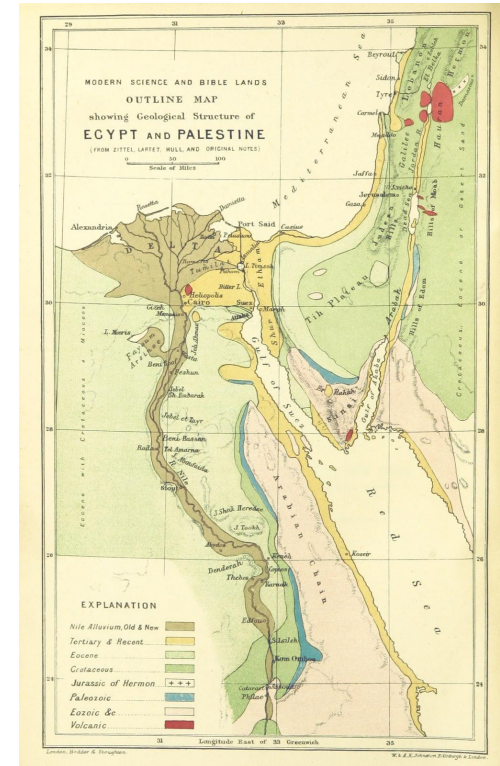
C. Egypt is called the “Gift of the Nile”

D. Life in ancient Egypt centered around the Nile



E. Nile River

1. Longest river in the world (4000 mi)
2. Runs south to north
3. Empties into the Mediterranean Sea
4. Has a large **delta**, fan shape, where the river branches
5. People used reed boats to get from place to place



6. From May-Sept. the river floods

7. The delta area is very fertile, flat land because of the silt left behind in the floods. **Silt** is a mixture of tiny bits of soil and rock. It is rich in minerals.

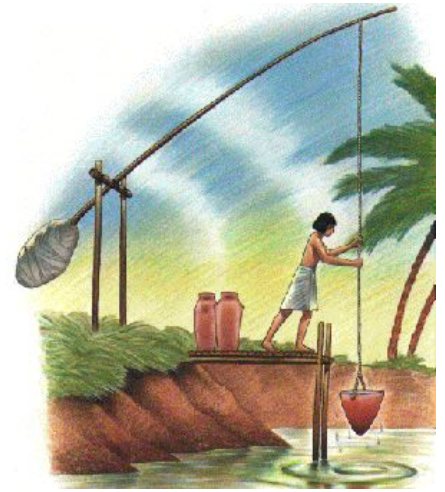


F. Agriculture

1. Farmers depended on the right amount of flooding each year. Too much meant people/ cattle could be swept away. Too little meant crops failed and people went hungry.
2. To water their crops Egyptian farmers used a form of technology called irrigation.

3. **Irrigation** is the watering of land by means of canals or pipes.

4. Farmers used a bucket lifter called a **shadouf** to bring water from the canals to the fields.



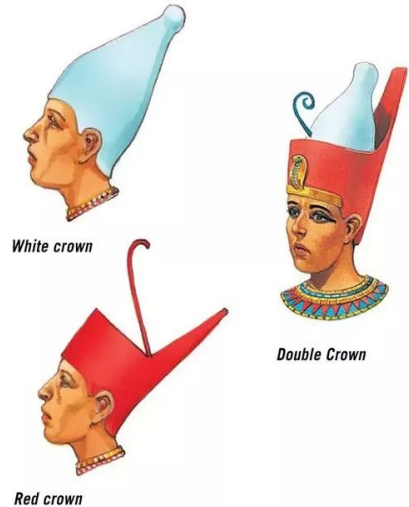
II.Land of Pharaohs

- A. People banded together in two separate kingdoms: 1. Upper Egypt- Thebes* (capital)
2. Lower Egypt- Memphis *(capital)
- B. In Upper Egypt their king wore a white crown
In Lower Egypt their king wore a red crown



C. In 3100 BC, forces led by **Menes** (UE) conquered Lower Egypt. To show his victory he wore a double crown (red/white).

1. This change stood for **unification**, the joining of separate parts into one.



D. Following the unification, Menes became the first **pharaoh**, meaning “great palace.”

1. It became the name given to all rulers of Egypt.
2. The pharaoh was central to Egypt’s government, economy , and religion



E. Government

1. Area **governors** were in charge of collecting taxes and served as local judges.
2. The governors reported to the pharaoh in **Memphis**, the pharaoh's headquarters.



F. Religion

1. Egyptians believed the pharaoh was the child of the sun god, **RA**.
2. The ancient Egyptians worshipped many gods.
3. They believed different gods had different roles.



4. Major gods/goddesses

- ISIS “The Mother Goddess” ...wife of Osiris
- OSIRIS “The King of Living” ...ruled the underworld and was the judge of the dead
- ANUBIS “The Divine Embalmer” ... jackal head god of the dead, tombs and embalming
- RA “The God of Sun & Radiance” ...most important god god of air and sun
- HORUS “The Falcon God” ... god of vengeance
- THOTH “God of Knowledge and Wisdom” ... patron of scribes, writing and science and the inventor of the hieroglyphics
- HATHOR “Goddess of Motherhood” goddess of joy, feminine love, and motherhood
- SOBEK “ Ancient Crocodile”... god of strength and power
- HEKA was the god of Magic and Medicine
- MAAT “Goddess of Order”... goddess of truth, justice, and, the cosmic order
- PTAH One of the Egyptian gods who formed the triad of Memphis (along with his spouse *Sekhmet* and daughter *Nefertum*), *Ptah* was the personification of creation. In essence, *Ptah* was perceived as the ultimate creator who not only fashioned the universe but also ‘breathed life’ into the entities

5. **Osiris** was important because belief in the afterlife was central to the religion of Egypt.

6. Egyptians believed that after a person died, he/she would go to the **Next World**.



7. Egyptians believed that the dead could take **food** and **objects** with them into the “next world”. Thus food and belongings were buried in the tombs with them. Sometimes even pets were mummified to accompany their owners.

8. Ancient Egyptians preserved the bodies of dead royalty with a process called mummification.

9. The bodies were dried and wrapped in strips of cloth

