

Subject:- History and Civics

Teacher:- Mili Bhatnagar

Chapter 4 The Egyptian Civilization

Good Morning Students!

In this chapter we will study about another important river valley civilization - The Egyptian Civilization. This civilization arose in Egypt (Africa) in the valley of river Nile. As this river made possible the life of Egyptian civilization, it is said that 'Egypt is the gift of the Nile'.

Our knowledge about the Egyptian Civilization is based on the archaeological excavations, inscriptions and official documents. These have helped us to reconstruct the history of Egypt.

There are three periods in the history of ancient Egypt

- The Old Kingdom, also referred by some historians as the 'Age of Pyramids'.
- The Middle Kingdom, during which Egypt was invaded by the Hyksos tribe. They ruled for a short period and the Egyptians soon got their land back.
- The New Kingdom - It was after this period that the civilization declined.

Society:- The Egyptian society was divided into many classes. At the top of the order was the ruler called the pharaoh who was treated as god. Then came the priests followed by nobles, officials and scribes. Next came the farmers

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merchants and artisans. At the bottom of the social scale were the slaves, most of whom were prisoners of wars.

As in other societies, father was the head of the family. Women were treated well as we get some references of women ^{as} queens. The rich people led a luxurious life. The poor worked under the rich people. The poor did not wear expensive jewellery.

We come across references of many gods and goddesses in Egyptian civilization. The chief god was Amun Re, the sun god. Thoth was the moon god, Horus (sky god) and Anubis, the god of mummification. Another important feature of Egyptian civilization was mummification of the dead. The dead body was covered with herbs and spices and then wrapped in fine linen.

Most of the people of the Egyptian civilization were engaged in agriculture. The presence of fertile soil, regular supply of water from Nile enabled farmers to grow more crops. Pottery making, spinning, weaving, carpentry were also followed by the people. The Egyptians used potter's wheel as pottery was produced in large quantities. Trade was another important activity. Goods were transported by both land and water as ships and boats were used.

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I. Choose the correct option

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Kings
2. Father
3. New Kingdom
4. All of these | 6. Linen
7. Amun Re
8. Hall of Columns |
|--|--|

II. State whether True or False

1. True
2. True
3. False
4. False

III. Fill in the blanks.

1. Herodotus
2. Pyramids
3. Hyksos
4. Hatshepsut

Home assignment - Read the chapter thoroughly.