

Ancient Egypt

Ancient Egypt started out as two kingdoms more than 5,000 years ago. The kingdoms were called Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt. The people who were farmers lived along the Nile River where there was good soil to grow food. Since most of Egypt is in the Sahara, the largest desert in the world, water is very important. When King Menes of Upper Egypt conquered Lower Egypt, the country was united under one government. Many different families ruled Egypt over the years. Each time the rule of Egypt passed from one person to another in the same family, it was called a dynasty. When a new family took over, there was a new dynasty. There were more than 30 dynasties in ancient Egypt. The ruler was often called a pharaoh.

There were many large cities, but many of the people lived in small towns outside the cities. The Egyptians divided their people into three main classes of citizens. The upper class was made of the royal family, people in government, the rich, doctors, and people who were important as priests or officers in the army. The middle class was made of merchants and people who worked in crafts and made products. The lower class was made of the people who did jobs like farming. If people were taken prisoner during war, they were often made slaves, which was another class of people. The people of ancient Egypt developed a form of writing called hieroglyphics, which is a kind of writing made of picture symbols. Another invention was papyrus, a kind of paper made from plants.

Trading was very important in ancient Egypt. Ships sailed all over the known world to trade for goods that were not available at home. The Egyptians also got many riches from trading, such as gold and gems.

One of the things ancient Egypt is best known for is their pyramids. Pyramids were built like tombs to bury upper class citizens like kings. Some of the pyramids are still standing today, about 4,500 years after they were built.



Writing Prompt #3

Your job is to carve the new ruler's name in the stone monument. but you make a mistake! How can you fix it without an eraser?





Writing Prompt #8

You and your family are sailing on the Nile in a canoe when you see something in the water you have never seen before. What is it, and what happens next?




