



Chapter 3 After You Read

Read each section carefully, then write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

Comprehension Review

1. Name three important facts about the Nile River.
2. Explain how the histories of the Nile Valley civilizations of Nubia, Kemet, and Kush are interrelated.
3. List three accomplishments of each civilization: Nubia, Kemet, and Kush. Write a short essay in which you discuss how at least two of these accomplishments have had an impact on contemporary civilizations. Specify impacts made on features in your life (for example, religion, buildings.)
4. The author uses the phrase “the special gifts of the Nile Valley” to describe the Nile Valley civilizations. Using your own words, write an explanation of that term.
5. What proof do scientists have that the idea of divine kingship began in Nubia?
6. How did the annual flooding of the Nile River benefit Kemet?
7. What was the main accomplishment of King Menes?
8. What are two other names that the people of Kemet used to describe their land?
9. What are the four major periods of Kemet’s history?

Center Your Thinking

10. Many African American people are fond of saying, “What goes around, comes around.” Discuss the meaning of this saying and whether there are historical events in this chapter to which this belief would apply. Prepare an oral presentation which explains your thoughts on how this belief would or would not apply to the annual flooding of the Nile and to the rise and fall of kingdoms during the four major periods of Kemet’s history.

Vocabulary and Concept Development

1. Explain the connections between the following pairs of words. How are each of the two words alike? How are they different? In what ways do they go together?
 - a. **cataracts** and **Kemet**
 - b. **inundation** and **Sirius**
 - c. **monarchy** and **dynasty**
2. Using a thesaurus and a dictionary, choose a synonym whose meaning makes it a good choice as a substitute for the italicized word in each phrase below. Your synonym can be a single word or it can be more than one word. Write both the original phrase and the new phrase on your paper.
 - a. They *established* governments.
 - b. Deposits of silt along the Nile created a *fertile* environment.
 - c. Egypt was the home of the most *majestic* civilizations of antiquity.
 - d. The people of Kemet came together to *manage* the overflowing of the Nile.
 - e. Some historians have suggested that this stability was a sort of *stagnation*.
 - f. Imhotep was the first *multidimensional* personality in recorded history.
 - g. The Hyksos gained power by becoming part of the *existing* political system.

Four Greatest Kushite Kings

Piankhi	728-716 B.C.E.
Shabaka	716-700 B.C.E.
Shabataka	700-690 B.C.E.
Taharka	690-664 B.C.E.

Kemet suggests the weakness of Kemet's southern borders. Neither the cataracts nor the desert could prevent the military might of the Kushites from advancing northward.

Kashta took the title of pharaoh of Upper and Lower Kemet and made Napata, his capital city, the first city of the realm. Residents of Thebes, which had been the capital for several centuries, paid homage to Napata in Kush.

By 728 B.C.E., Piankhi (pee-ahn-KEY), Kashta's son and successor, mounted a second attack on Kemet. He so utterly defeated the Kemetians, the cousins of the Kushites, that after his conquest he ended the bitter rivalries of the northern families, crushed the Libyan invaders of Kemet, built fortresses, modernized the temples, and repaired the public buildings.

Piankhi ruled from Thebes, itself, as the first king of the 25th Dynasty. His conquest of Kemet was more direct and aggressive than his father's. After 20 years as ruler of Napata, Piankhi led an army toward Thebes. He marched toward the city because he heard of the movement of a young prince named Tefnakhte (tef-NOT-tee) who was threatening Upper Kemet from his base in Lower Kemet. Once in Thebes, Piankhi showed his devotion to Amen, the great god of the city, and reasserted Kushitic rule over Upper Kemet. He conquered rebellious princes and rulers and consolidated Kushitic power over the entire valley. Piankhi's brother, Shabaka (shah-BAH-kah), succeeded him in 716 B.C.E. Piankhi's sons, Shabataka (shah-bah-TAH-kah) and Taharka (ta-HAHR-kuh), succeeded their uncle, Shabaka.

Taharka was the greatest of all Kushitic kings. He became ruler in 690 B.C.E. and spent much of his time in Kemet. Although Taharka restored monuments, reclaimed wastelands and made them profitable, organized the priesthood to be more effective in aiding the sick, and built obelisks and new temples, his rule was plagued by the Assyrians, an Asian people from an area in present-day Iraq. The Assyrians seemed anxious to invade the empire. In 671 B.C.E., under King Esarhaddon (es-ahr-HAY-dohn), they came across the Delta and sacked the city of Memphis. Taharka fled, leaving behind his wife and young son. When Taharka died, his nephew, Tanwetamani (tan-weht-ah-MA-nee), became king. Under his rule, the Assyrians finally succeeded in defeating Kemet. They destroyed the city of Thebes.

Kemet was plundered from the Delta to Thebes by the Assyrian army in 664 B.C.E. They could not hold Kemet but they ended the nearly one hundred year rule of Kush. By 525 B.C.E., Kemet would be invaded by Persia—present day Iran. In 332 B.C.E., the great warrior, Alexander of Macedonia, would conquer Kemet and end forever the power of the African rulers.

Recently, a scholar of ancient Kush, Miriam Maat Ka Re Monges (maht kah-ray mung-HES), wrote a book called *Kush, the Jewel of Nubia*, in which she argues that most people fail to give Kush the credit it deserves for bringing Kemet into its last Golden Age.

DID YOU KNOW?

In Modern translations of the Old Testament of the Bible, such as the *Today's English Version*, it is clear that the Hebrew prophet, Nahum, refers to the sacking of Thebes. The prophet explains how the people of Kemet thought the Nile could prevent their defeat.

Syria, Palestine, Lebanon, and Nubia to Kemet.

It was during the New Kingdom that the boy king, Tutankhamen (tuht-ahn-KAH-man) (1361–1352 B.C.E.), ruled Kemet. He died when he was 18 years of age without leaving any memorable achievement in the history of Kemet. He was buried in the Valley of the Kings in the city of Thebes, in the area of the present-day Luxor. All the tombs of the New Kingdom kings were meant to last forever. They were supposed to be secret, but many were broken into and the gold objects were stolen. Only the tomb of Tutankhamen, placed among 60 or more, remained intact until the 20th century when the Englishman Howard Carter, an amateur archaeologist, discovered it in 1922. Carter found that the tomb of Ramses VI was built just above King Tutankhamen, and the rubble from that tomb had for centuries covered the burial place of the boy king. The tomb contained golden pendants, jewelry, ivory beads, golden stools, a golden mummy case, and precious stones. King Tutankhamen owes his place in history to the remarkable artifacts that were found in his tomb

and recovered for future generations.

Kemet lasted for 11 dynasties after Tutankhamen, before its glory faded. Other states in Africa were ready to take their walk in the bright sunlight of history.

Kush, the Jewel of Nubia

800 B.C.E.–300 B.C.E.

Kush was a kingdom located in the territory which had been called Nubia. Many kingdoms had originated in this narrow valley, south of Kemet, along the Nile River in today's Sudan. Kush was located in an area that reached north from present-day Khartoum in Sudan to Aswan in Egypt. By the 9th century B.C.E., Kush was producing art. Its people were also demonstrating considerable skill in the production of grain and the distribution of the spoils of war. During this period in Kush, religious construction flourished, particularly in the building of huge temples to honor the gods and goddesses of the land.

During its more than thousand years of existence, Kush had 67 kings or queens, from

King Kashta in 760 B.C.E. to King Malequerebar (mahl-lah-QUER-ree-bar) in 320 C.E. The great civilization of Kush placed a remarkable emphasis on revitalizing the Nile Valley. The kings and queens built numerous shrines and restored monuments from Napata to Memphis, an area covering more than a thousand miles.

When Kemet grew weak from internal struggles for power among its ruling families, the kingdom of Kush, under the leadership of King Kashta, led an invasion into Kemet in 750 B.C.E. The ease with which Kashta defeated the people of



Each year, Dr. Asante, the author of this textbook, takes a group of African Americans to visit Elephantine, a small Nubian village two miles west of Aswan. A Nubian man (Left) welcomes the visitors to Sheikh Mehmoud's family compound. The Sheikh is the leader of the village.



The Temple at Karnak in Luxor, Egypt, is the largest religious site in the world.

Kemet. He was also a skilled diplomat and negotiator who knew how to conduct himself as he traveled from nation to nation. On his third exploration he visited the kingdom of Yam, which was located either in the central or southern part of contemporary Sudan. Apparently he received gifts there, for here is what he said:

"I came down with three hundred donkeys, laden with incense, ebony, oil, panther skins, elephants' tusks, throw sticks, and all sorts of good products."

When the ruler of Irtjet (ert-JET) saw the gifts from the king of Yam which Harkuf had brought with him, Harkuf was allowed to pass through the country of Irtjet. In fact, he wrote:

"The ruler escorted me, gave me cattle and goats, and led me on the mountain paths of Irtjet—because of the excellence of the vigilance I had employed beyond that of any companion and chief of scouts who had been sent to Yam before."

Apparently others had gone before Harkuf to Yam, but returned with little or no success.

The Middle Kingdom (2000 B.C.E.–1786 B.C.E.)

The Middle Kingdom came into existence following the first intermediate period of warfare between the people of Kemet. The country was led out of confusion and internal strife by kings from Upper Kemet about 2000 B.C.E. A dynasty, led by Mentuhotep I (men-too-HOH-tep), came to power and restored the temples, built palaces, improved administration of the agricultural lands, and established military supremacy over Kemet's neighbors to the north and to the south. The Middle Kingdom was a period of great building under the leadership of Mentuhotep I

and later kings such as Mentuhotep II. It was also a period of great conquest under kings such as Senusert I and Senusert II (sen-ahr-SREHT) who conquered much of the known world, including Syria and regions around the Black Sea in southwestern Asia.

As the Middle Kingdom grew weaker because of internal divisions and the growing presence of Asians in the Nile Delta region in Lower Kemet, it lost control over the entire country. The Hyksos (hik-SOS), a people from southwest Asia, created a separate government around the Delta region, and ruled from 1786 to 1650 B.C.E. Like later invaders of Egypt, the Hyksos gained power by becoming part of the existing political system. They were defeated at the gates of the city of Avaris by King Kamose, the last king of the 17th dynasty. However, their final defeat would be achieved during the first dynasty of The New Kingdom.

The New Kingdom (1580 B.C.E.–1069 B.C.E.)

The third period was called the New Kingdom. During this time, Kemetic rulers from Upper Kemet reasserted the power of the central government and reunited the main centers of Kemetic authority, such as the temples at Heliopolis, Memphis, Abydos, and Thebes. This reunited area stretches from Cairo to Luxor in modern Egypt. The first king of the 18th Dynasty was Ahmose (ah-MOHS). He succeeded in driving the Hyksos from Kemet and established the first dynasty of the New Kingdom (1580 B.C.E.–1069 B.C.E.). No more fabled dynasty exists in Kemet's history. This was the age of Hatshepsut (hat-SHEP-sut) (1503–1482 B.C.E.), Kemet's first recorded female pharaoh. She ruled her nation in her own right as leader of a great empire. She sent an expedition to visit the queens of Nubia and Punt (present-day Sudan, Somalia, and eastern Ethiopia) from which she received gifts of incense, animals, trees, and precious stones. During this period, Tutmoses III (tuht-MOH-sis), the greatest conqueror of antiquity, annexed



The ruins of one of the famed temples of Karnak was built during the Middle Kingdom. Inset above shows sculptures from the nearby Valley of the Kings, on the west bank of the Nile across from Luxor, where the kings of the New Kingdom were laid to rest.

Imhotep built the first pyramid for King Djoser (JOS-sahr). It was called the Sakkara Step Pyramid because it was constructed to look like giant steps. Its complex contains the oldest masonry building in the world. Following Imhotep's example, new builders arose to construct the Great Pyramids of Giza in honor of Kings Khufu (KOO-foo), Khafre (KAH-fray), and Menkaure (mehn-kah-OO-ray). They remain the greatest wonders in the world because of their size, majesty, and longevity (see *Origins*, pp. A4 and A5).

The Old Kingdom (2700 B.C.E.–2190 B.C.E.)

The adventures of Harkuf (har-CUFF), governor of Aswan, demonstrates the cultural exchange and trade that flourished between Kemet and sub-Saharan Africa during the Old Kingdom. Harkuf, governor of Aswan, went on

three expeditions to the interior of Africa about 2130 B.C.E. to places that appear to be in the Congo Basin. He and his caravan of camels and donkeys traveled more than 1,600 kilometers (1,000 miles) a thousand miles across the Sahara Desert to the Ituri (i-TUR-ee) rain forest in Central Africa, where he visited with the Twa (TWAH) people. In one of his diaries Harkuf declared:

"I have come here from my city,
I have descended from my nome,
I have built a house, set up its doors,
I have dug a pool, planted sycamores,
The king praised me,
My father made a will for me.
I was one worthy."

Harkuf was worthy of the attention and praise he received because his expeditions took him far beyond the boundaries and power of

much is known. There are written records about many aspects of his life, including his career, his parents, and even what he believed and thought on certain issues. Imhotep lived about 2700 B.C.E. In addition to his job as prime minister, he was an architect, a physician, a philosopher, a scribe, and a historian. Imhotep was so great that later generations worshiped him as a god. His name comes from the ancient Kemet language, **Medu Neter** (MEH-doo NAY-tur) (see Origins, p. A3). The root word *hotep* means “peace,” thus his name means “he who comes in peace.”

The people of Kemet had two other names of endearment for their land. They called it Ta-Mery (ta-MIR-ee), meaning the “Beloved Land.” The word Ta in the ancient Kemet language meant *land* and the word Mery stood for *beloved*. They also called the country, Ta-wy (tah-WEE), “the Two Lands,” referring to Upper and Lower Kemet. This indicated the two different geographical parts of the country united by Menes. It is thought that the Two Lands referred to the areas north of Cairo (Lower Kemet) and the land south of Cairo (Upper Kemet).

FOUR MAJOR PERIODS

Kemet history is usually divided into four major periods which roughly correspond to periods of stability separated by four periods of disorganization and internal warfare.

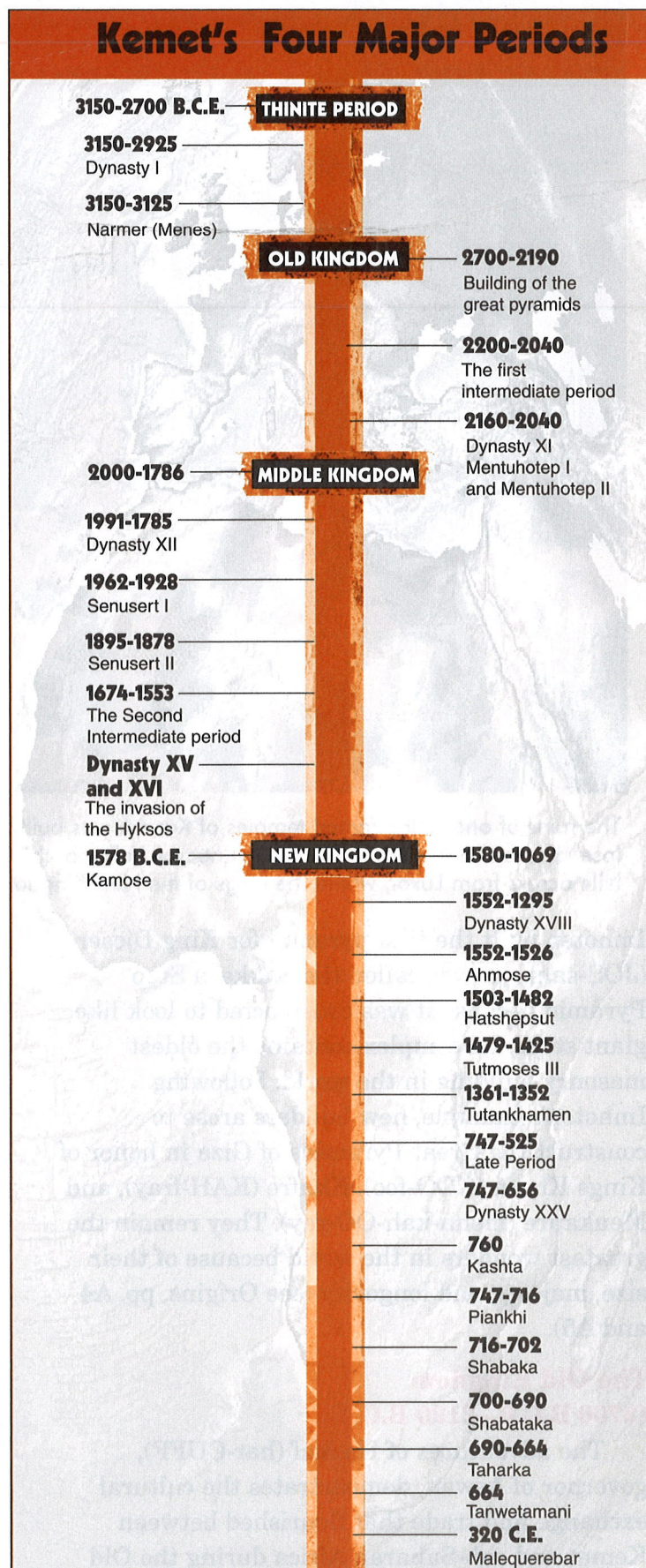
The Thinite Period (3150 B.C.E.-2700 B.C.E.)

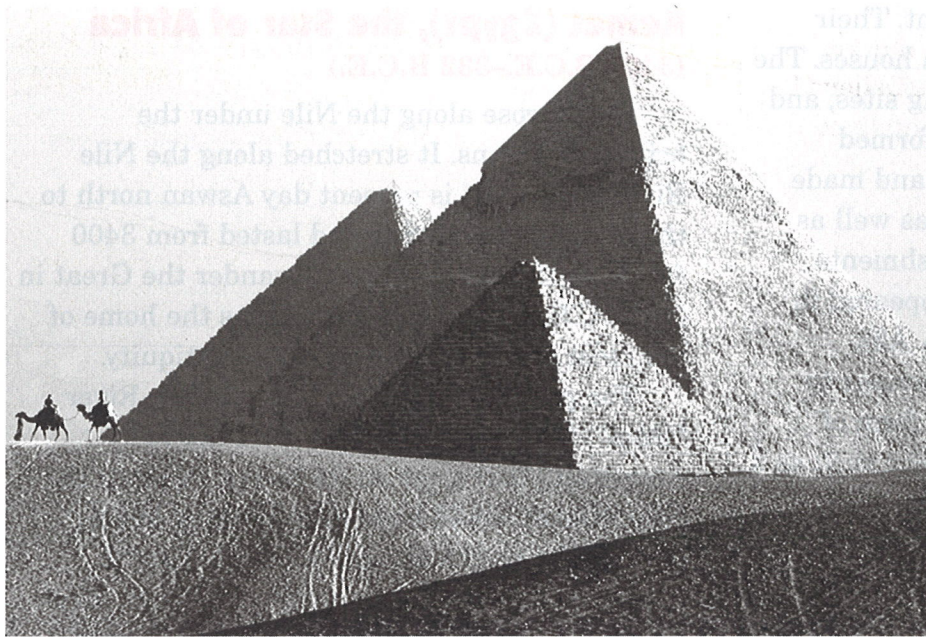
The Thinite (then-ITE) Period (3150 B.C.E.-2700 B.C.E.) was a period of major achievements in construction and exploration.

DID YOU KNOW?



The Hippocratic Oath that doctor's take today originated with Imhotep, who held several titles including that of physician. Hippocrates was a Greek doctor who lived nearly 2,000 years after Imhotep.





The pyramids in Giza, built to house the tombs of the kings of the Old Kingdom, are the oldest of the Seven Wonders of the World.

Kemet used it to transport timber and large stones for shipbuilding and massive building projects (see Origins, p. A4).

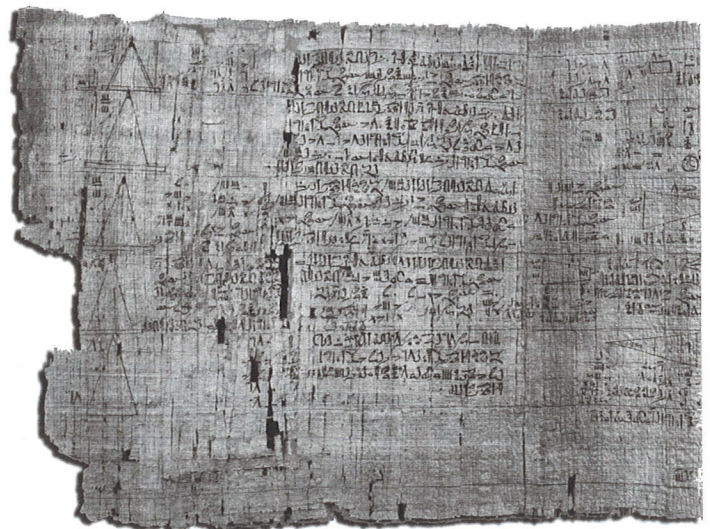
The sun, on the other hand, was a constant reminder of stability and regularity. It rarely rained in Kemet, so the people used their time productively in agriculture and building. Even during the flooding, they just moved to higher ground and continued to work. Some historians have suggested that this stability was a sort of stagnation which may have slowed their progress. Others argue that it was important for the maintenance of the civilization because it allowed the people to use their time productively.

Kemet developed into a unique civilization with a centralized government which united 42 different cities, called Nomes (NOHMS), along the Nile. Menes (MEH-nee-z), who is sometimes called Narmer, the king of the 1st **Dynasty**, united

the various groups of Upper Kemet to the south with the groups of Lower Kemet to the north into one nation. A dynasty is a family of kings and queens which rules for a long period of time. Before Menes united them, there were only groupings of clans from various ethnicities settled along the river. His unification in 3200 B.C.E. marked the first time in recorded history that a ruler had brought together so many different groups into a single nation. This accomplishment earned Menes a new title,

“Father of the Nation.”

In addition to Menes of the 1st Dynasty, Kemet gave rise to many other historic figures. Imhotep (im-HO-tep), prime minister during the 3rd Dynasty, is the most memorable. He is the first personality in recorded history about whom



The Rhind Papyrus (shown here) illustrates Kemetic achievement in mathematics. The Kemetic people used trigonometry to calculate the slopes of the pyramids and other structures.

DID YOU KNOW ?



Today, many African Americans use *hotepe*, which means *peace*, as a greeting.

and warm during the cool of the night. Their building techniques did not end with houses. The Nubians also constructed tool-making sites, and shrines and temples where they performed religious ceremonies. They designed and made weapons of war (see Origins, p. A7), as well as pottery and baskets. These accomplishments were achieved long before writing appeared in Kemet in 3400 B.C.E. (see Origins, p. A3).

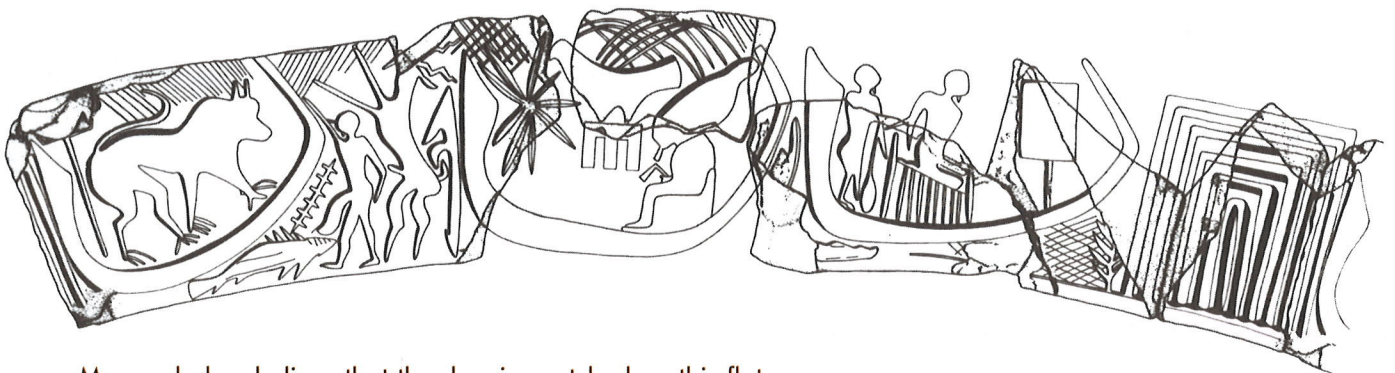
The Nubians were the earliest humans to develop the concept of the **monarchy**, a form of government headed by a supreme ruler such as a king or queen. An incense burner and other relics were discovered during an expedition conducted by archaeologists from the University of Chicago in 1967. These relics include an image of a crown and symbols of kingship, which existed long before similar images appeared in Kemet. The idea of divine kingship is now believed to have originated with the Nubian Africans in the 4th millennium B.C.E. rather than with the Kemetian Africans, thus pushing the idea of the royal crown back several hundred years. Scholars believe that many of the ideas which were found later in Kemet had already been developed in Nubia. There had been a constant interplay between these two great African civilizations. Sometimes they competed with each other. At other times they were in alliance.

Kemet (Egypt), the Star of Africa (3400 B.C.E.–332 B.C.E.)

Kemet rose along the Nile under the brightest of suns. It stretched along the Nile River from what is present day Aswan north to the Mediterranean Sea and lasted from 3400 B.C.E. to the conquest by Alexander the Great in 332 B.C.E. The land of Kemet was the home of the most majestic civilizations of antiquity.

The people of Kemet called the Nile River “Hapi” (HAHP-ee). The Nile gave life to everything that grew on its banks. Without the Nile, Kemet would have been nothing but a desert. The river’s annual flooding brought deposits of fertile soil from the interior of Africa into the Nile Valley. It also destroyed private property boundaries and livestock. The people of Kemet came together to manage the overflowing of the Nile and in the process developed a great civilization. When the flooding of the Nile destroyed property boundaries, they used ropes to measure the land, creating the principles of geometry. They coordinated the rising of **Sirius** (SIR-ee-uhs)—the brightest star in the heavens—with the **inundation** or annual flooding of the Nile, and produced the world’s first calendar.

During the floods, the Nile was an important means of transportation for moving heavy building materials downstream. The people of

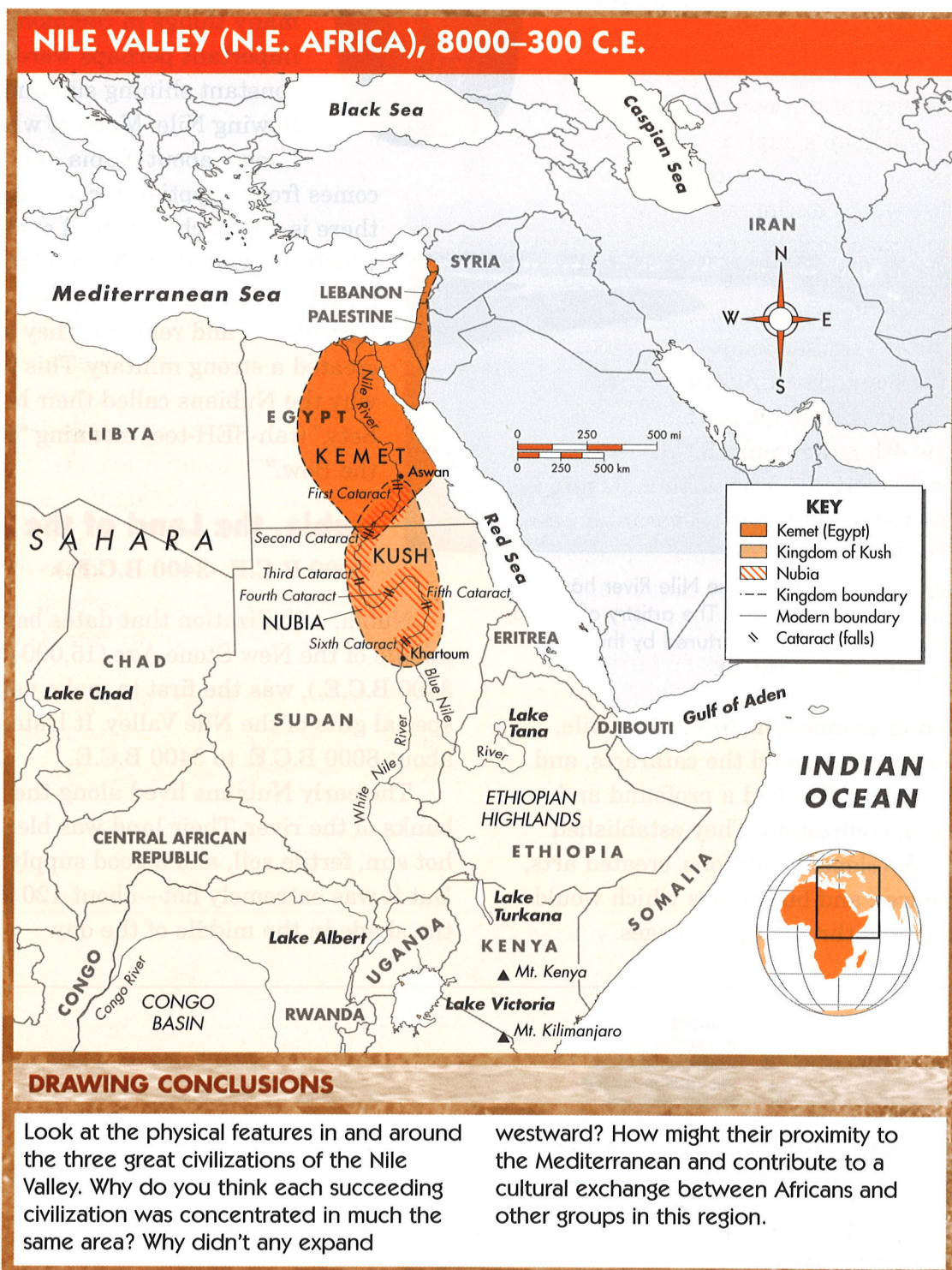


Many scholars believe that the drawings etched on this flat, two-dimensional view of an ancient incense burner provide proof that Kemetite culture and achievement were influenced by Nubia.

Nubia was approximately 1,800 kilometers (1,118.5 miles) long, running from a few hundred kilometers south of Khartoum (kar-TOOM), the capital of present-day Sudan, to Aswan in present-day Egypt.

The Nubians developed their civilization

along the fertile banks of the Nile. They grew cassava, rice, and bananas. They established farms, planted fruit trees, and fished. The Nubians were master builders. They developed a technique of building houses out of mud brick, which were cool during the hot sun of the day





The histories of the Nile Valley civilizations—Nubia, Kemet, and Kush—are interrelated. They share many things in common; the most important perhaps were the constant shining sun and the flowing Nile. Much of what is known about Nubia and Kush

comes from Egyptian records; however, there is also archaeological evidence which suggests that the Nubians were gifted at creating their own art, agriculture, and religion. They also created a strong military. This fact may be why the Nubians called their land “Ta-Sety,” (tah-SEH-tee) meaning “the Land of the Bow.”

Nubia, the Land of the Bow (8000 B.C.E.–3400 B.C.E.)



Flowing through northeast Africa, the Nile River has given life to several grand empires. The artistry of Nubia, one of the first great civilizations nurtured by the river, is shown in the pottery (inset above).

The men and women who forged the Nile, dragged their canoes around the cataracts, and settled in the Nile Valley had a profound and lasting effect on civilization. They established governments, developed traditions, created arts, practiced sciences, and built cities which would remain memorable throughout the ages.

Nubia, a civilization that dates back to the middle of the New Stone Age (15,000–3400 B.C.E.), was the first to make use of the special gifts of the Nile Valley. It lasted from about 8000 B.C.E. to 3400 B.C.E.

The early Nubians lived along the narrow banks of the river. Their land was blessed with a hot sun, fertile soil, and a good supply of water. But it was extremely hot—about 120 degrees in the shade in the middle of the day.

800–332
The Kushitic Civilization develops. The Kushites revitalize the Nile Valley and conquer Kemet.

1580

800 B.C.E.

1580–1069

The New Kingdom, the 4th major period of Kemet history; King Ahmose drives the Hyksos out of Lower Kemet. Hatshepsut, Kemet's first recorded female pharaoh, rules.

3



AS YOU READ

- What three important civilizations developed along the Nile River?
- How were Nubia and Kemet related?
- Why was Kemet the "Star" of Africa?
- What role did the Kingdom of Kush play in revitalizing the Nile Valley?

Chapter Outline

- Along the Nile Corridor
- Nubia, the Land of the Bow
- Kemet (Egypt), the Star of Africa
- Kush, the Jewel of Nubia

Vocabulary

- Kemet • cataracts • monarchy • Sirius • inundation • dynasty • Medu Neter

Along the Nile Corridor

Unlike most rivers which flow to the south, the Nile flows to the north. It begins as two streams in southeastern Africa: the White Nile in the mountains of Uganda and the Blue Nile in the highlands of Ethiopia. The streams meet and become one in Sudan and flow for 6,737 kilometers (4,187 miles) north toward the Mediterranean Sea. Deposits of silt along the banks of the Nile River created a fertile environment for the Africans who lived in the Nile Valley. Three important civilizations developed in this river valley: Nubia, **Kemet** (later named Egypt by the Greek invaders), and Kush.

The Nile flows for nearly 1,600 kilometers (1,000 miles) through Nubia. It is interrupted by a series of **cataracts**—places where stones jut out of the water, creating rapids and small waterfalls. Several of these cataracts are located in Nubia; others appear in Kemet (keh-MET). In ancient times, Africans traveled to each cataract. They carried or dragged their canoes or boats around the rocks. Then they put them back into the water to continue their journey.

8000

The Nubian civilization begins. Africans develop farming and building techniques, weapons of war, and pottery.

3400

The Kemetic Civilization begins. Africans develop the world's first calendar and first numerals.

3150–2700

The Thinite Period, the 1st major period of Kemetic history; Kemetians build the pyramids.

2000–1786

The Middle Kingdom, the 3rd major period of Kemetic history; The Hyksos rule Lower Kemet.

8000 B.C.E.

4000

3400

3200

3150

2700

2000

4000

Nubians develop the concept of monarchy.

3200

King Menes (Narmer) unites Upper and Lower Kemet.

2700–2190

The Old Kingdom, the 2nd major period of Kemetic history

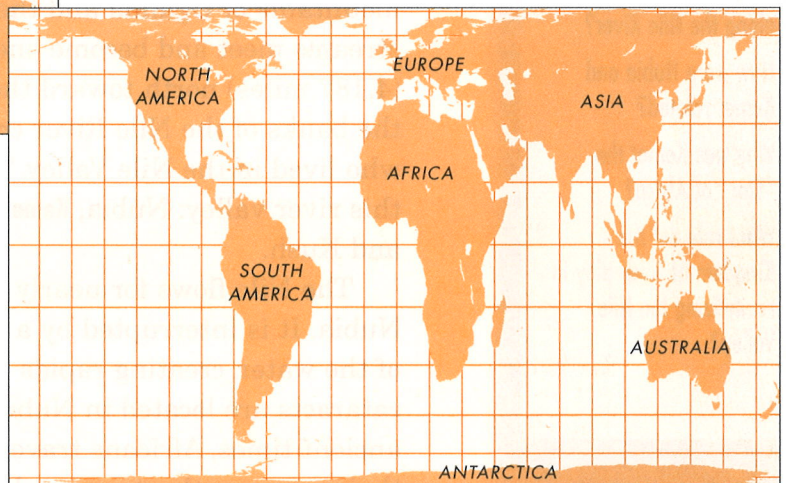
Multiple Perspectives

Below are two different world maps of the same area. One is a Mercator map. The other is a Peters Projection map.

1. How are both maps alike?
2. How do they differ?
3. Why is the Peters Projection map an important tool for learning about Africa?



Mercator Map



Peters Projection Map

CENTER YOUR WRITING

National standards for social studies encourage students to study and analyze the systems of power, politics, authority, and governance in human groups. If we study the concept of dividing people by race in the United States, we can see how this has affected political decisions and determined laws and social systems, especially for African American people.

1. Write an essay about the changes that would occur in the United States if race were no longer used to classify people.
2. What long-standing practices would no longer need to be in place?
3. Do you think people would come up with new ways to set themselves apart from others? Explain.