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| Chapter 2, Section 1 - The Nile Valley<br>Pp 156-164 |  |
| Settling the Nile                                    | <p>Egyptian civilization began in the Nile River Valley between 6000-5000 B.C., when hunter-gatherers moved from the less fertile areas of Africa and s.w. Asia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fertile farming land</li> <li>• Natural barriers discouraged invasions</li> </ul>   |
| A Mighty River                                       | <p>Egyptians relied on the Nile River for drinking, bathing, farming, cooking, and cleaning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It provided fish and supported plants and animals.</li> <li>• Considered a precious gift.</li> <li>• Praised it in song.</li> </ul>  |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Nile is the world's longest river, flowing from the heart of Africa to the Mediterranean Sea, @ 4,000 miles long.</li> <li>• Begins as 2 separate rivers.</li> <li>• The Blue Nile source is in the mountains of eastern Africa.</li> <li>• The White Nile starts in marshes in central Africa.</li> <li>• They meet and form the Nile just south of Egypt</li> <li>• Wild rapids called cataracts</li> <li>• Ships can only use the last 650 miles, where it flows through Egypt</li> </ul>  |
| A Sheltered Land                                     | <p>Natural barriers protected the cities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deserts ("the red land") on both sides of the Nile River and the Nile Delta could not support farming or human life. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sahara Desert on the west</li> <li>○ The Eastern Desert stretches east to the Red Sea</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The cataracts blocked enemy boats from reaching Egypt.</li> <li>• Delta marshes offered no harbors for invaders coming from the sea.</li> </ul> <p>Despite this isolation, Egyptians still were able to trade with people outside Egypt.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mediterranean Sea</li> <li>• Red Sea</li> </ul> <p>Within Egypt the Nile provided transportation and supported trade.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winds pushed sailboats south</li> <li>• Flow of Nile carried them north</li> </ul> <p>Friendly contact existed among the villages up and down the Nile.</p> |
| The River People                                     | <p>People of Egypt depended on the Nile's floods to grow their crops.</p>  |
| Regular Flooding                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More consistent and gentle than the floods of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in Mesopotamia.</li> <li>• Heavy spring rains from Central Africa</li> <li>• Melting snows from highlands of East Africa</li> <li>• Flooding from July to October left rich, dark, fertile silt along the valley, called <i>Kemet</i>, or "the Black Land."</li> </ul>  |

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| <p>How did the Egyptians Use the Nile?</p> | <p>Took advantage of the floods to become successful farmers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planted wheat, barley, flax seeds</li> <li>• Wise use of irrigation</li> <li>• Dug basins to trap flood water.</li> <li>• Canals carried water from basins to fields beyond the river's reach.</li> <li>• Built dikes (earthen banks) to strengthen the basin walls.</li> </ul> <p>Other technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <i>shadoof</i> lifted water from Nile to basins.</li> <li>• Developed geometry to survey the land and see where one field ended and the next one began.</li> <li>• Used papyrus to make baskets, sandals, and river rafts.</li> <li>• Later used it to make paper.</li> </ul>  |
| <p>What were Hieroglyphics?</p>            | <p>Egyptian system of writing was originally made up of picture symbols</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Later they created symbols that stood for sounds.</li> <li>• Eventually they combined picture and sound symbols to create what would become hieroglyphics.</li> </ul> <p>Few people in Egypt could write.<br/>Some men went to school to become scribes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kept records</li> <li>• Worked for rulers, priests, traders</li> <li>• Carved symbols onto stone walls and monuments</li> <li>• Invented a simpler script for everyday purposes and wrote or painted on papyrus.</li> </ul>   |
| <p>A United Egypt</p>                      | <p>Around 3100 B.C., Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt were combined into one kingdom.</p>   |
| <p>As in Mesopotamia ...</p>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skillful farming led to surpluses of food, which freed people to work as artisans instead of farmers—making cloth, pottery, carving statues, creating weapons and tools.</li> <li>• As more goods became available, Egyptians began trading with each other.</li> <li>• Eventually began carrying goods beyond Egypt's borders. Began to pick up ideas from other civilizations.</li> </ul>   |
| <p>The Rise of Government</p>              | <p>Advances in farming, crafts, and trade created a need for government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintenance of irrigation systems</li> <li>• Storage and management of food surplus</li> <li>• Settlement of property disputes</li> </ul> <p>Earliest rulers were village chiefs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over time, strongest chiefs united groups of villages into small kingdoms.</li> <li>• Strongest kingdoms eventually overpowered the weaker ones.</li> </ul> <p>By 4000 B.C., Egypt was made up of two kingdoms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lower Egypt was in the Nile Delta.</li> <li>• Upper Egypt was in the southern part of the Nile Valley.</li> <li>• About 3100 B.C., Narmer, king of Upper Egypt, took control of Lower Egypt and unified the two kingdoms.</li> </ul> |

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| <p>Egypt's Ruling Families</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Narmer ruled from Memphis, a city he built on the border between the two kingdoms; developed into a center of culture and power along the Nile.</li> <li>• To symbolize the kingdoms' unity, Narmer wore a double crown, the white part representing Upper Egypt and the red crown representing Lower Egypt.</li> <li>• Members of Narmer's family passed on the ruling power, creating a dynasty.</li> <li>• Over time, Egypt would be ruled by 31 dynasties (approximately 2800 years).</li> <li>• Grouped into 3 main time periods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Old Kingdom</li> <li>○ Middle Kingdom</li> <li>○ New Kingdom</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |
| <p>Early Egyptian Life</p>     | <p>Egyptian society divided into social groups based on wealth and power. Structured like a pyramid:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the top was the Pharaoh</li> <li>• Just below him were the wealthy Egyptians who were priests, nobles, and government officials (elegant homes, beautiful white linen clothing, jewelry, heavy eye makeup, etc.)</li> <li>• In the middle were traders, artisans, shopkeepers, scribes, and other businessmen (smaller homes, simpler dress)</li> <li>• Farmers were part of the largest group of early Egyptians; some rented the land they worked and paid for it out of their crops. Others worked the land of wealthy nobles. They and the herders lived in villages along the Nile, in one-room huts, and ate a simple diet.</li> <li>• The largest group with the least wealth were the unskilled workers who did physical labor—made and stacked bricks, loaded/unloaded/carried cargo from boats to markets; lived in crowded city neighborhoods.</li> </ul> |
| <p>Family Life</p>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Father headed the family</li> <li>• Women had more rights than in most other early civilizations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Could own and pass on property</li> <li>○ Buy and sell goods</li> <li>○ Make wills</li> <li>○ Obtain divorces</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Upper class women were in charge of temples and could perform religious ceremonies</li> <li>• Daughters taught by mothers to cook, sew, run a household</li> <li>• Boys learned farming or a trade from fathers</li> <li>• Kids played with various toys: board games, dolls, leather balls, tops, etc.</li> </ul>   |