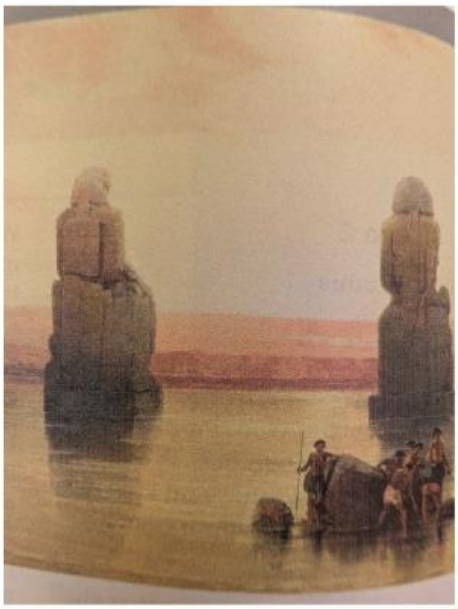
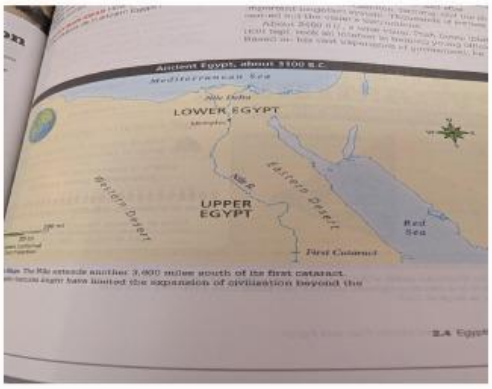


Ancient Egypt

This picture shows two very big statues by a river. People stand near them. Some people are in the water. The land behind them looks dry. Long ago people lived by the Nile River. The Nile made the land good for farming. Farmers grew food because of the river. Egypt became a strong place where people lived near the water.

Geography Shapes Egypt

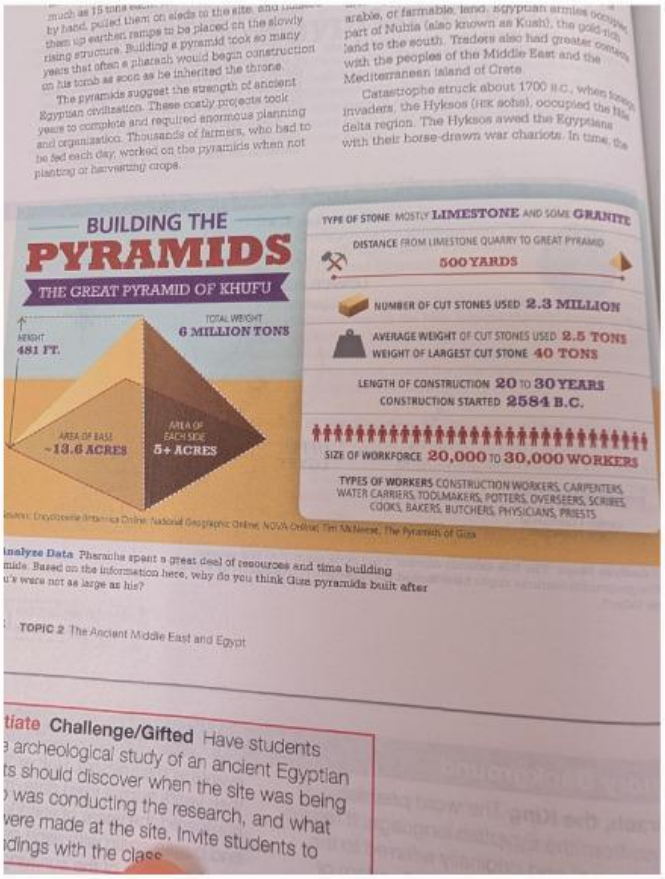
The Nile River gave life to the land. People came to the Nile long ago. They stayed and planted crops. The river helped them have food and homes. Controlling the water was very important for their farms.



LIVEWORKSHEETS

The Old Kingdom

Long ago, Egypt had times called the Old Kingdom, Middle Kingdom, and New Kingdom. In the Old Kingdom, the leader was the pharaoh. People thought the pharaoh had help from the gods. The pharaoh was the boss of the land. A helper called a vizier ran the daily work. Scribes (people who could write) followed the vizier's orders.
A wise vizier named Ptah-hotep taught new leaders. He showed how to do government work. He wanted young people to learn how to be good leaders.
Many people say modern ideas about government come from religious teachings. These teachings say people have worth and should help each other. Some old laws came from stories like the Ten Commandments. Prophets helped people follow the law. They taught right and wrong and how to live together.



Long, long ago in Egypt, people built big stone pyramids. These pyramids were near a city called Cairo.

The pyramids were very special. They were tombs for dead kings and queens. People thought the dead rulers would live forever inside the pyramids.

The ancient Egyptians believed in life after death. So they kept the bodies safe. They put things inside the pyramids too. They wanted the dead rulers to have what they needed in their new life.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

The pyramids were so big and beautiful. People still see them today!

Workers had a big job. They moved heavy stones to build the pyramids. Some stones were very, very heavy—as heavy as 15 big trucks!

The workers cut the stones by hand. Then they pulled them on sleds. They dragged the stones up ramps made of dirt. Slowly, they put the stones higher and higher.

It took a long, long time to build one pyramid. Sometimes a king would start building his pyramid as soon as he became king. He wanted it ready for when he died.

Building the pyramids showed how strong Egypt was. It took many years of hard work. It needed lots of planning.

Many farmers helped build the pyramids. They worked when they were not planting or picking crops. All these workers needed food every day.

The pyramids were amazing!

Middle and New Kingdom Egypt

The Old Kingdom fell apart. There were fights for power. The crops did not grow well. Building the pyramids cost too much money.

For a long time, Egypt was messy and broken. Then new kings came. They put Egypt back together. This started a new time called the Middle Kingdom.

The Middle Kingdom was hard. The Nile River did not flood like it used to. People fought against the kings. But strong rulers did good things. They made new farms. They grew more food.

Egyptian soldiers went south to find gold. Traders went to other lands too. They met new people.

Then something bad happened. In 1700 B.C., mean people called the Hyksos came. They had war chariots with horses! The Egyptians had never seen these before.

But the Egyptians learned fast. Soon they had chariots too!

The Hyksos liked Egypt so much. They started acting like Egyptians. They used Egyptian names. They believed in Egyptian gods.

After 100 years, new Egyptian kings fought back. They beat the Hyksos and sent them away. Then a new time began. It was called the New Kingdom.

A new time began. It was called the New Kingdom.

The kings were very strong and smart. They wanted to make Egypt big and powerful. Egypt became great!

Around 1450 B.C., Egypt was at its best. The empire was huge! It went all the way north to a place called Syria. Syria was by a big river called the Euphrates.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

The Egyptian kings fought and won many battles. They took over new lands. This meant Egyptians met many new people. They learned new things from other countries.

Egypt was getting bigger and stronger!

Queen Hatshepsut

One great ruler was a queen named Hatshepsut. She ruled from about 1472 B.C. to 1457 B.C.

At first, she ruled for a young boy. But then she did something bold. She said, "I am the pharaoh!" People listened to her.

Egyptians thought only men could be pharaohs. So Hatshepsut wore a fake beard. This showed she was the leader.

Hatshepsut helped traders. She sent ships to faraway lands. She wanted Egypt to trade with other people.

When the young boy grew up, he became pharaoh. His name was Thutmose III. He was a great fighter. He made Egypt even bigger!

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Ramses II

Another great pharaoh was Ramses II. He ruled for a very long time—from 1279 B.C. to 1213 B.C.

Ramses II won many battles. He made Egypt bigger and stronger. He took over Syria again!

Egypt was very powerful under these great leaders.

LIVEWORKSHEETS