

EGYPT'S EMPIRE



NGSSS

SS.6.W.2.5 Summarize important achievements of Egyptian civilization.

SS.6.W.2.6 Determine the contributions of key figures from ancient Egypt.

Essential Question

Why do civilizations rise and fall?

Guiding Questions

1. Why was the Middle Kingdom a "golden age" for Egypt?
2. Why was the New Kingdom a unique period in ancient Egypt's history?
3. How did two unusual pharaohs change ancient Egypt?
4. Why did the Egyptian empire decline in the late 1200s B.C.?

Terms to Know

envoy

a person who represents his country in a foreign place

incense

a material burned for its pleasant smell

What Do You Know?

Directions: Read the list of pharaohs. Circle the names that you know or have heard before. For each circled name, write one fact that you know about the pharaoh.

Hatshepsut

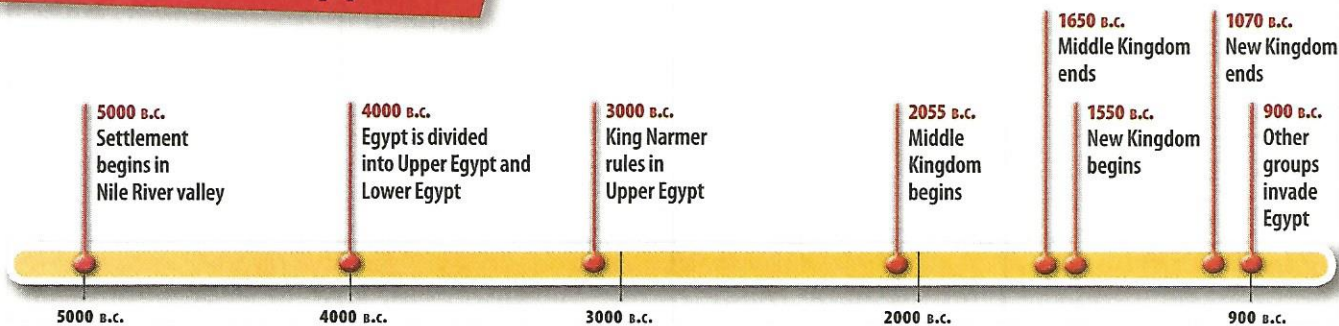
Akhenaton

Thutmose III

King Tut

Ramses II

When Did It Happen?



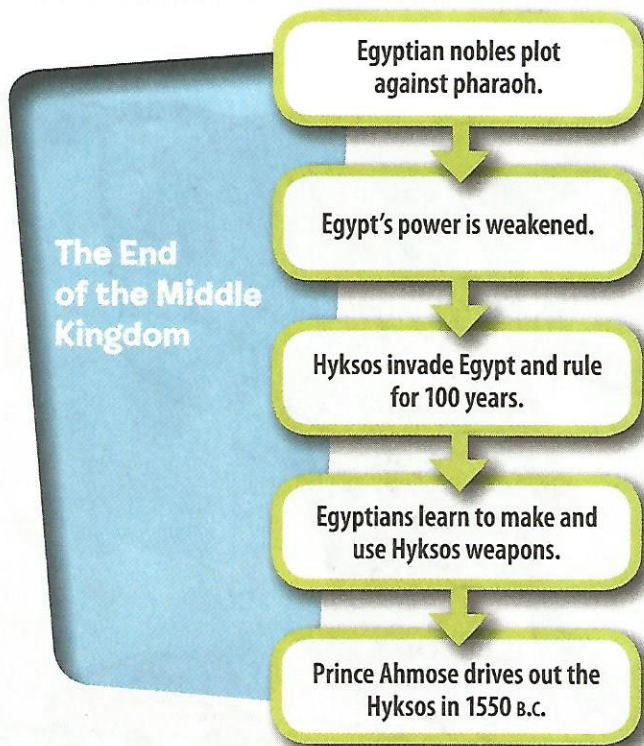
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A Golden Age

The Middle Kingdom lasted from about 2055 B.C. to 1650 B.C. It was a time of power, wealth, and achievement for the Egyptians. During the Middle Kingdom, Egypt took control of new lands. Egyptian soldiers captured Nubia and attacked what is now Syria. The conquered peoples sent tributes, or payments, to the pharaoh. The pharaoh used this wealth to build dams and improve farmlands. The pharaoh also built a canal between the Nile River and the Red Sea.

During the Middle Kingdom, arts and architecture grew more popular. Painters covered tombs and temples with colorful scenes. Sculptors created large carvings of the pharaohs. These statues showed the pharaohs as ordinary people, not as gods. Instead of building pyramids, pharaohs had their tombs cut into cliffs. This area became known as the Valley of Kings.

The Middle Kingdom ended when nobles tried to take power from the pharaohs. This fight weakened Egypt, making it easy to conquer. The Hyksos invaded from western Asia. The Hyksos army rode chariots and used weapons made of bronze and iron. The Egyptians had copper and stone weapons that could not stop the invaders. The Hyksos ruled Egypt for about 100 years. During that time, the Egyptians learned how to make and use Hyksos weapons. Around 1550 B.C., an Egyptian prince named Ahmose drove the Hyksos out of Egypt.



Think Critically

1. Explain Why was the Middle Kingdom a golden age for Egypt?

Mark the Text

2. Underline the details about how art and architecture experienced a golden age.

Show Your Skill

3. Draw Conclusions Why were the Hyksos able to defeat the Egyptians?

Think Critically

4. Explain Why was Phoenicia an important trading partner for the Egyptians?

Show Your Skill

5. Contrast What made Hatshepsut's rule different from that of Thutmose III?

Building an Empire

Ahmosé's rule began an era known as the New Kingdom. From 1550 B.C. to 1070 B.C., Egypt grew richer and more powerful. Most pharaohs focused on bringing other lands under their control. They sent **envoys**, or representatives, to make political ties.

About 1480 B.C., a queen named Hatshepsut came to power. First she ruled with her husband. After he died, she ruled for her young nephew. Finally, she made herself pharaoh. Hatshepsut became the first woman to rule Egypt by herself.

Hatshepsut used trade to expand the empire. During her rule, Egyptians traded beads, metal tools, and weapons for ivory, wood, and leopard skins. Traders also brought **incense**, a material burned for its pleasant smell. One important trading partner was Phoenicia. The Phoenicians lived on the Mediterranean and had contact with many cultures. They had their own alphabet and system of writing. They traded goods all over the ancient world. The Egyptians traded their own goods for Phoenician wood and furniture.

When Hatshepsut died, Thutmose III became pharaoh. Thutmose expanded the empire through war. His armies extended the northern border of Egypt. His troops also took back control of Nubia, which had broken free from Egypt. The empire grew rich. It took gold, copper, ivory, and other goods from conquered peoples. Egypt also enslaved prisoners of war. These slaves were put to work building palaces, temples, and monuments. In Egypt, slaves could own land, marry, and gain their freedom.

Thutmose III disliked Hatshepsut so much that he had her name removed from many statues and monuments that were dedicated to her.

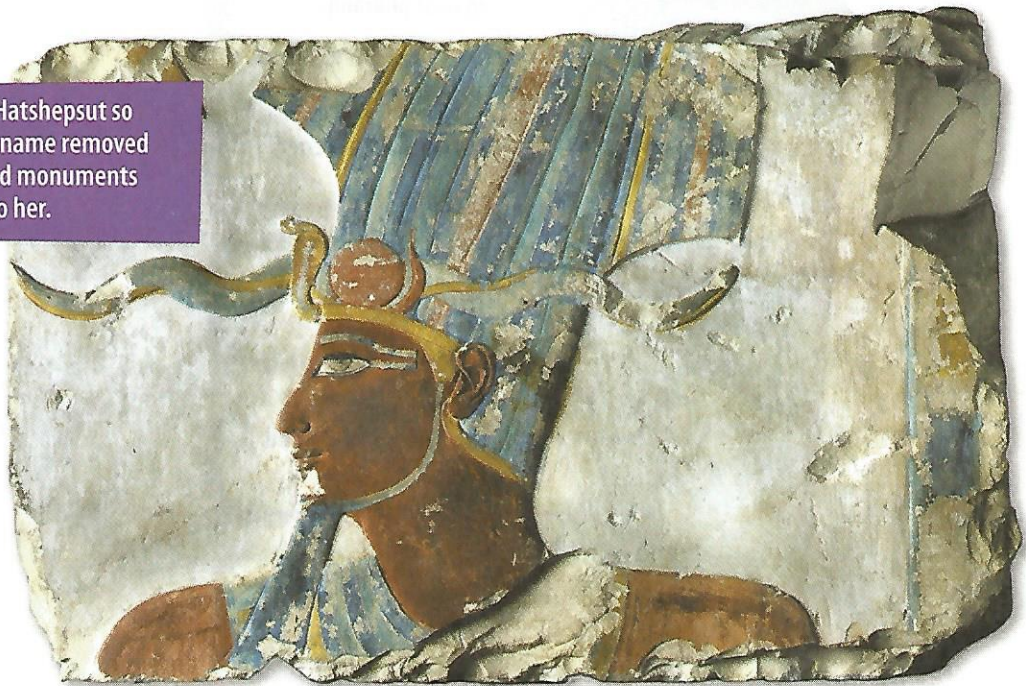


PHOTO: Sandro Vannini/CORBIS

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Two Unusual Pharaohs

About 1370 B.C., Amenhotep IV came to the throne. He and his wife, Nefertiti, tried to lead Egypt in a new direction. The pharaohs were losing power to the priests. So Amenhotep IV started a new religion. People could worship only one god, called Aton. When the priests protested, Amenhotep IV removed many from their positions. He seized their lands and closed their temples. He changed his name to Akhenaton, or "Spirit of Aton." He began ruling Egypt from a new city.

Most Egyptians resisted Akhenaton's changes. They refused to accept Aton as the only god. Meanwhile, Akhenaton neglected his duties. He took no action when enemies attacked Egypt. These people were called the Hittites. Their invasion cost Egypt most of its lands in western Asia.

When Akhenaton died, his son-in-law took the throne. The new pharaoh, Tutankhamen, was only 10 years old. He relied on help from officials and priests. He restored the old religion. After nine years, Tutankhamen died. In 1922 Howard Carter, a British archaeologist, unearthed Tutankhamen's tomb and all its treasures. The boy king and his riches fascinated people living in the modern world. He became known around the world as "King Tut."



Recovery and Decline

The most successful leader during the New Kingdom was Ramses II. Ramses II, who came to power in 1279 B.C. took back much of the territory lost by earlier pharaohs. He fought the Hittites in what is now Turkey and signed peace treaties. The Hittites and the Egyptians agreed to keep a peace between them. They would also fight together if an enemy attacked one of them.

Think Critically

6. Summarize How did ancient Egypt change under Amenhotep IV?

Show Your Skill

7. Identify Cause and Effect

What happened to Egypt after Ramses II came to power in 1279 B.C.?

Mark the Text

8. Circle the groups that took over Egypt after its decline.

Think Critically

9. **Draw Conclusions** Why was Ramses II considered a successful leader?

Take the Challenge

10. Choose an Egyptian pharaoh that ruled during the New Kingdom. Create a biography card that includes interesting facts about the pharaoh. Draw or glue a picture on the other side of the card. With a small group, test each other's knowledge of the Middle Kingdom pharaohs using the cards you made.

Under Ramses II and other New Kingdom leaders, many temples were built. The most magnificent temple was Karnak at Thebes. Karnak has a huge hall that still impresses visitors today.



The Egyptians believed that their gods and goddesses lived in the temples. Priests and priestesses served the gods by leaving food for them and by washing their statues. Temples also served as banks. Egyptians stored valuables in them.

After Ramses II, Egypt's power faded. Egypt was attacked by groups with more and better weapons. By 1150 B.C., Egypt had lost its empire. Starting in 900 B.C., one outside group after another took over Egypt. These outside groups included the Libyans, the people of Kush, and the Assyrians.



NGSSS Check List one accomplishment for each pharaoh. **SS.6.W.2.6**

Ahmose

Hatshepsut

Thutmose III

Amenhotep IV

Tutankhamen

Ramses II

THE KINGDOM OF KUSH



SS.6.G.2.4 Explain how the geographical location of ancient civilizations contributed to the culture and politics of those societies.

SS.6.E.3.2 Categorize products that were traded among civilizations, and give examples of barriers to trade of those products.

Essential Question

Why do civilizations rise and fall?

Guiding Questions

1. How did Nubia and Egypt influence each other?
2. Why did the kingdom of Kush prosper?

Terms to Know**savanna**

a grassy plain with some scattered trees

textiles

woven cloth

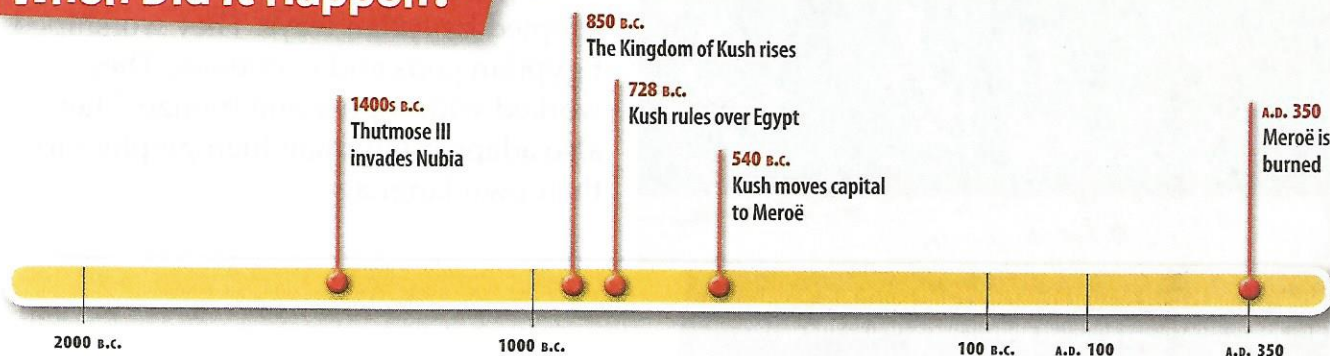
What Do You Know?

Directions: Read each statement. Circle T if you think the statement is true.

Circle F if you think the statement is false.



- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1. All civilizations that lived by the Nile River were the same. | T | F |
| 2. The Egyptians were the only civilization to build pyramids. | T | F |
| 3. The kingdom of Kush became famous for making iron. | T | F |
| 4. Egypt and Kush received very little rainfall. | T | F |

When Did It Happen?

Mark the Text



1. Underline the term that describes a grassy plain with some scattered trees.

Think Critically

2. **Contrast** How was Nubia's land different from Egypt's?

Mark the Text



3. Underline the items that Egypt received in trade from Kerma.

networks Read Chapter 5 Lesson 4 in your textbook or online.

The Nubians

Egypt was not the only civilization along the Nile River. The Nubians lived on the Nile south of Egypt. Nubia later became known as Kush.

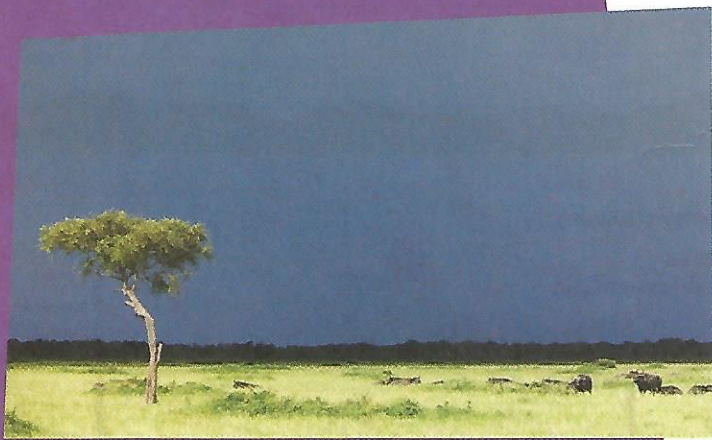
The first Nubians were cattle herders. Their cattle grazed in **savannas**, or grassy plains. Nubia also got plenty of rainfall. As a result, the Nubians did not need water from the Nile River. They settled in villages, grew crops, and hunted with bows and arrows.

| | Nubia | Egypt |
|---------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Land | savannas | desert lands river valley |
| Water Source | rainfall | Nile River |
| Crops | beans, yams, rice, grains | wheat, rice, other grains |

In time, the Nubians formed the kingdom of Kerma. Farming and gold mining made Kerma wealthy. The kingdom also became an important trade center. The Egyptians traded with Kerma for cattle, gold, ivory, and enslaved people. Egyptians also hired Nubians to fight in their armies.

Kerma's craft-makers made fine pottery, jewelry, and metal goods. As in Egypt, Kerma kings were buried in tombs that held gold, jewelry, and pottery.

In the 1400s B.C., the Egyptian pharaoh Thutmose III invaded Nubia. After a 50-year war, Kerma collapsed and the Egyptians seized much of Nubia. They ruled it for the next 700 years. During this time, the people of Nubia adopted Egyptian ways. They worshiped Egyptian gods and goddesses. They worked with copper and bronze. They also adapted Egyptian hieroglyphics to their own language.



Today, Nubia is part of southern Egypt and northern Sudan. The land is mostly savanna, as shown here, unlike the desert land of northern Egypt.

PHOTO: Gabriela Staehler/CORBIS

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The Kushite Kingdom

By 850 B.C., a Nubian group had formed the kingdom of Kush. Powerful Kushite kings ruled for the next few centuries. Their capital was the city of Napata. It was located south of Egypt, along the Nile River. Trade caravans carried gold, ivory, valuable woods, and other goods from Kush to Egypt.

In time, Kush became strong enough to take over Egypt. About 750 B.C., a Kushite king named Kashta headed north. He began the conquest of Egypt. His son Piye completed the conquest in 728 B.C. He ruled both Egypt and Kush from the city of Napata. The kings of Kush built temples and monuments similar to those built by the Egyptians. The Kushites also built small pyramids in which to bury their kings.

Kush's rule over Egypt was short. During the 600s B.C., the Assyrians invaded Egypt. They drove the Kushites back to their homeland. Kushites, however, gained something from the Assyrians—the secret to making iron. The Kushites became the first Africans to make iron. Soon, farmers in Kush could use iron to make stronger plows. Now they could grow more crops. Kush's warriors also began using iron spears and swords. Traders from Kush carried iron products and enslaved peoples to Arabia, India, and China. In return, they brought back cotton, textiles, and other goods.

Think Critically

4. Explain How did learning to make iron help the Kushites?

This gold bracelet was found in the pyramid tomb of Queen Amanishakheto near Meroë. Many jewels and other treasures were discovered in her tomb in 1837.



PHOTO: INTERFOTO/Alamy

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Mark the Text

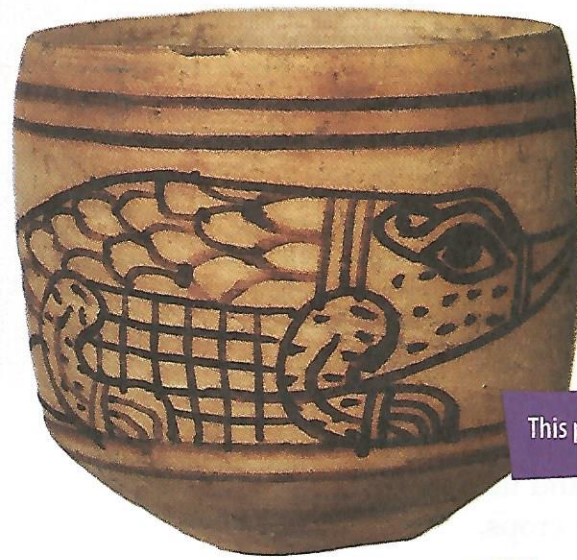


5. Circle two items that helped Meroë become an iron-making center.

In about 540 B.C., Kush's rulers moved to the city of Meroë. It became the capital city. Like Napata, the new capital was near the Nile River. In addition, the land near Meroë had iron ore and trees for fuel. As a result, Meroë became an iron-making center. Kush's kings rebuilt Meroë to look like an Egyptian city. It included small pyramids, a grand avenue, and a huge temple.

Meroë became an important center of trade in the ancient world. Kush's traders received leopard skins and valuable woods from other places in Africa. They traded these, plus iron products and enslaved workers for cotton **textiles**, or woven cloth, and other goods. By the A.D. 200s, the kingdom began to weaken. As Kush declined, another kingdom called Axum took its place. Around A.D. 350, the armies of Axum burned Meroë to the ground.

PHOTO: DEA / A. DAGLI ORTI/De Agostini Picture Library/Getty Images



This painted Nubian cup portrays a crocodile.

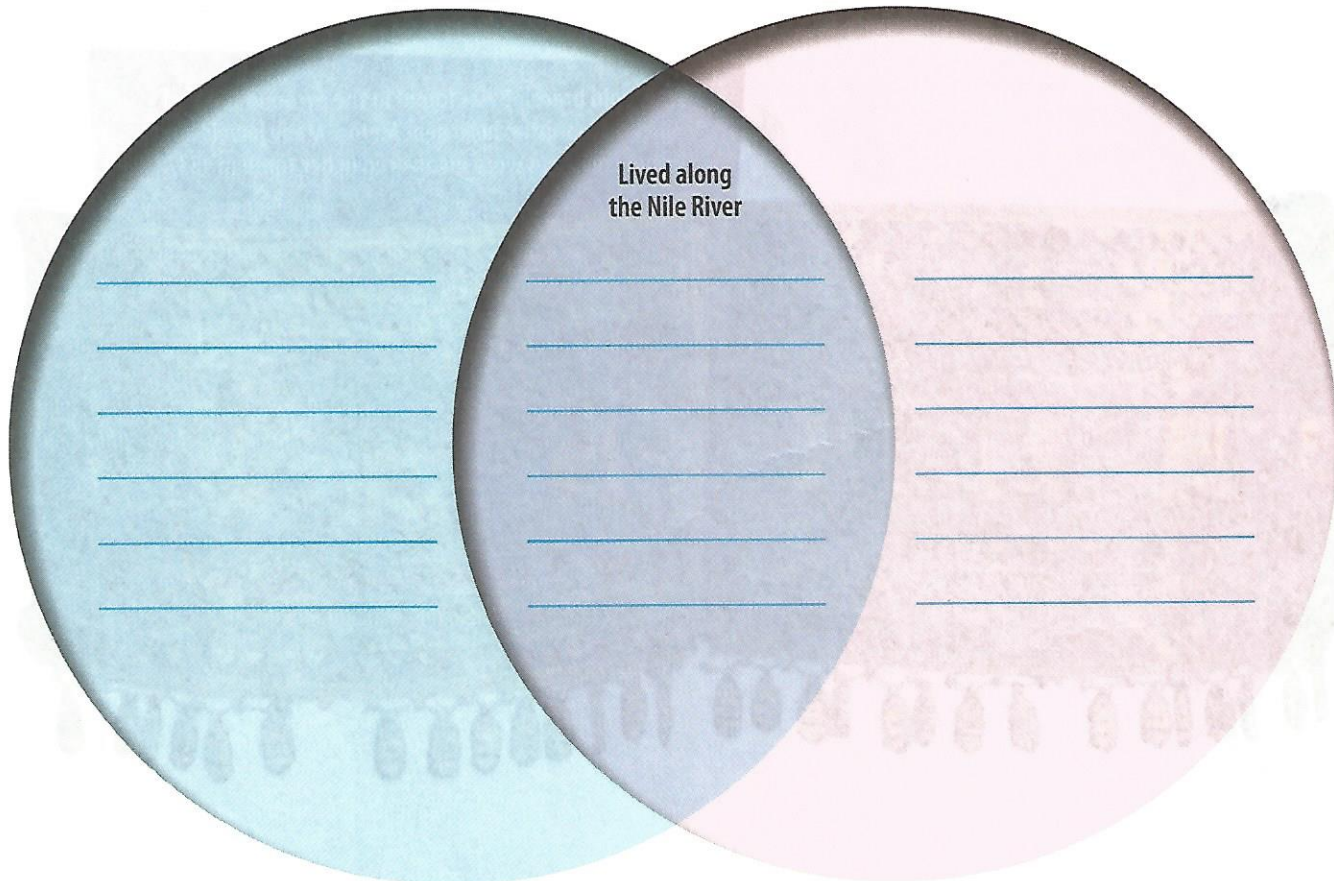


NGSSS Check Complete the Venn diagram about Egypt and Nubia. **SS.6.G.2.4**

Egypt

Both

Nubia



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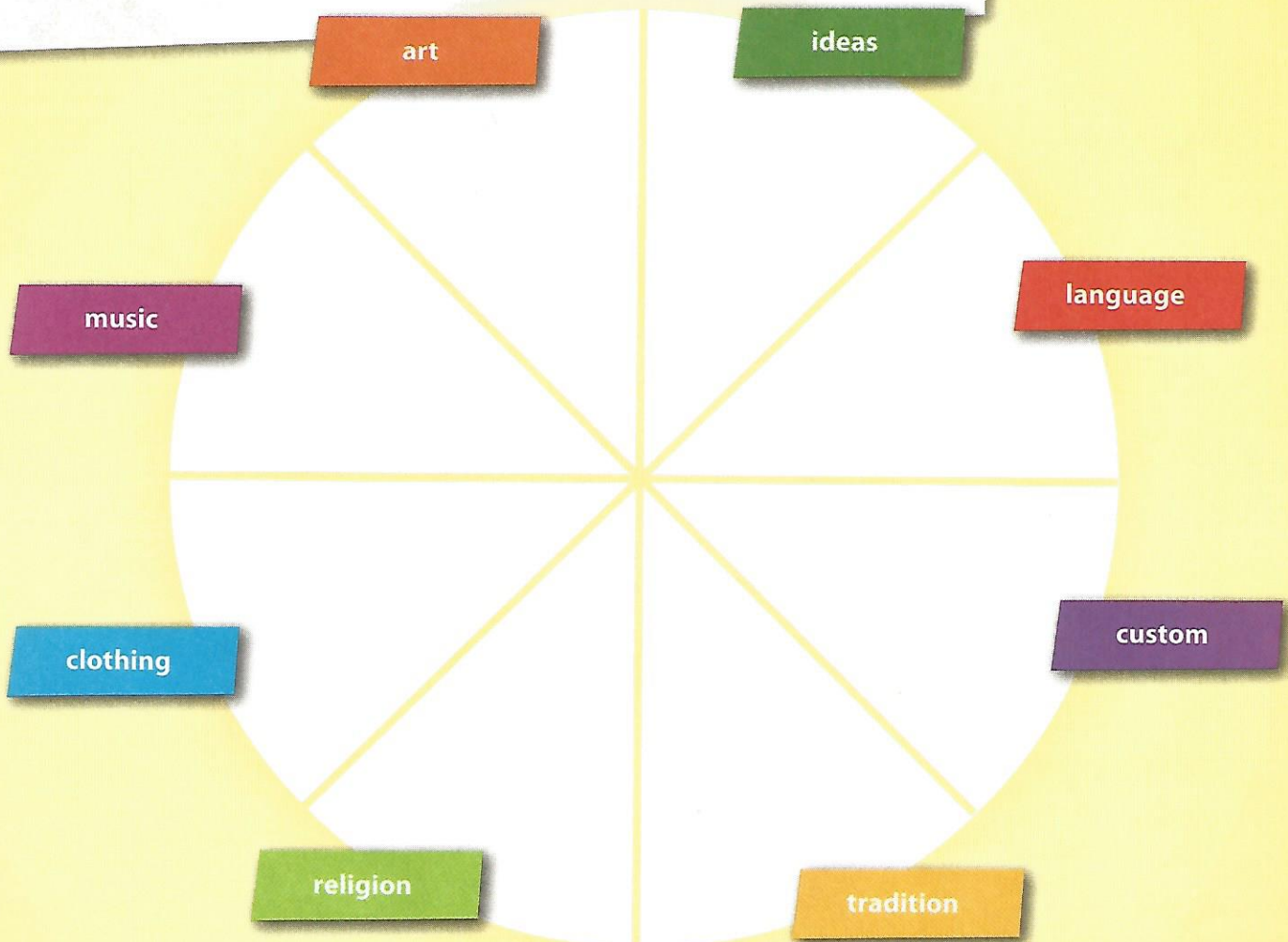
MY REFLECTIONS

ESSENTIAL QUESTION *What makes a culture unique?*

Reflect on What It Means . . .

There are many factors that influence settlement, and whether civilizations rise or fall. Often, cultures develop within civilizations and are affected by similar influences. Today, there are many diverse cultures in our civilization. They may share some beliefs, traditions, and even their spoken or written language with other cultures. They may blend with other cultures to make a new culture.

Use the space within the culture wheel below to illustrate characteristics of Egypt's culture. You can use drawings or words.



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TAKE THE CHALLENGE

Create your own model civilization. Choose a location. Think about what physical features will be important to your civilization's survival. Determine what natural resources will be used, what crops will be grown, and what cultural characteristics your civilization will have. Then make an advertisement to let other civilizations know about yours and to perhaps attract trade partners. Be creative!

Keep Going! ➔