**Egypt - p. 95**

**1. a) To what does the term Old Kingdom refer?**

Old Kingdom refers to a period in Egyptian history that lasted from about 2700 BC to 2200 BC.

**b)Why was the pharaoh’s authority never questioned?**

Egyptians believed that the pharaoh was both king and god; that he had come to Earth to manage Egypt for the rest of the gods. To question a pharaoh’s authority would be to question a god.

**c) How did trade benefit the Egyptians?**

Trade gave Egyptians goods that they could not produce locally such as gold, ivory, stone, incense and myrrh. It also helped them bring in slaves to build pyramids. Trading with other nations would help Egypt create alliances and protect their kingdom.

**2. a) What did Egyptians mean by the afterlife?**

The afterlife to Egyptians was their life after death. It was considered a happy, ideal world where all people are young and healthy. A person’s “ka”, or spirit, left their body after they died.

**b) Why was embalming important to the Egyptians?**

Embalming was important because Egyptians believed that the ka was still connected to the body in death. If the ka could not recognize the body, it would break the link between body and spirit.

**3. a) What is engineering?**

Engineering is the application of scientific knowledge for practical purposes.

**b) What does the building of the pyramids tell us about Egyptian society?**

It tells us how important the pharaohs were – its size was symbolic of the pharaoh’s greatness. The shape of the pyramid, pointing to the skies, symbolizes the pharaoh’s journey to the afterlife. Egyptians believed that if the pyramids were spectacular, the gods would be happy, allowing them to prosper both in life and to have a happy afterlife.

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**1. a) What was the Middle Kingdom?**

A period of order and stability in Egypt that begun with Mentuhotep II’s rule in 2050 BC and lasted until about 1750 BC.

**b) How did Ahmose manage to become king of all Egypt?**

Ahmose managed to become king of all Egypt by declaring himself king after driving the Hyksos out of Egypt in the mid-1500s BC.

**2. a) Which group of invaders did Ramses the Great defeat?**

Many groups tried to invade Egypt during Ramses II’s reign. Ramses signed peace treaties with the Hittites, he defeated the Tehenu to the west through the use of strong forts, and finally were able to defeat the Sea Peoples after 50 years of fighting.

**b) What did Queen Hatshepsut do as pharaoh of Egypt?**

As pharaoh, Queen Hatshepsut improved Egyptian trade helping make Egypt wealthier. This enabled Egypt to have money to spend on arts and architecture, such as the impressive temple built for her near Thebes.

**c) What do you think is a more reliable source of wealth – trade or payments from conquered kingdoms? Why?**

I think trade is a more reliable source of wealth because it is based in mutually-beneficial relationships where both parties can prosper from the trade. It also implies that their relationship is a non-violent one, meaning they are not spending a great deal of money and resources fighting to collect money from conquered kingdoms, nor will they have to worry about an uprising.

**3. a) What job employed the most people in ancient Egypt?**

Farming employed the most people in ancient Egypt.

**b) What rights did Egyptian women have?**

Women had the right to own property, make contracts, and divorce their husbands.

**c) Why do you think scribes were so honoured in Egyptian society?**

Scribes were honoured because they had a skill that not many other Egyptians had: the ability to read/write. Scribes were given a great deal of responsibility – they were in charge of government records, money, and the preservation of their culture through recording their religious and literary texts.

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**1. a) What are the hieroglyphics?**

Hieroglyphics are one of the world’s first writing systems. This is what Egyptians called their system of writing.

**b) How was hieroglyphic writing different from our writing today? From cuneiform used by the Mesopotamians?**

Hieroglyphs are different from our writing today in that they featured pictures that could represent both ideas or sounds. It also didn’t matter which direction they were written in, where all of our writing goes from left to right.

It is different from cunieform in that cunieform used symbols to represent syllables from their language, so their writing could express complex ideas. Also, cunieform was done using a stylus to carve into clay tablets, where Egyptians could use ink on papyrus paper.

**c) Why was finding the Rosetta Stone so important to scholars?**

The Rosetta Stone was so important to scholars because it gave them the ability to translate hieroglyphs. On the Rosetta Stone the same message was written in hieroglyphs, Greek, and a later form of Egyptian. Because scholars knew two of these languages, they were able to find out what the Egyptian hieroglyphics symbols stood for.

**2. a) What were two ways the Egyptians decorated their temples?**

Egyptians decorated their temples with paintings and carvings.

**b) Why were tombs filled with art, jewlry, and other treasures?**

People believed that temples were homes of the gods. People would go there to worship, offer gifts, and ask for favours. It would be important to make the god’s home look lavish to keep their favour.

**c) Why do you think pharaohs like Ramses the Great built huge temples?**

Pharaohs built huge temples to reflect their accomplishments and importance during their reign. Huge temples helped reinforce the idea of their divine power. Huge temples would also help please the gods and ensure the pharaoh’s place back among the gods in his death.

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**1. a) On which river did Kush develop?**

Kush developed on the Nile river.

**b) How did Nubia’s natural resources influence the early history of Kush?**

Nubia had many natural resources such as gold, copper, and stone. They used this as well as slaves, ebony, and ivory to trade with their neighbours to the north, the Egyptians. The richer Kush got, the bigger their army was. This made Egypt nervous and in 1500 BC, the pharaoh, Thutmose I, conquered all of Nubia north of the Fifth Cataract and made it part of Egypt.

**2. a) Who was Piankhi and why was he important to the history of Kush?**

Piankhi (751-716 BC) was one of Kush’s most successful military leaders. He was important to the history of Kush because he had fought and conquered Egypt expanding his kingdom north from Napata all the way to the Nile Delta.

**b) What were some elements of Egyptian culture that became popular in Kush?**

Some elements of Egyptian culture that became popular in Kush was using pyramids to bury their rulers. They also built new temples to Egyptian gods and restored old temples. The Kushites also worked to preserve Egyptian writings. Kush also used Egyptian as the language of the region, their people used Egyptian names, they wore Egyptian-style clothing, and adapted religious practices.

**c. Why is the 25th Dynasty significant in the history of both Egypt and Kush?**

It was significant because Egyptian culture thrived in Kush during this time, despite Egypt being weak.

**3. a) What advantages did the location of Meroe offer to the Kushites?**

Meroe’ location on the east bank of the Nile helped its economy to grow due to it being next to large deposits of gold, forests of ebony, and rich iron ore deposits. This enabled the Kushites to develop Africa’s first iron industry. Meroe also became a center of a large trade network which enabled them to use the Nile to trade goods to different countries around the Mediterranean.

**b) How were Kushite and Egyptian cultures similar?**

The two cultures were similar in that Kushite temples often resembled those in Egypt, many Kushites worshipped Egyptian gods and wore Egyptian clothing. Kushite rulers also used the title “pharaoh” and were buried in pyramids.

**4. a) Who conquered Kush in the 300s AD?**

In 350 AD, King Ezana of Askum and his army destroyed Meroe and took over Kush.

**b) What was the impact of new trading routes on Kush?**

New trading routes hurt Kush’s economy in that merchants could bypass Kush to trade in other areas such as Aksum (a kingdom in Ethiopia along the Red Sea) and Eritrea. This caused Kush to lose much of its wealth and military might.