



Unit 4: Ancient Egypt - A Thriving Civilization

Subject Area: Social Studies	Course: 6th Grade Social Studies		
Unit Title: Ancient Egypt - A Thriving Civilization	Grade(s): 6	Start: 1/3	End: 2/28
Unit Summary: In this unit students will analyze the factors that help develop social structures in ancient civilizations and in current communities today. Students will study the role of the Nile in Ancient Egypt, along with the Ancient Egyptian religion to analyze how these elements influenced the formation of social structure within Ancient Egypt. Students will assess the role/power women played in Ancient Egyptian society. Then students will assess the role of women in today's societies and analyze the power that women hold today.			

Stage 1: Desired Results

Massachusetts Learning Standards

- 6.T3a.1 On a physical map, use cardinal directions, map scales, key/legend, and title to locate important physical features of the region (e.g. the Indian Ocean, the Black Sea, Aegean Sea, Mediterranean Sea, Red Sea, Arabian Peninsula, the Persian Gulf, the Nile, Tigris, and Euphrates Rivers, the Strait of Gibraltar, the Bosphorus, and the Suez Canal). Use other kinds of maps (e.g., landform, population, climate) to determine important characteristics of this region.
- 6.T3c.1 Identify the locations of ancient Upper and Lower Egypt; and explain what the terms “Upper” and “Lower” mean in this context.
- 6.T3c.2 Describe the significance of the Nile River to ancient Egyptians.
- 6.T3c.4 Analyze the role of the pharaoh as god/king, and describe how pharaohs were represented in painting and sculpture, the concept of dynasties, and significant acts of at least one pharaoh or queen (e.g., Khufu, Akhnaten, Ramses II, Nefertiti, Cleopatra).
- 6.T3c.5 Describe the relationships among social classes (e.g., the relationship of the pharaoh to priests, nobles, government officials, soldiers, scribes, artisans, farmers, and peasants, laborers, and slaves).
- 6.T3c.6 Describe the polytheistic religion of ancient Egypt with respect to beliefs about death, proper behavior, the afterlife, mummification, and the roles of deities.



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- 6.T3c.7 Summarize important achievements of the Old, Middle, and New Kingdoms (e.g., the agricultural system; knowledge of mathematics, astronomy, the invention of a calendar; the invention of papyrus and hieroglyphic writing; the organization of monumental building projects such as the Pyramids and Sphinx at Giza; the centralization of government and military power).

Transfer (Authentic, relevant application of learning to new situations)

Students will be able to independently use their learning to...

- Recognize and take action against unfair treatment of marginalized groups, with a particular emphasis on gender

Meaning

Enduring Understandings

Students will understand that...

- Religious Beliefs influence the social structure of Ancient Egypt
- The Nile River was the essential element to Egyptian life
- Genders are valued differently in different societies and there is still work to be done to create greater gender equity.

Essential Questions

Students will consider...

- How did social class affect daily life in ancient history?
- How did Ancient Egypt's rigid class structure affect its social and cultural development?
- Why was religion important to the Egyptian way of life?
- What can an ancient world teach us about humanity?
- How do we see ancient Egypt's influence in the modern world?

Acquisition

Knowledge

Students will know...

Skills

Students will be skilled at...



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Physical and political geography of North Africa:

- Describe the physical and political geography of North Africa, including its major bodies of water, rivers, and deserts.
- Explain how the physical geography of North Africa has influenced human settlement patterns and ways of life in the region.

Geography of Egypt, including Upper vs. Lower Egypt:

- Identify the geographic features and regions of Egypt, including Upper and Lower Egypt, the Nile River, Nile River Delta, and Sahara Desert.
- Analyze how the geography of Egypt has influenced its culture, politics, and economy.

Social Structure of Ancient Egypt and religious influences:

- Explain the social structure of Ancient Egypt, including the roles of different social classes, artisans, peasants, and viziers.
- Analyze the religious influences on Ancient Egyptian society, including beliefs about the afterlife, embalming, and the use of sarcophagi.

Legacy of Egyptian achievements:

- Describe the achievements of Ancient Egypt, including advances in art, architecture, science, and engineering.
- Analyze the impact of Ancient Egypt on world history and culture, including its lasting influence on Western civilization.

Key vocabulary:

- Define key vocabulary terms related to Ancient Egypt, including papyrus, recede, silt, topography, vegetation,

- Organize applicable evidence into a coherent argument about the past
- Explain the concept of time, sequence, continuity, and change in historical events.
- Identify cause-and-effect relationships and understand how events are interconnected.
- Read and comprehend historical texts, maps, and graphs, extracting key details.
- Analyze different historical accounts and interpretations, recognizing that different perspectives exist based on the viewpoints of those involved.
- Differentiate between primary and secondary sources and understand how to use them in historical inquiry.
- Develop the ability to construct a historical argument, supporting their claims with evidence from sources.
- Compare and contrast different historical periods, cultures, and societies to understand their similarities and differences.
- Formulate questions about historical events and conduct research to find answers.
- Explore how geography affects historical events and developments.



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Old Kingdom, Middle Kingdom, New Kingdom, pyramid, afterlife, alliance, ankh, dynasty, and obelisk.

- Use these vocabulary terms to communicate effectively about the history and geography of Ancient Egypt.