ANCIENT EGYPT

NOTES
GEOGRAPHY

- Nile River: flows north, 4160 miles long, longest river in the world.
- Egypt part of Sahara Desert.
- Silt from Nile makes soil fertile.
Egyptians use Nile for irrigation, dams, dikes, water storage.

Upper Egypt: Southern Egypt, up the Nile (which flows north).

Lower Egypt: Northern Egypt, mainly the fertile delta.
RELIGION

- Polytheism: Belief in gods in that control nature.
- Hapi=flood god, Ra=sun god, Osiris=god of afterlife, Horus=sky god
- Used mummification to preserve body for afterlife.
- Egyptians believed that kings/pharaohs were living gods that lived forever.
Egyptians grew grains such as wheat and barley.
Traded with southwestern Asia, eastern Africa, and eastern Mediterranean.
Nile used for transport of resources like grain, papyrus, linen, pottery & gold.
Bartered for copper, ebony, iron, and wood, which builders & artisans used.
Robbers and pirates made trade dangerous.
SOCIAL CLASSES

- Pharaoh was at top of society.
- Farmers and unskilled workers made up most of Egypt’s population.
- Slaves were common and had some rights.
Most Egyptians did not live in cities, but along river banks.

Women were respected and had rights, but men were more powerful.
GOVERNMENT & LEADERSHIP

- Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt united in 3100 BC.
- First ever nation-state (people governed together, often united by common descent and language).
- 31 total dynasties.
- Had three distinct eras: Old Kingdom, Middle Kingdom, New Kingdom
GOVERNMENT & LEADERSHIP

- Hyksos takes over Upper Egypt.
- Egypt reunites under his rule.
- Thutmose III expands Egypt to its largest size.
- Ramses the Great makes Egypt prosperous before its decline.
- Empire falls around 1075 BC.
ACHIEVEMENTS

✓ World’s first nation-state.
✓ Huge pyramids, temples, monuments still survive.
✓ Detailed records still survive.
ACHIEVEMENTS

- Advancement of agriculture.
- Paper made from Papyrus.
- Ships built for trade along Nile.