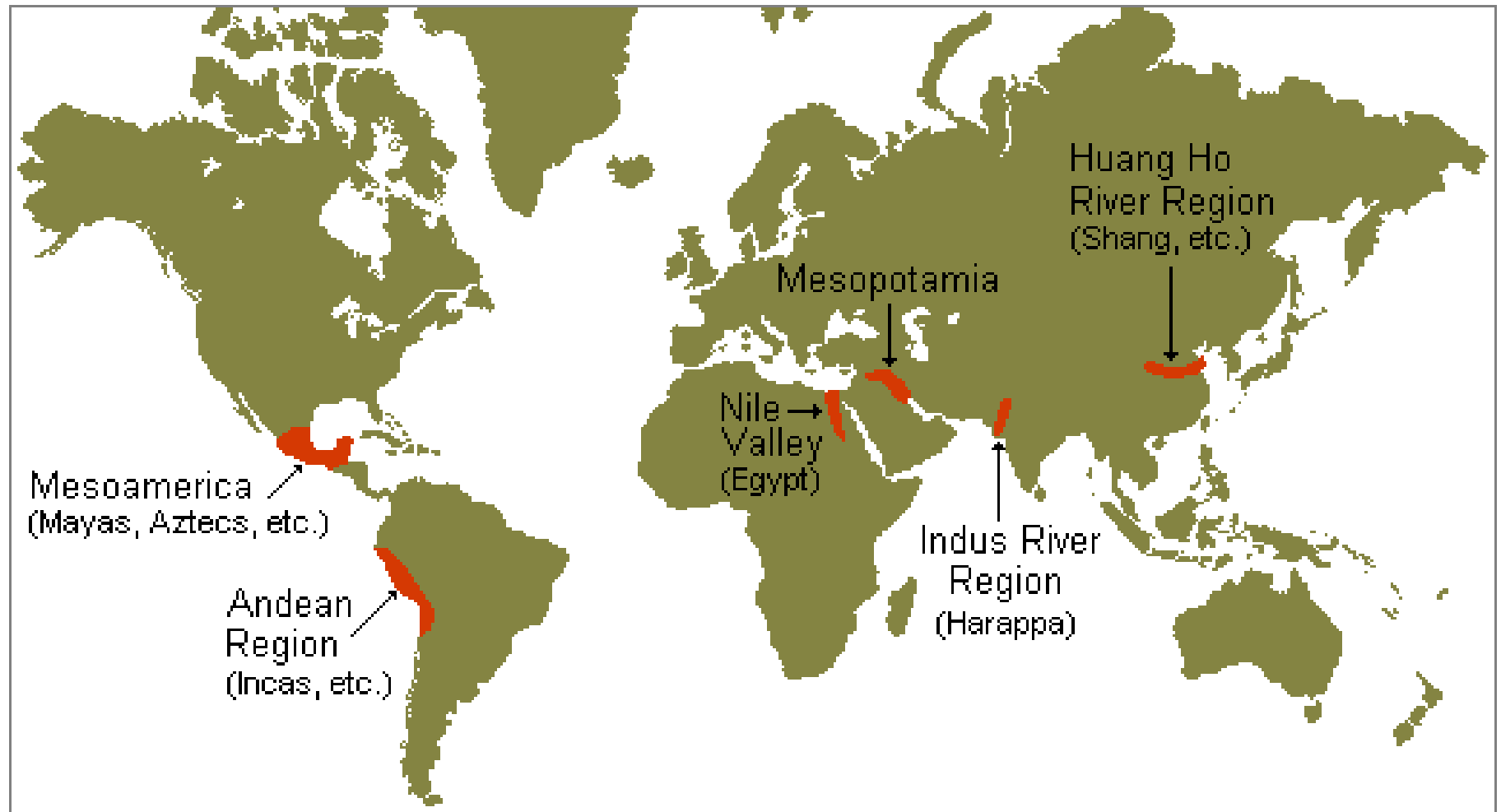


Nile Valley Civilization

Emergence of River Valley Civilizations



Egypt: The Gift of the Nile

- The Nile River is about 4,145 miles long.
- It is the longest river in the world.
- The Nile gave them rich soil to grow crops
- Allowed the creation of a society which produced the wonders of Ancient Egypt
- Nile united the Egyptians and allowed them to travel by waters from north to south.
- Deserts protected them from invaders.
- Unlike Sumer Egypt was not divided into many city states.



Egypt Today



Introduction to the Egyptian Civilization

- Nile Valley civilization developed, as the name suggests, along the banks of the river Nile in Egypt. within a belt of 12 miles wide on both sides of the river about 3500 BC.
- Its long, narrow flood plain was a magnet for life, for the development of stable communities.
- The region was inhabited as far back as 700,000 years ago by Neolithic and Paleolithic Man.
- Nutrient rich silt over the land created ideal conditions for growing wheat, flax and other crops.





Mediterranean Sea

Cyprus Nicosia

Syria

Beirut

Damascus

Baghdad

Nile Fan

Jerusalem

Ammān

Gaza Strip Israel

Jordan

Cairo

Gulf of Aqaba

Gulf of Suez

Libya

Libyan desert

Egypt

Kuwait

Al Kuwait

Al Jubayl

Ad Damman

Al Hofuf

Buraydah

Ar Riyadh

Saudi Arabia

Al Madinah

Jeddah

Taif

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27°14'59.26" N 33°24'34.56" E elev 118 ft

Abha Eye alt 1567.48 mi

Introduction to the Egyptian Civilization

- The entire civilization remained isolated from the rest of the world due to the presence of two large deserts, Libyan desert and Sinai desert.
- Egypt is a hot, arid country. However, the climates of the Nile Delta and the valley of Upper Egypt are different.
- The civilization combined around 3150 BC with the political unification of Upper and Lower Egypt under the first pharaoh, and it developed over the next three millennia.
- Its history occurred in a series of stable Kingdoms, separated by periods of relative instability known as Intermediate Periods.

Introduction to the Egyptian Civilization

- Egypt is rich in building and decorative stone, copper and lead ores, gold, and semiprecious stones
- These natural resources allowed the ancient Egyptians to build monuments, sculptures, statues, make tools, and fashion jewelry.



Ancient Egyptian Jewelry



Egyptian's Architectural Skills

- The architecture include the Great Pyramids and temples.
- Pyramids of Giza & Khufu and temple of Thebes & Karnak are most prominent.
- Building projects were organized and funded by the state for religious and commemorative purposes, but also to reinforce the power of the pharaoh.
- The ancient Egyptians were skilled builders; using simple but effective tools and sighting instruments, architects could build large stone structures with accuracy and precision.

Mega Structures of Egypt



Pyramids of Giza



Great Pyramid of Khufu and
Sphinx

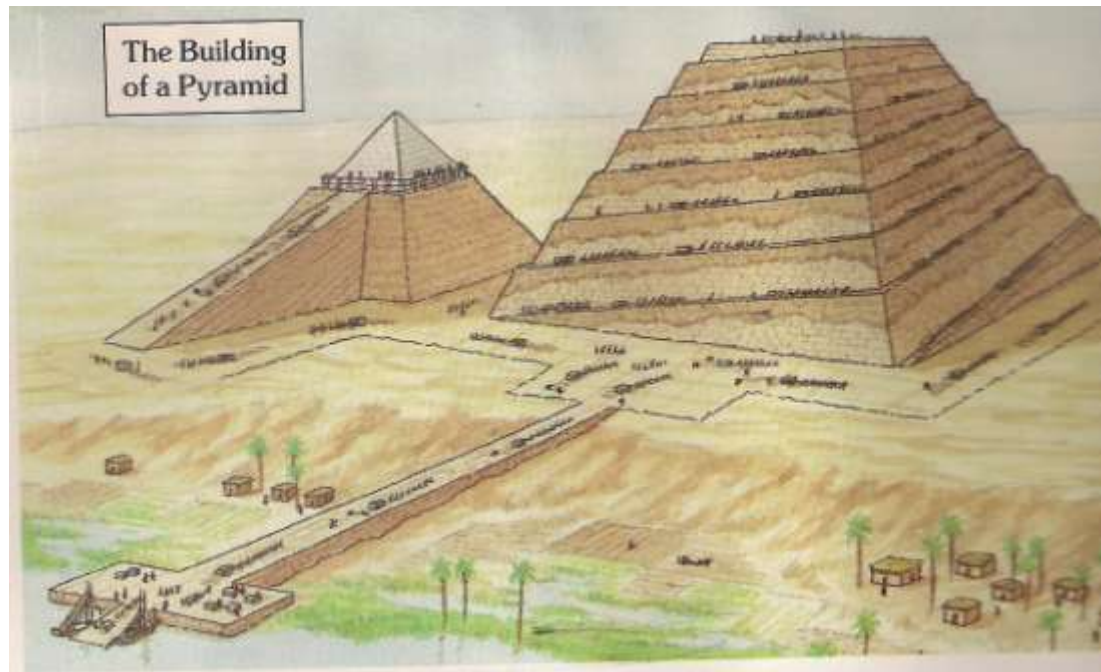
Gaza Pyramids



Statues and Temples



Construction of Pyramids



Important Ancient Constructions



Ruling History of Ancient Egypt

- **The Old Kingdom**
- 2700 B.C.- 2400 B.C.
- **The Middle Kingdom**
- 2100 B.C.-1700 B.C.
- **The New Kingdom**
- 1570 B.C.- 1100 B.C.

Egyptian Pharaohs



Khufu



Menes



Akhenaton



Remises



Tuth 1

Urban Settlements of Nile Valley Civilization

- The earliest cities emerged in this region about 3100 BC and included Memphis, This, Heliopolis, Nekheb, and Thebes.
- The remains of these cities have mostly been covered by silt deposited in the annual floods of Nile river.
- Certain artifacts including writings found are thought to have been borrowed from Mesopotamia.

Urban Settlements of Nile Valley Civilization

- The transition from villages to city appeared to be more gradual in the Nile valley than in Mesopotamia as traces of large cities before 2000 BC are few.
- Capital cities were changed according to ascendancy of the pharaoh. Around 2000 BC Akhenaton was the first capital, Memphis after 2700 BC and Thebes around 2000 BC.

Urban Settlements of Nile Valley Civilization

- The Egyptians were city oriented but their cities were generally small.
- Some cities were built for the construction of pyramids.
- These were never considered as permanent towns and considered as the necropolis or the city for the dead. Examples are Giza and Kahun.

Building & Planning Concepts

- The Egyptians were masters in geometry, building construction and magic.
- They constructed grand temples, pyramids. Artificial hills, avenues and statues of colossal type.
- They adopted grid iron pattern for their road network for the first time.
- The cities were normally fortified.

Zoning, Site Planning & Civic Design

- For the first time they introduced the idea of zoning as their cities were divided into sectors.
- The Egyptians were quite aware of the site planning aspects as they selected high lands for sacred palaces called Acropolis consisting of temples, grain stores, palaces, and other important public buildings.
- Symmetry about the main axis between Luxor and Karnak temple is a fine example of civic design.
- Both temples are joined by a paved causeway lined with sphinx on both sides.
- Semna fortress was built on strategic location.

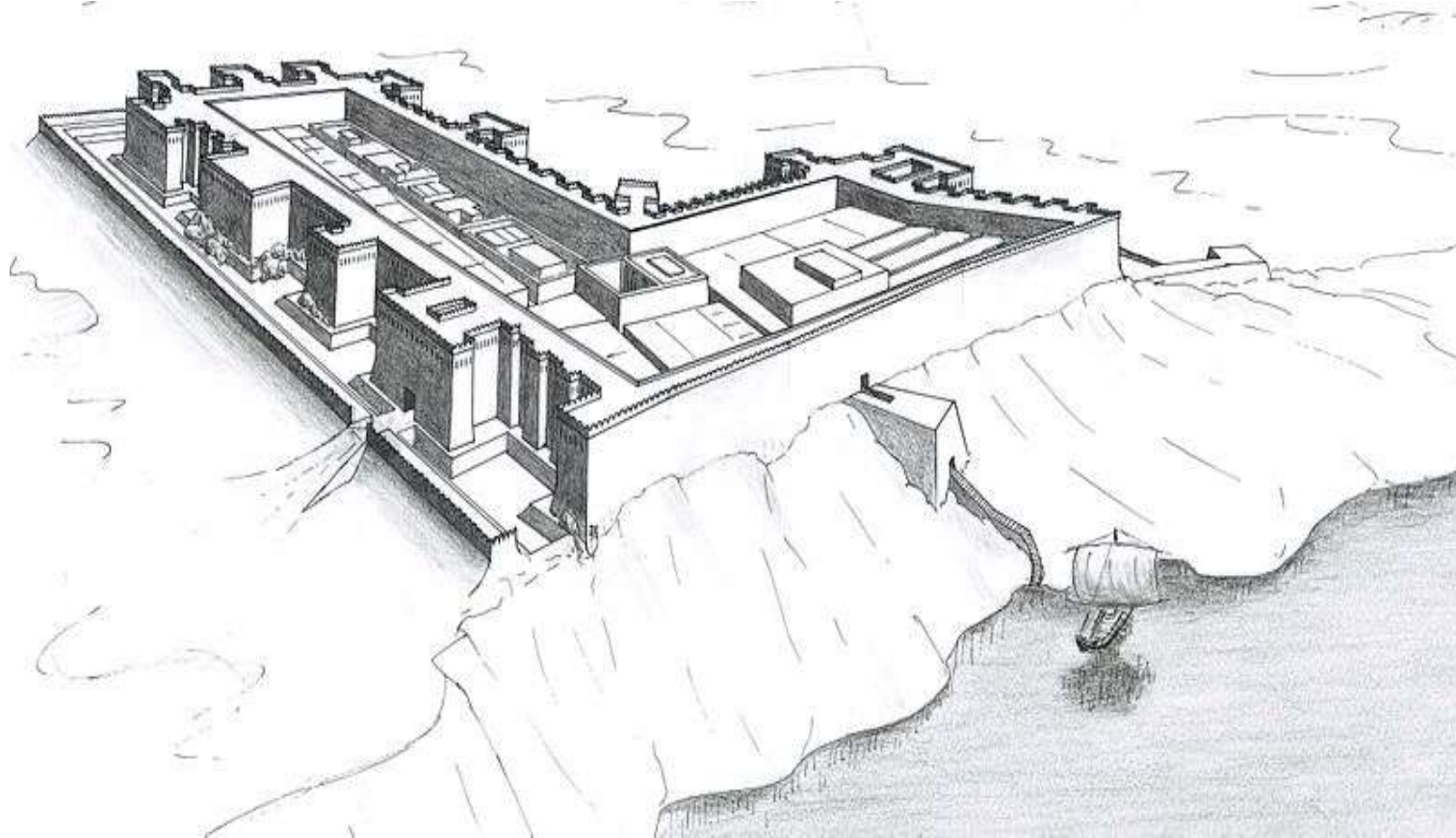
Luxor Temple



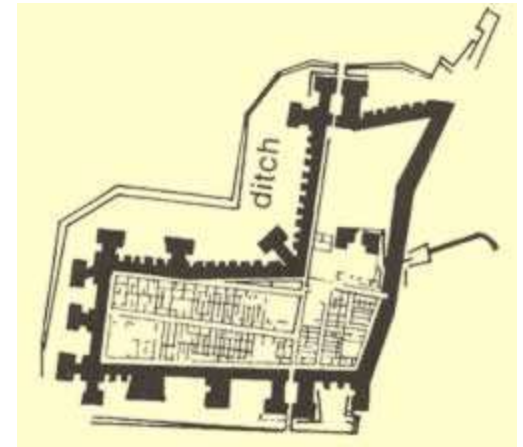
Karnak Temple



Semna Fortress



Semna Fortresses



House Designs

- The individual houses were single storey built with sun dried bricks comprising two to four rooms with courtyard.
- In later stages double storey houses were also constructed with burnt bricks and stones.

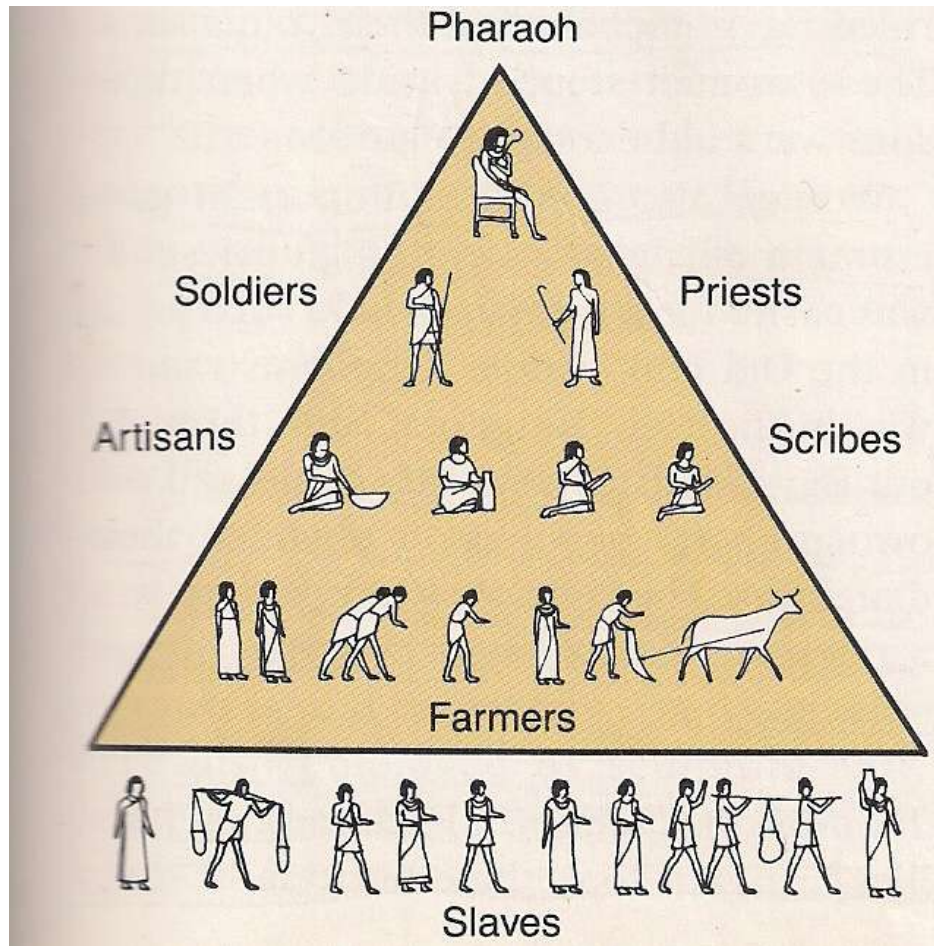
Social Structures

There was a social stratification or an emerging division of labor. The major classes were

- Priests(ruling class)
- Magicians
- Clerks
- Soldiers
- Merchants
- Agriculturists
- Slaves

The division of cities was also done on the basis of social classes.

Social Pyramid



Social Structures

- The Egyptian Pharaohs were the most powerful people in Egypt and also the political and religious leaders of Egypt.
- Men and women, including people from all social classes except slaves, were equal under the law, and even the lowliest peasant was entitled to petition the vizier and his court for redress.

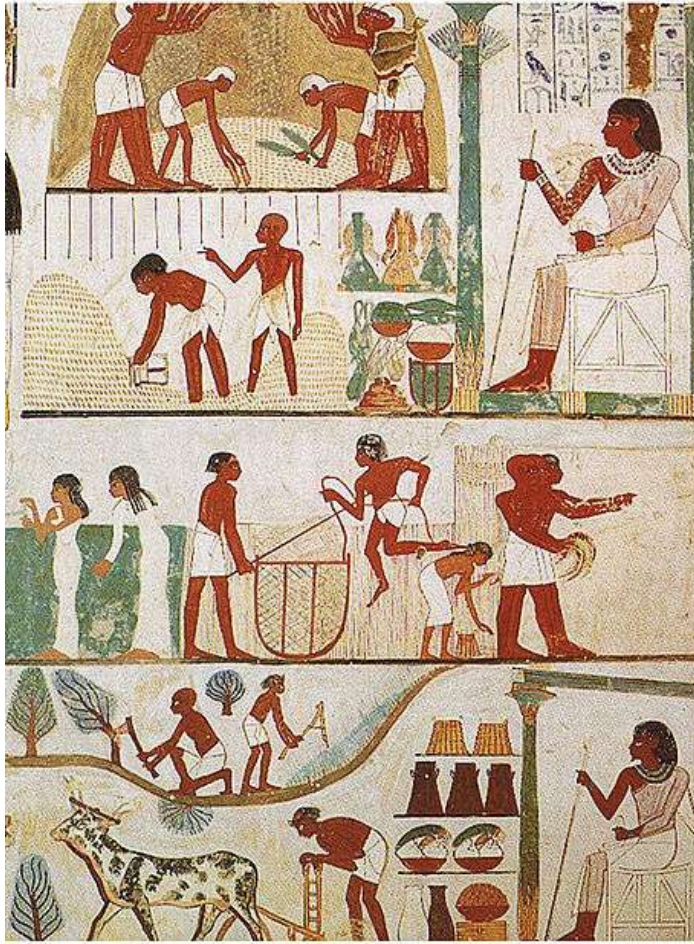
Social Structures

- The ancient Egyptians believed in immortality after death.
- Burial customs involved preserving the body by mummification, performing burial ceremonies, and interring, along with the body, goods to be used by the deceased in the afterlife.

Egyptian Mummies



Life Style of Ancient Egyptians



Administration and Economy

- The ancient Egyptians were able to produce an abundance of food, allowing the population to devote more time and resources to cultural, technological, and artistic pursuits.
- Land management was crucial in ancient Egypt because taxes were assessed based on the amount of land a person owned.
- The ancient Egyptians engaged in trade with their foreign neighbors.

Administration and Economy

- The king was the supreme military commander and head of the government.
- In charge of the administration was his second in command, the vizier, who acted as the king's representative and coordinated land surveys, the treasury, building projects, the legal system, and the archives.
- At a regional level, the country was divided into as many as 42 administrative regions each governed by a monarch, who was accountable to the vizier for his jurisdiction.
- The temples formed the backbone of the economy. Not only were they houses of worship, but were also responsible for collecting and storing the nation's wealth in a system of granaries and treasuries administered by overseers, who redistributed grain and goods.

Administration and Economy

- Most of the Egyptian craftsman were usually trained carefully, skilled in their crafts, well respected and had very comfortable lifestyles.
- They also transported spices, jewellery, animals and surprisingly people.
- Egyptians did trade by camels, ships and horses.
- They also used gold, silver, brass and bronze.
- The farmers and their sons had to work in the farm from dusk till dawn mostly because when tax collecting came along they would have to give the pharaoh a large part of their crops, so they had to make sure they have enough for their family and the pharaoh.
- The ancient Egyptians used unstamped copper money called papyri, they also used forms of gold and silver rings.

What Egypt Gave the World

- Measurements: dividing the land, the calendar, water clock
- Modern writing material: papyrus
- Medicine
- Shipbuilding



Khufu Ship

