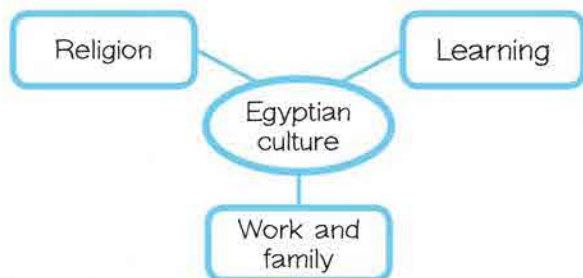



MAIN IDEAS

- 1 **Economics** Egyptians developed a complex society with many different jobs and social roles.
- 2 **Science and Technology** Egyptians made advances in calendars, geometry, medicine, and other areas.
- 3 **Belief Systems** Egyptians believed in many gods and a happy life after death.

TAKING NOTES

Reading Skill: Categorizing Sorting information into groups helps you understand patterns in history. In Lesson 2, look for three categories of Egyptian culture and details about them. Record the information on a web diagram.



 Skillbuilder Handbook, page R6



▲ **Cat Mummy** Some Egyptians made their dead pets into mummies and gave them a formal burial. Cats were especially honored in Egypt.

Words to Know

Understanding the following words will help you read this lesson:

formal carried out in a ceremonial manner (page 156)

*The priest obeyed the church's **formal** rituals as he performed the service.*

garment a piece of clothing (page 156)

*The **garments** that priests wore were made of linen.*

deed an action done by a person (page 160)

*People were judged more by their **deeds** than by their words.*

Life in Ancient Egypt

TERMS & NAMES

scribe
hieroglyph
papyrus
afterlife
embalm
mummy

Build on What You Know As you have seen, Egypt prospered along the Nile. This prosperity made life easier and provided greater opportunities for many Egyptians.

Work and Family Life

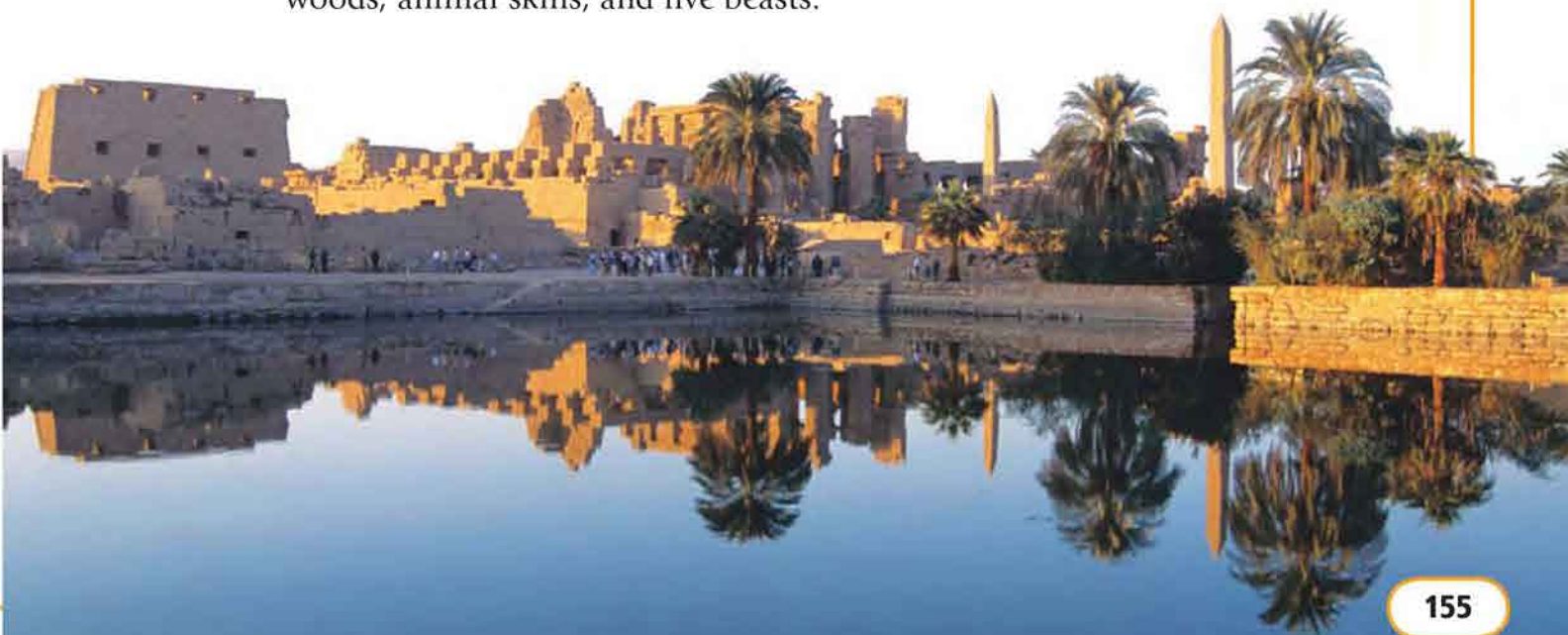
- 1 ESSENTIAL QUESTION** How did work and social roles affect people in ancient Egypt?

When farmers produce food surpluses, the society's economy begins to expand. Cities emerge as centers of culture and power, and people learn to do jobs that do not involve agriculture. For example, some ancient Egyptians learned to be **scribes**, people whose job was to write and keep records.

Specialized Jobs As Egyptian civilization grew more complex, people took on jobs other than that of a farmer or scribe. Some skilled artisans erected stone or brick houses and temples. Other artisans made pottery, incense, mats, furniture, linen clothing, sandals, or jewelry.

A few Egyptians traveled to the upper Nile to trade with other Africans. These traders took Egyptian products such as scrolls, linen, gold, and jewelry. They brought back exotic woods, animal skins, and live beasts.

Luxor, Egypt Skilled artisans helped to build this temple and the shafts with pointed tops, which are called obelisks. ▼



Rulers and Priests As Egypt grew, so did its need to organize. Egyptians created a government that divided the empire into 42 provinces. Many officials worked to keep the provinces running smoothly. Egypt also created an army to defend itself.

One of the highest jobs in Egypt was to be a priest. Priests followed formal rituals and took care of the temples. Before entering a temple, a priest bathed and put on special linen garments and white sandals. Priests cleaned the sacred statues in temples, changed their clothes, and even fed them meals.

Egyptian Social Roles

Pharaoh The ruler, called the pharaoh, was above all other people because he or she was considered a god.

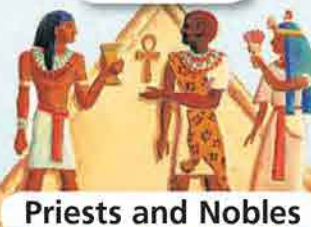


Pharaoh

SKILLBUILDER INTERPRETING VISUALS

What activities do you see being performed in this chart? At what level of the pyramid is most of the hard physical labor done?

Priests The priests cared for the temples and held ceremonies to keep the gods happy.



Priests and Nobles

Scribes The scribes were trained in the art of writing and record keeping.



Scribes and Government Officials

Farmers, Laborers, and Slaves The largest segment of the population was made up of farmers, laborers, and slaves.



Craftspeople and Merchants



Farmers



Laborers and Slaves

Together, the priests and the ruler held ceremonies to please the gods. Egyptians believed that if the gods were angry, the Nile would not flood. As a result, crops would not grow, and people would die. So the ruler and the priests tried hard to keep the gods happy. By doing so, they hoped to maintain the social and political order.

Slaves Slaves were at the bottom of society. In Egypt, people became slaves if they owed a debt, committed a crime, or were captured in war. Egyptian slaves were usually freed after a period of time. One exception was the slaves who had to work in the mines. Many died from the exhausting labor.

Life for Women Egypt was one of the best places in the ancient world to be a woman. Unlike other ancient African cultures, in Egyptian society men and women had fairly equal rights. For example, they could both own and manage their own property.

The main job of most women was to care for their children and home, but some did other jobs too. Some women wove cloth. Others worked with their husbands in fields or workshops. Some women, such as Queen Tiy, even rose to important positions in the government.

Childhood Children in Egypt played with toys such as dolls, animal figures, board games, and marbles. Their parents made the toys from wood or clay. Boys and girls also played rough physical games with balls made of leather or reeds.

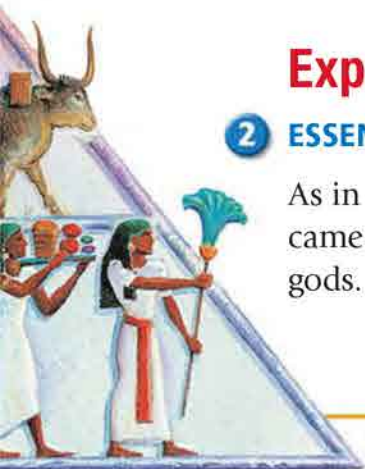
Boys and some girls from wealthy families went to schools run by scribes or priests. Most other children learned their parents' jobs. Almost all Egyptians married when they were in their early teens.

REVIEW What were the levels of Egyptian society?

Expanding Knowledge

2 ESSENTIAL QUESTION How did learning advance in ancient Egypt?

As in many ancient societies, much of the knowledge of Egypt came about as priests studied the world to find ways to please the gods. Other advances came about because of practical discoveries.



Astronomy Egyptian priests studied the sky as part of their religion. About 5,000 years ago, they noticed that a star now called Sirius (SIHR•ee•uhs) appeared shortly before the Nile began to flood. The star returned to the same position in 365 days. Based on that, Egyptians developed the world's first practical calendar.

Geometry The Egyptians developed some of the first geometry. Each year the Nile's floods washed away land boundaries. To restore property lines, surveyors measured the land by using ropes that were knotted at regular intervals.

Geometric shapes such as squares and triangles were sacred to Egyptians. Architects used them in the design of royal temples and monuments.

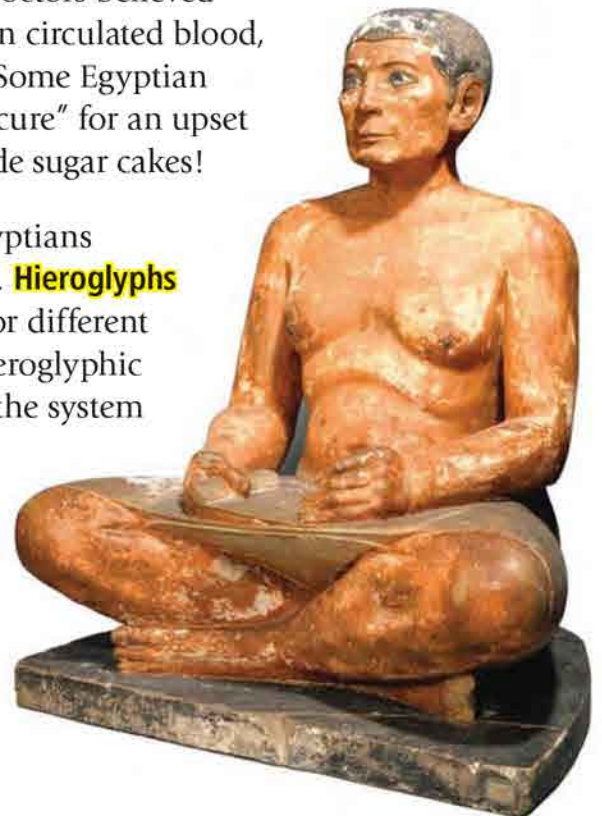
Medicine Egyptian doctors often prepared dead bodies for burial, so they knew the parts of the body. That knowledge helped them perform some of the world's first surgery. Some doctors specialized in using medicines made of herbs.

Egyptian medicine was far from perfect. Doctors believed that the heart controlled thought and the brain circulated blood, which is the opposite of what is known now. Some Egyptian treatments would raise eyebrows today. One "cure" for an upset stomach was to eat a hog's tooth crushed inside sugar cakes!

Hieroglyphs Beginning about 3000 B.C., Egyptians developed a writing system using hieroglyphs. **Hieroglyphs** (HY•uhr•uh•GLIHFS) are pictures that stand for different words or sounds. Early Egyptians created a hieroglyphic system with about 700 characters. Over time the system grew to include more than 6,000 symbols.

The Egyptians also developed a paper-like material called **papyrus** (puh•PY•ruhs) from a reed of the same name. Egyptians cut the stems into strips, pressed them, and dried them into sheets that could be rolled into scrolls. Papyrus scrolls were light and easy to carry. With them, Egyptians created some of the first books.

REVIEW What advances in learning did the Egyptians make?



▲ **Scribe** A person who wanted to be a scribe had to study many years to learn all of the hieroglyphs.

Primary Source

Hieroglyphs

The ancient Egyptians used hieroglyphs in many ways, as shown in this carving of Senusret I, a ruler from the 1900s B.C.

- They could be simple picture writing. For example, a wavy line might mean "water."
- Some pictures stood for ideas. A circle often meant Re, the sun god.
- Finally, some signs also came to represent sounds. For example, the signs below represent the name of Cleopatra, a foreign queen who would later rule Egypt.



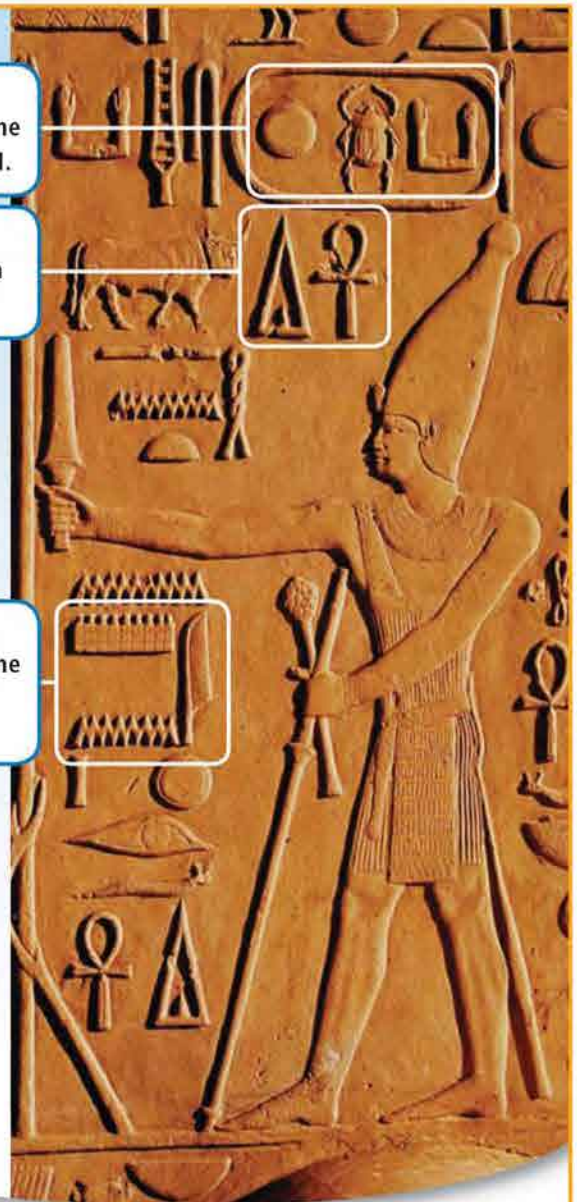
DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTION

What do you think is the purpose of the hieroglyphs on this carving?

These symbols represent the name of ruler Senusret I.

These pictures stand for the idea "given life."

These symbols represent the name of the Egyptian god Amon.



Beliefs and Religion

3 ESSENTIAL QUESTION What religious beliefs did Egyptians hold?

We know from their writing and their art that, in general, the Egyptians had a positive view of life. The black land provided most of the Egyptians' needs. As a result, they did not have to struggle to make a living.

Life After Death Their positive outlook shaped their religion and led them to believe that the gods favored them. Egyptians believed that their prosperity could continue with a happy afterlife. An **afterlife** is a life believed to follow death. Not every ancient culture shared Egyptians' beliefs. For example, the Sumerians thought that the afterlife was miserable.

Vocabulary Strategy

Afterlife is a **compound word**. You can divide it into the words *after* and *life*. An afterlife is a life believed to follow death.



▲ **Judgment of the Dead** Egyptians believed that bad deeds made a heart heavy. They thought that the god Anubis weighed each dead person's heart, as shown in this Egyptian art. If it was lighter than a feather, the reward was a happy afterlife. If the heart was heavier than a feather, Anubis fed it to a monster.

Many Gods As you have learned in Chapter 3, polytheism is a belief in many gods. The Egyptians worshiped gods that were related to the afterlife and to parts of nature—such as the sun, the river, and plant life. Some of the most important Egyptian gods included

- Re (ray)—the sun god (later called Amon-Re)
- Osiris (oh•SY•rihs)—a god who judged Egyptians after death
- Isis (EYE•sihs)—a fertility goddess who was Osiris' wife
- Anubis (uh•NOO•bihs)—a god of the dead

Making Mummies Egyptians thought they would need their bodies in the afterlife, so they embalmed dead people.

Embalm means to preserve a body after death. First, embalmers removed all organs except the heart. Next, they filled the body with a mixture of salt and herbs to create a mummy. A **mummy** is a body that has been dried so it won't decay. When dry, the mummy was wrapped in hundreds of yards of linen strips. The whole process of embalming and wrapping took about 70 days. Embalming was expensive, and not everyone could afford it.

P Primary Source Handbook

See the excerpt from the *Book of the Dead*, page R39.

The mummy was placed in a coffin inside a tomb. The tomb also held everyday objects, furniture, and food. Scenes from the person's life were painted on the walls. The Egyptians expected these pictures to become real so that the dead person could use them in the afterlife.

REVIEW What did the Egyptians think happened after death?

Anubis Egyptians believed the jackal-headed god Anubis weighed their hearts after death. ▼

Lesson Summary

- The Egyptians developed a calendar, early geometry, medical knowledge, and hieroglyphic writing.
- Ancient Egypt had a complex society with specialized jobs. Women and slaves lived better there than in many other ancient lands.
- The Egyptians believed in many gods related to nature. They also believed in a happy afterlife.

Why It Matters Now . . .

The ancient Egyptians were the first people known to develop a formal religion based on a belief in the afterlife. Such a belief is part of most religions today.



2 Lesson Review

Terms & Names

1. Explain the importance of

scribe	papyrus	embalm
hieroglyph	afterlife	mummy

Using Your Notes

Categorizing Use your completed web diagram to answer the following question:

2. What jobs did Egyptians hold?



Main Ideas

3. Why were some Egyptians able to become artisans?
4. How were hieroglyphs used?
5. What duties did priests have?

Critical Thinking

6. **Understanding Cause and Effect** Why were Egyptian discoveries in astronomy and medicine important?
7. **Making Generalizations** How did the Nile affect the Egyptians' view of the afterlife?

Activity

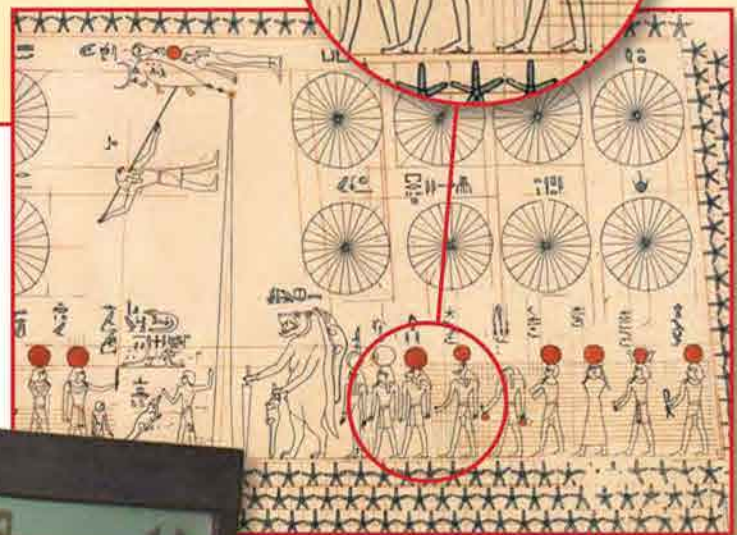
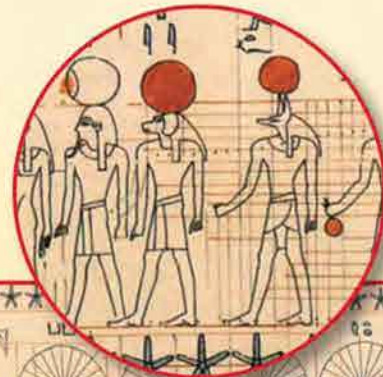
Writing in Hieroglyphs Use the hieroglyphs shown on page 159 to write a few words.



The Legacy of Egypt

Purpose: To learn about the impact that Egyptian knowledge and learning have on people today

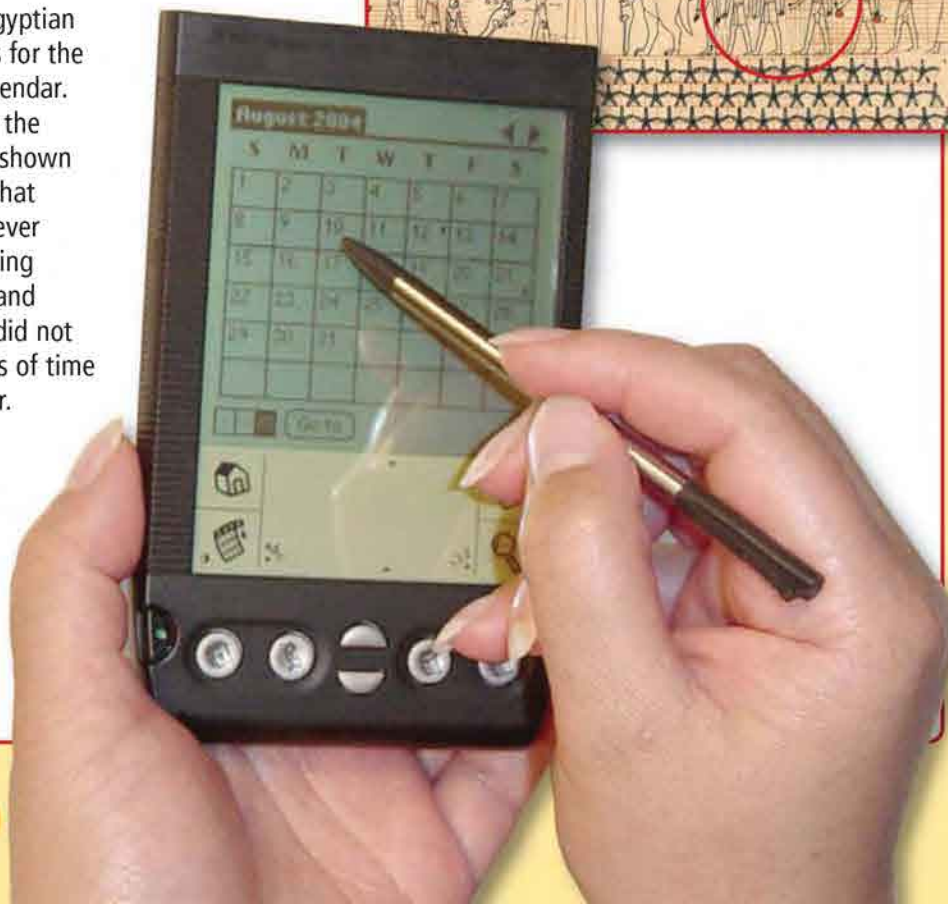
You may feel little connection with the ancient Egyptians as you learn about their civilization. Yet our civilization owes a great deal to the Egyptians. They left behind a rich heritage in science and mathematics that we continue to build on today.



Calendars

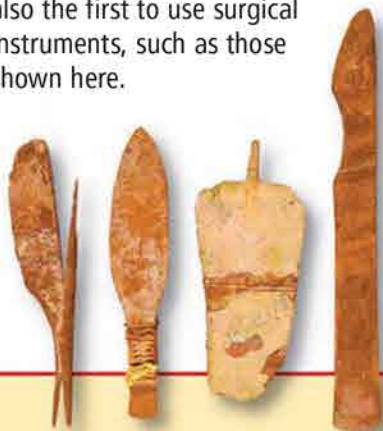
► **Past** Around 4000 B.C., the Egyptians developed a 365-day calendar based on the star Sirius. This fragment from a tomb painting shows the Egyptian concept of time. The red circles represent the months of the year. The large circles, which are divided into 24 hours, symbolize religious holidays.

► **Present** The Egyptian calendar is the basis for the modern Western calendar. Still, the calendar in the handheld computer shown here can do things that ancient Egyptians never dreamed of—including measuring minutes and seconds. Egyptians did not have names for units of time smaller than an hour.



Medical Knowledge

▼ **Past** Egyptian doctors treated physical injuries, such as wounds and broken bones, much like doctors today. They examined the patient, conducted tests, and made their diagnosis. Egyptians were also the first to use surgical instruments, such as those shown here.



► **Present** Egyptian medicine provided the foundation for modern medicine. Our instruments have become more sophisticated, such as those used for laser surgery. But doctors today still use the three categories that Egyptians used to describe a patient's condition: favorable, uncertain, and unfavorable.



Architecture

► **Past** Egyptians measured fields using such geometric shapes as triangles. Architects also used this shape when they built their great stone pyramids. You will learn more about Egyptian pyramids in the next lesson.

▼ **Present** The magnificent pyramids of ancient Egypt have left their mark on Western architecture. The glass pyramid at the Louvre Museum in Paris is just one example of Egyptian influence.



Activities

1. **TALK ABOUT IT** What do these advances in knowledge and learning tell you about ancient Egyptian civilization?
2. **WRITE ABOUT IT** What will our civilization be remembered for? Write a paragraph telling what you think our legacy will be.

