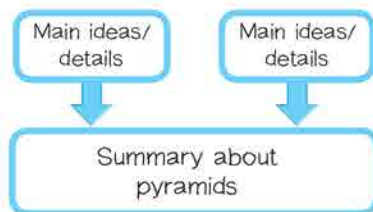


MAIN IDEAS

- 1 **Government** Egypt united under a central government that ruled for centuries.
- 2 **Culture** Pharaoh Khufu built a huge monument to proclaim his glory.
- 3 **Government** Egypt entered a period of change as centralized rule weakened.

TAKING NOTES

Reading Skill: Summarizing To summarize means to condense information into fewer words. Jot down the main ideas and important details in Lesson 3 in a diagram like the one below. Then use them to help you write a summary of the lesson.



 Skillbuilder Handbook, page R3

Image is not available for electronic use.
Please refer to the image in the textbook.

▲ **Ankh** The ankh (ahnk) was a symbol of life for ancient Egyptians. Tomb art often shows pharaohs and gods holding ankhs.

Words to Know

Understanding the following words will help you read this lesson:

inherit to receive something from a person who has died (page 165)
*When the king died, his son would **inherit** the throne.*

triangle a shape with three sides (page 166)
*Each side of the pyramid was a **triangle**, but the base had four sides.*

portray to show by means of a picture (page 169)
*Artists had to follow rules about how to **portray** humans in their paintings.*

The Pyramid Builders

TERMS & NAMES

dynasty
succession
pharaoh
pyramid
step pyramid
Khufu

Build on What You Know You have read about the upper and lower Nile. There were also two kingdoms called Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt. They united into a strong empire.

The Old Kingdom

- 1 ESSENTIAL QUESTION** What kind of government ruled Egypt after it was united?

Legend says a king named Narmer united Upper and Lower Egypt. Some historians think Narmer actually represents several kings who gradually joined the two lands. After Egypt was united, its ruler wore the Double Crown. It combined the red Crown of Lower Egypt with the white Crown of Upper Egypt. (See page 166.)

The First Dynasty The first dynasty of the Egyptian empire began about 2925 B.C. A **dynasty** (DY•nuh•stee) is a line of rulers from the same family. When a king died, one of his children usually took his place as ruler. The order in which members of a royal family inherit a throne is called the **succession**. More than 30 dynasties ruled ancient Egypt.

Historians divide ancient Egyptian dynasties into the Old Kingdom, the Middle Kingdom, and the New Kingdom. The Old Kingdom started about 2575 B.C., when the Egyptian empire was gaining strength.

Pyramids These structures, called pyramids, were built as monuments over the tombs of rulers. ▼





Crown of
Upper Egypt



Crown of
Lower Egypt



Double Crown of
Upper and Lower Egypt

Pharaohs Rule The king of Egypt became known as the **pharaoh** (FAIR•oh). The word *pharaoh* meant “great house,” and it was originally used to describe the king’s palace. Later it became the title of the king himself. The pharaoh ruled from the capital city of Memphis.

The ancient Egyptians thought the pharaoh was a child of the gods and a god himself. Egyptians believed that if the pharaoh and his subjects honored the gods, their lives would be happy. If Egypt suffered hard times for a long period, the people blamed the pharaoh for angering the gods. In such a case, a rival might drive him from power and start a new dynasty.

Because the pharaoh was thought to be a god, government and religion were not separate in ancient Egypt. Priests had much power in the government. Many high officials were priests.

REVIEW How were religion and government linked in ancient Egypt?

Khufu’s Great Pyramid

2 ESSENTIAL QUESTION How did Pharaoh Khufu proclaim his glory?

The first rulers of Egypt were often buried in an underground tomb topped by mud brick. Soon, kings wanted more permanent monuments. They replaced the mud brick with a small pyramid of brick or stone. A **pyramid** (PIHR•uh•mihd) is a structure shaped like a triangle, with four sides that meet at a point.

About 2630 B.C., King Djoser (ZHOH•suh) built a much larger pyramid over his tomb. It is called a **step pyramid** because its sides rise in a series of giant steps. It is the oldest-known large stone structure in the world.

The Great Pyramid About 80 years later, a pharaoh named **Khufu** (KOO•FOO) decided he wanted a monument that would show the world how great he was. He ordered the construction of the largest pyramid ever built. Along its base, each side was about 760 feet long. The core was built from 2.3 million blocks of stone.

Building the Great Pyramid was hard work. Miners cut the huge blocks of stone using copper saws and chisels. These tools were much softer than the iron tools developed later. Other teams of workers pulled the stone slabs up long, sloping ramps to their place on the pyramid. Near the top of the pyramid, the ramps ended. Workers dragged each heavy block hundreds of feet and then set it in place.

Farmers did the heavy labor of hauling stone during the season when the Nile flooded their fields. Skilled stonecutters and overseers worked year-round. The Great Pyramid took nearly 20 years to build. An estimated 20,000 Egyptians worked on it. A city called Giza (GEE•zuh) was built for the pyramid workers and the people who fed, clothed, and housed them.

Visual Vocabulary



pyramid



step pyramid

History Makers

Khufu (ruled during the 2500s B.C.)

Khufu was one child who followed his father's example. His father, Snefru (SNEHF•ROO), was a warrior king who brought prosperity to Egypt. Snefru celebrated his deeds by building the first true pyramid as his burial monument.

Khufu liked the pyramid's design, but he decided that bigger was even better. His Great Pyramid was the tallest structure on Earth for over 4,300 years. Can you imagine the spectacular riches a ruler like that must have included in his tomb? We can only imagine because grave robbers emptied the chambers inside the pyramid long ago. The only object left from Khufu's funeral is a ship discovered in 1954. This 125-foot ship was meant to transport Khufu's soul through the afterlife along the path of the sun god.



Grave Robbers Eventually, Egyptians stopped building pyramids. One reason is that the pyramids drew attention to the tombs inside them. Grave robbers broke into the tombs to steal the treasure buried with the pharaohs. Sometimes they also stole the mummies.

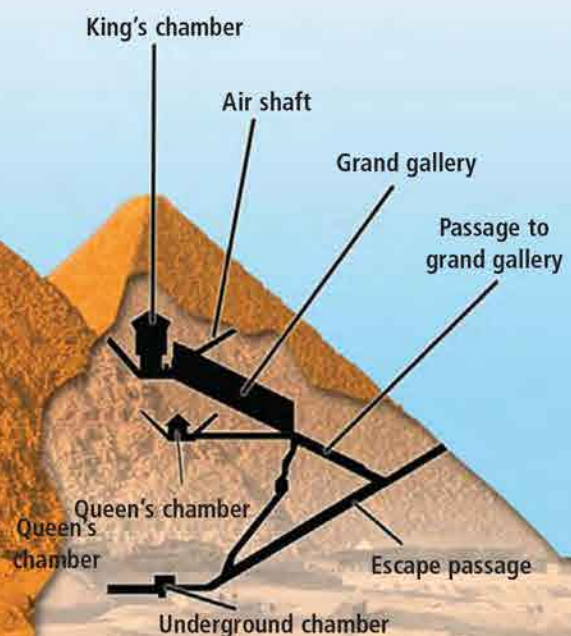
Egyptians believed that if a tomb was robbed, the person buried there could not have a happy afterlife. During the New Kingdom, pharaohs began building more secret tombs in an area called the Valley of the Kings. The burial chambers were hidden in mountains near the Nile. This way, the pharaohs hoped to protect their bodies and treasures from robbers.

Inside the Tombs Both the pyramids and later tombs had several passageways leading to different rooms. This was to confuse grave robbers about which passage to take. Sometimes relatives, such as the queen, were buried in the extra rooms.

Tombs were supposed to be the palaces of pharaohs in the afterlife. Mourners filled the tomb with objects ranging from food to furniture that the mummified pharaoh would need. Some tombs contained small statues that were supposed to be servants for the dead person.

The Great Pyramid of Khufu

INTERACTIVE



Egyptian artists decorated royal tombs with wall paintings and sculptures carved into the walls. Art was meant to glorify both the gods and the dead person. A sculpture of a dead pharaoh had “perfect” features, no matter how he really looked. Artists also followed strict rules about how to portray humans. Paintings showed a person’s head, arms, and legs from the side. They showed the front of the body from the neck down to the waist.

Wall paintings showed pharaohs enjoying themselves so they could have a happy afterlife. One favorite scene was of the pharaoh fishing in a papyrus marsh. Warlike kings were often portrayed in battle. Scenes might also show people providing for the needs of the dead person. Such activities included growing and preparing food, caring for animals, and building boats.

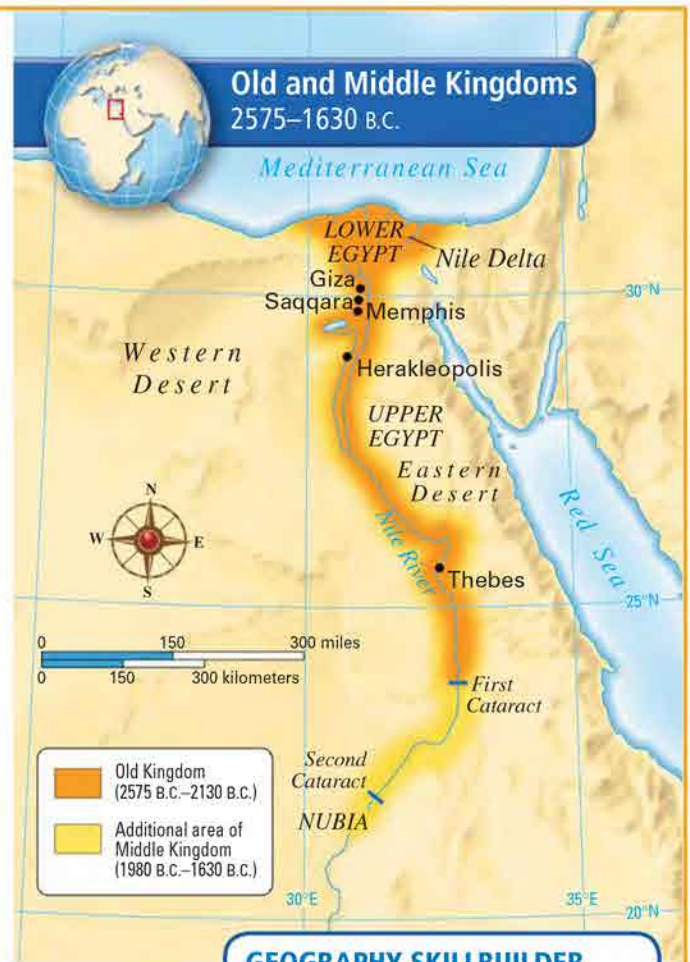
As hard as the pharaohs tried to hide themselves, robbers stole the treasures from almost every tomb. Only a secret tomb built for a New Kingdom pharaoh was ever found with much of its treasure untouched. The dazzling riches found in this tomb show how much wealth the pharaohs spent preparing for the afterlife.

REVIEW Why did Khufu decide to build such a large pyramid?

Middle Kingdom

3 ESSENTIAL QUESTION What happened to Egypt when centralized rule weakened?

By about 2130 B.C., Egyptian kings began to lose their power to local rulers of the provinces. For about 500 more years, the kings held Egypt together, but with a much weaker central government. This period of Egyptian history is called the Middle Kingdom.



GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER INTERPRETING MAPS

Location On what body of water were most Egyptian cities located?

Invasions Rulers during the Middle Kingdom also faced challenges from outside Egypt. A nomadic people called the Hyksos (HIHK•sohs) invaded Egypt from the northeast. Their army conquered by using better weapons and horse-drawn chariots, which were new to Egyptians. After about 100 years, the Egyptians drove out the Hyksos and began the New Kingdom. You will study this period in Lesson 4.

REVIEW How was the Middle Kingdom different from the Old Kingdom?

Lesson Summary

- For thousands of years, Egypt remained a unified country ruled by a series of dynasties.
- The Egyptians built pyramids to honor pharaohs. Tombs inside the pyramids held treasures to be used in the afterlife.
- The Middle Kingdom was a time when the central government lost power to the provinces.

Why It Matters Now . . .

Ancient Egypt still fascinates people. Books and movies portray the mystery of mummies and tombs. People wear jewelry and use household objects modeled on Egyptian artifacts.

3 Lesson Review

Terms & Names

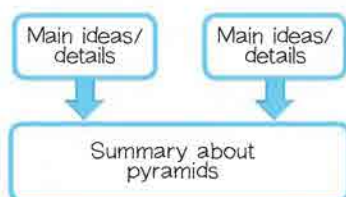
1. Explain the importance of

dynasty	pharaoh	step pyramid
succession	pyramid	Khufu

Using Your Notes

Summarizing Use your completed diagram to answer the following question:

2. What was the purpose of the pyramids?



Main Ideas

3. Why were religion and government not separate in ancient Egypt?
4. What were some of the main features of Egyptian art?
5. What group was able to conquer Egypt during the Middle Kingdom?

Critical Thinking

6. **Evaluating Information** Why did Egypt experience a period of change during the Middle Kingdom?
7. **Making Decisions** Did pyramids accomplish their purpose? Consider what they did for a pharaoh while he lived and after he died.

Activity

Writing a Narrative Look at the illustration on pages 140–141 and reread “The Great Pyramid” on page 167. Write a narrative story about one of the workers.

Make A Pyramid

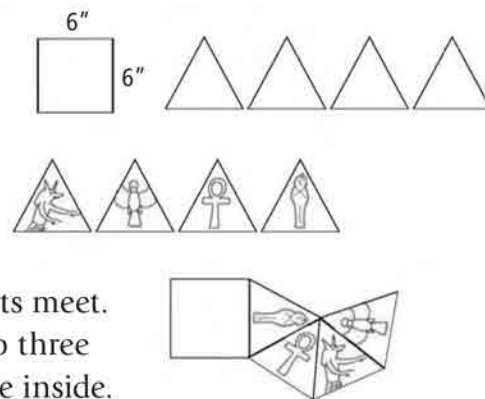
Goal: To understand the art and architecture of ancient Egypt by creating a pyramid and decorating its walls

Prepare

- 1 Research Egyptian pyramids and art. Study the images in this chapter and in books about Egypt.
- 2 Reread the information on pyramids on pages 166–169.

Do the Activity

- 1 Draw and cut out a six-inch square. Then draw and cut out four six-inch equilateral triangles (triangles whose sides are of equal length).
- 2 Decorate one side of each triangle with the type of art you think would be found inside a tomb.
- 3 Tape the four triangles together so that their top points meet. Then tape the bottom sides of three of the triangles to three sides of the square base. Make sure the art goes on the inside.
- 4 Leave one of the triangles unattached to the square so you can see inside.



Follow-Up

- 1 How is an understanding of geometry related to building a pyramid?
- 2 How do the images that you put inside the pyramid relate to Egyptian beliefs?

Extension

Making a Presentation Show your pyramid to the class. Explain why you created your art and how it expresses Egyptian beliefs about life after death.

Materials & Supplies

- yellow or tan construction paper
- ruler and protractor
- scissors and tape
- markers

Optional: Book on Egyptian tombs

