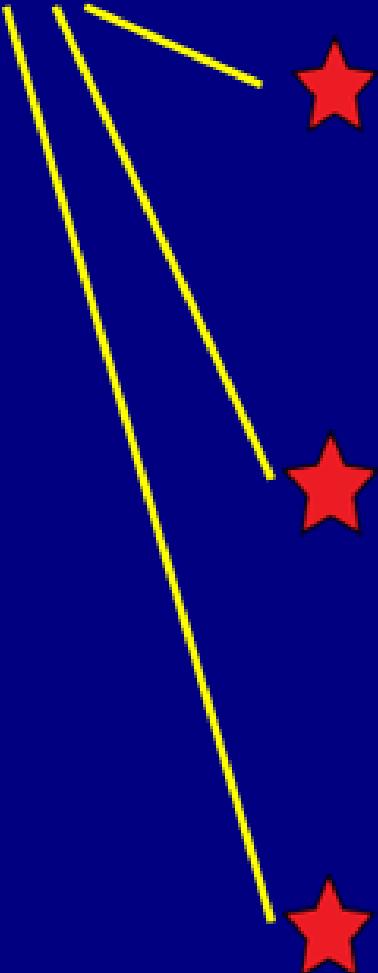


Don't forget the questions on the side!



CHAPTER
2
SECTION 3

Section Summary

KINGDOM ON THE NILE

Fertile land along the Nile brought early peoples to Egypt, and over time, a powerful civilization arose. Crops grew well in the rich soil created by annual river floods. An early government formed to build dikes, reservoirs, and irrigation ditches.

Egypt was made up of two regions. Upper Egypt went from the Nile's first cataract, or waterfall, almost to the coast. Lower Egypt covered the Nile's delta, or area at the river's mouth. About 3100 B.C., Menes, the king of Upper Egypt, joined both regions to form one of the first united empires.

Egypt's history is divided into three periods: the Old Kingdom, the Middle Kingdom, and the New Kingdom. Power passed from one **dynasty**, or ruling family, to another, but Egypt generally stayed united for over 2,000 years.

During the Old Kingdom, pharaohs, or Egyptian kings, created a strong central government. They set up a **bureaucracy**, with a **vizier**, or chief minister of government. The Great Pyramids were built during the Old Kingdom.

The Middle Kingdom had unpredictable floods and revolts. Yet, leaders increased farmland, sent armies for Nubian gold, and sent traders to exchange goods with Mesopotamian peoples. But by 1700 B.C., the Hyksos had conquered the Nile delta, using a new military tool: war chariots.

After more than 100 years of Hyksos rule, new Egyptian leaders arose and established the New Kingdom. One of these rulers was **Hatshepsut**, the first female pharaoh. She sent trading ships along the Mediterranean and Red Sea. Her stepson, **Thutmose III**, a great military leader, expanded Egypt to its greatest size. Much later, **Ramses II** pushed farther north. During his rule, Egypt fought the Hittites and signed a peace treaty, the oldest surviving document of its kind.

Around 1100 B.C., Egyptian civilization weakened. A series of invaders conquered the rich land. In 332 B.C., the Greeks took over as the last Egyptian dynasty ended. Then, in 30 B.C., the Romans displaced the Greeks.

Review Questions

1. What happened in 3100 B.C.?

2. What are the three main periods of Egypt's history?

READING CHECK

Who was the first female pharaoh?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

Find the word **displaced** in the underlined sentence. What does **displaced** mean? You can use word parts to figure it out. The prefix **dis-** means "away." The root word **-place** means "a spot or position." Use these clues to help you figure out what **displaced** means.

READING SKILL

Identify Supporting Details Find two details in this Summary that support the statement, "The New Kingdom was a time of conquest."
