

History chap 2

Egyptian civilisation

Question 1.

How did the Egyptian desert help in the development of Egyptian culture and civilization?

Answer:

These deserts served as natural barriers to foreign invasions. So the early Egyptian settlers enjoyed many years of peace and security. This atmosphere help in the development of Egyptian culture and civilization.

Question 2.

What are the periods in which the history of ancient Egypt is divided?

Answer:

The history of ancient Egypt is divided into three periods.

1. The Old Kingdom approximately 3,000 bce- 2,000 BCE
2. The Middle Kingdom approximately 2,000 bce -1,700 BCE
3. The New Kingdom approximately 1,600 bce – 1,100 bce.

Question 3.

Which Egyptian monument is one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World?

Answer:

Great Pyramid at Giza, built by King Khuruf or Cheops.

Question 4.

What is a mummy?

Answer:

The preserved dead body is called Mummy.

Question 5.

How was a body mummified?

Answer:

A dead body was embalmed with spices and wrapped in a fine linen.

Question 6.

Why did the ancient Egyptians preserve the bodies of the dead?

Answer:

The Egyptians believed in life after death, So they preserve the body of the dead.

Question 7.

Name the most important nature god of the Egyptians.

Answer:

The Egyptians worshiped many gods and goddesses connected with nature. Ra, the sun god, and Osiris, the god of the dead, were among the most important gods.

Question 8.

Name the founder of the city of Alexandria.

Answer:

The Great Alexander founded the city of Alexandria.

Question 1.

Why was Egypt called the 'Gift of the Nile'?

Answer:

Nile has proved a great boon for Egypt. The river Nile makes the land quite fertile. The Egyptian farmers can grow crops on the same fields year after year. Nile also served as a highway and made navigation possible. This way promoted trade and commerce within the country as well as with other countries of the world. Rightly Egypt has been called 'The Gift of Nile.'

Question 2.

Describe the structure of dwelling houses in ancient Egypt.

Answer:

Dwelling Houses— Houses were built around the crossing of two major roads. They were made of sun-baked bricks. Almost all the houses had flat roofs. The number of rooms in each house depended on whether the family was rich or poor. While most of the people lived in a one or two-room house without bathrooms, the richest people lived in three storied houses, usually made of stone, with as many as thirty rooms with bathrooms, gardens and pools. An average house had three rooms, a courtyard and a kitchen area. A narrow staircase led to the roof. The windows were small and were placed high up close to the ceiling to keep out the sun and let the daylight enter.

Question 3.

Describe briefly the social structure of ancient Egypt.

Answer:

The Egyptians were divided into three distinct classes. These are following

1. **The upper class:** The upper class consisted of the royal family, rich landowners, high ranking priests, government officials and doctors.
2. **The middle class:** The middle class consisted of merchants, manufacturers, crafts persons and the lower clergy.
3. **The lower class:** This class consisted of the peasants, At the bottom of the social hierarchy were the slaves who were mainly prisoners of war.

Question 4.

Describe the family life of the ancient Egyptians.

Answer:

The families were close -knit groups. The relationship between the husband, wife and children was usually close. The father was the head of the family. Women were treated with respect and their property rights were protected. Children enjoyed carefree and happy lives. Wealthy families lived lives of luxury and pleasure.

Question 5.

State the main occupations of the ancient Egyptians. Discuss any two.

Answer:

Agriculture, Domestication of Animals, Art and craft, Architecture and Engineering, Trade and commerce, mummification are the main occupation of the ancient Egyptians.

Agriculture: The chief occupation of the Egyptians was agriculture. The Nile provided water for irrigation. The Egyptians farmers can grow crops on the fertile land year after year. Their chief crops were wheat, barley and millet. Vegetable and fruits were also grown.

Domestication of Animals: The second occupation of Egyptian was domestication of Animals. Pigs, Cows, Sheep, goats, camels, doves and geese were domesticated.

Question 6.

Give an account of trade in ancient Egypt.

Answer:

Trade was earned on both by land and sea routes. For internal trade, goods were transported by boats and barges along the Nile and by road on camels and donkeys. For foreign trade, the Egyptians built the world's

first seafaring ships. They exported linen, wheat, glassware, jewelry and furniture. They imported gold, ivory, copper and cedar wood. The king controlled foreign trade. The barter system was used and the mediums of exchange were usually grain, silver and copper.

Question 7.

Describe the religion of people in ancient Egypt.

Answer:

The Egyptians worshiped many gods and goddesses connected with nature. Ra, the sun god, and Osiris, the god of the dead, were among the most important gods.

The pharaohs, the rulers of Egypt, were also worshiped as gods. Each god had his own temple and priest. Every city, town and village had its own favourite god. Certain animals and birds such as the jackal, crocodile, bull and hawk were also worshiped.

The Egyptians believed in life after death. So they preserved the body of the dead. A dead body was embalmed with spices and wrapped in fine linen. Such a preserved body is known as a mummy. Food, wine, clothes, furniture, jewellery and weapons were put into the tombs. The pyramids were the tombs of the pharaohs.

Question 8.

Why did the Egyptian civilization decline ?

Answer:

The decline of the Egyptian empire set in with the collapse of the New Kingdom. Egypt was repeatedly invaded by the Babylonians, Assyrians, Persians and finally by Alexander the Great. Alexander founded the city of Alexandria. It later , became one of the greatest cultural centers of the ancient world during the reign of Ptolemy, one of the generals of Alexander. Ptolemy was the founder of the last dynasty of Egypt.

G. Picture study.

The figures on the right are of gods and goddesses.

Question 1.

The people of which civilization worshiped these gods and goddesses?
What kind of temples did they build?

Answer:

The Egyptians worshiped these gods and goddesses.
The Egyptian Architects and engineers built remarkable temples which was known as Pyramid and Sphinx.

Question 2.

How do we know that they believed in life after death?

Answer:

The Egyptians believed in life after death. So they preserved the body of the dead. Food, wine, clothes, furniture, jewellery and weapons were put into the tombs.

Question 1.

Who called Egypt 'Gift of the Nile'.

Answer:

The ancient Greek historian. 'Herodotus' called Egypt the 'Gift of the Nile'.

Question 2.

Who was the founder of the last dynasty of Egypt?

Answer:

Ptolemy was the founder of the last dynasty of Egypt.

Question 3.

How many parts Egypt was divided into from the earliest times?

Answer:

From the earliest times Egypt was divided into two parts.

1. Lower Egypt
2. Upper Egypt

Question 4.

What is 'Sphinx'?

Answer:

'Sphinx is an architectural marvel of ancient Egypt. It is a mythological figure with the body of a lion and the face of a man.

Question 5.

What is the one of the Seven Wonders of the world of Egyptians?

Answer:

The 'Great Pyramid at Giza' is one of the seven wonders of the world of Egyptians.

Question 6.

Write the names of exported and imported products of Egyptians?

Answer:

Egyptians exported linen, wheat, glassware, jewellery and furniture. They imported gold, ivory copper and cedar wood.

Question 7.

Write on Political life and Administration of Egyptians?

Answer:

The Pharaoh was the king of Egypt. He was a hereditary ruler and was believed to be God's representative on earth. He was at the head of an advanced administration. The country was divided into provinces called 'nomes', each governed by an official called 'nomarch'. The king was assisted by officials. They supervised every aspect of the administration, including tax collection. The government controlled all the resources.

Question 2

Who were the Pharaohs? Why were they looked upon as Gods?

Answer

The rulers of Egypt were called the Pharaohs. They were the head of the government and the administration having absolute powers. It was believed that the Pharaoh had a direct connection to the Gods and acted as a mediator between the divine realm and the earthly world. They were believed to be the representative of God on earth and their statues adorned the temples.

Question 5

How can we conclude that the Egyptians believed in life after death?

Answer

The Egyptians believed that after the death, the body and the soul live in a different way. That is why they preserved the bodies of their dead by embalming them. Such a preserved body is known as a **mummy**. The mummies were put in the wooden boxes, enclosed in a stone coffin and buried in tombs along with goods like clothes, food, drinks, jewellery, etc.

Question 6

State briefly the Egyptian achievements in architecture and medicine.

Answer**Architecture**

1. The Egyptians built beautiful temples with pillared halls. The most famous of these temples is **The Great Temple of Abu Simbel**, dedicated to the Sun God and temple at Karnak. They decorated their temples with massive columns and huge statues.
2. The Egyptians also built large **Pyramids** to bury their dead. The pyramids were huge structures made of blocks of stone. The architectural and engineering skills of the Egyptians can be still seen from 30 large pyramids and a number of small ones which exist even today. The most famous Pyramid is **The Great Pyramid at Giza** near Cairo. It is one of the Seven Wonders of the world.
3. Another remarkable example of Egyptian architecture is the **Sphinx**. **Sphinx** is an Egyptian mythological sculpture carved out of a single stone having a lion's body and a human head.

Medicine

1. The Egyptians were aware of the human anatomy and one of their books provides a detailed analysis of the human circulatory systems.
2. The way by which the Egyptians used to preserve the bodies of the dead by mummification is a marvel of science. The process shown their knowledge of human body and their skill in surgery.

Question 1

Study the picture and answer the following questions:

- (a) Identify the given picture. Where is it located?
- (b) Who built this structure? What was his position in Egyptian society?
- (c) How does this structure act as a source of information about the life of the ancient Egyptians?

Answer

- (a) The structure shown in the picture is **The Great Pyramid**. It is located at **Giza** near Cairo.
- (b) It was built by **Pharaoh Cheops (Khufu)**. He was the pharaoh of the Old Kingdom around 2650 BCE.
- (c) The paintings on the walls of the Pyramids are a great source of information about the ancient Egyptians. The paintings depict hunting scenes, religious ceremonies, wars and battles, kings and queens, and features of everyday living.

2. Why was the Nile important for Egypt?

Ans: The Nile was important because it provided water, fertile soil, irrigation, transportation, and helped in trade and agriculture.

Q. Explain the role of the Nile in the development of Egyptian civilization.

Ans:

The River Nile played a crucial role in the development of Egyptian civilization. Every year, it flooded and deposited fertile soil, making agriculture possible. It provided water for irrigation and helped grow crops in large quantities. Egyptians built canals and reservoirs to control water supply. The Nile also served as a major transportation route, helping in trade with neighboring regions. Additionally, the surrounding deserts protected Egypt from invasions, ensuring peace and stability. Thus, the Nile was the backbone of Egyptian civilization.

7. Who was Cleopatra?

Ans: Cleopatra VII was the last pharaoh of Egypt, known for her beauty and intelligence. She died in 30 BCE.

8. How were Egyptian cities planned?

Ans:

Egyptian cities were planned near the Nile for water supply and safety from floods. Some cities grew naturally, while others were planned. Streets were arranged in a grid pattern with broad and narrow roads dividing the city into blocks.

Q. Describe the main characteristics of town planning in ancient Egypt.

Ans:

Town planning in ancient Egypt was based mainly on proximity to the Nile and protection from floods. Some cities developed naturally, while others were carefully planned. Cities were divided into Upper (southern) and Lower (northern) parts. Streets were arranged in a grid pattern, with broad roads running north to south and narrow streets crossing them at right angles. This divided the city into blocks, making organization and movement easier.

Q. Was the desert around Egypt a curse or a blessing? Give reasons.

Ans:

The desert was mostly a **blessing** because it acted as a natural barrier, protecting Egypt from foreign invasions and ensuring peace. However, it could also be a curse as it limited expansion and made travel difficult.

1. What were the two types of buildings in ancient Egypt?

Answer:

There were two types of buildings in ancient Egypt:

- Dwelling houses
- Public buildings

2. How were dwelling houses in ancient Egypt built?

Answer:

Dwelling houses were built around the crossing of two major roads. They were made of sun-baked bricks and usually had flat roofs.

3. What features did an average Egyptian house have?

Answer:

An average house had:

- Three rooms
- A courtyard
- A kitchen area

4. How did the houses of rich and poor people differ?

Answer:

- Poor people lived in one or two-room houses without bathrooms.
- Rich people lived in large, multi-storeyed houses made of stone, with many rooms, bathrooms, gardens, and pools.

5. Why were windows made small and placed high on walls?

Answer:

Windows were small and placed high to keep out the sun and allow daylight to enter.

6. What were royal palaces like?

Answer:

Royal palaces were:

- Surrounded by high walls
- Separate from the rest of the city

- Sometimes protected by moats for security
-

7. Describe public buildings in ancient Egypt.

Answer:

Public buildings, especially temple districts, were:

- Well planned
- Surrounded by high walls
- Symmetrical in layout
- Massive structures with huge gateways

8. What are some examples of Egyptian architecture and engineering?

Answer:

Examples include:

- Pyramids (like the Great Pyramid of Giza)
- Temples
- The Sphinx

9. What is the Sphinx?

Answer:

The Sphinx is a mythical figure with the body of a lion and the head of a human, carved from a single block of stone.

10. Why were rivers like the Nile important to Egypt?

Answer:

The Nile River was central to agriculture and society, helping in farming and supporting life in ancient Egypt.

1. How was Egyptian society divided?

Answer:

Egyptian society was divided into three classes:

- Upper class
- Middle class
- Lower class

2. Who were included in the upper class?

Answer:

The upper class included the royal family, rich landowners, high-ranking priests, government officials, and doctors.

3. Who were included in the middle class?

Answer:

The middle class included merchants, manufacturers, craftspeople, and the lower clergy.

4. Who were included in the lower class?

Answer:

The lower class consisted of peasants, and at the bottom were slaves who were mainly prisoners of war.

5. Describe family life in ancient Egypt.

Answer:

Families were close-knit. The father was the head of the family. Women were respected and had property rights. Children lived happily; boys went to school while girls learned housework at home.

6. What activities did families enjoy?

Answer:

Families enjoyed outings and recreation such as hunting, fishing, swimming, and sailing on the Nile.

7. What was the staple diet of Egyptians?

Answer:

Bread made from wheat and drink made from barley were the staple diet. They also ate vegetables, fruits, meat, and dairy products.

8. How did the Egyptians dress?

Answer:

They wore simple clothes made of white linen. Men wore loincloths, and women wore long dresses with shoulder straps. Later, they wore jewellery, cosmetics, and wigs.

9. What was the main occupation of the Egyptians?

Answer:

Agriculture was the main occupation of the Egyptians.

10. What crops did the Egyptians grow?

Answer:

They grew wheat, barley, millet, and fruits like dates, apples, peaches, and figs.

11. Why was agriculture successful in Egypt?

Answer:

Agriculture was successful due to fertile soil, abundant water from the Nile, and a well-developed irrigation system.

12. Is the river Nile important to people even today? Give reasons.

Answer:

Yes, the Nile is still important because it provides water for agriculture, supports transportation, supplies food, and is essential for the daily lives of people in Egypt.

1. Which animals were domesticated by the Egyptians?

Answer:

The Egyptians domesticated animals such as cows, sheep, goats, donkeys, camels, and birds like doves and geese.

2. What kinds of crafts were practiced in ancient Egypt?

Answer:

Crafts included pottery, goldsmithing, carpentry, weaving, sculpture, and painting.

3. What did Egyptian artists and sculptors create?

Answer:

Sculptors made large stone statues of kings and gods, while artists decorated tomb walls with beautiful paintings showing daily life.

4. Describe Egyptian temples.

Answer:

Egyptian temples were magnificent structures with pillared halls, and their walls and pillars were decorated with paintings of humans, animals, and birds.

5. What do paintings on tomb walls tell us?

Answer:

They tell us about the lifestyle and daily life of the early Egyptians.

6. What was special about Egyptian medicine?

Answer:

Egyptian doctors were highly skilled. They had advanced knowledge of the human body and used complex techniques like mummification.

7. Who were Egyptian doctors?

Answer:

Doctors were mainly priests who specialized in treating different parts of the body like eyes and teeth.

8. How was trade carried out in ancient Egypt?

Answer:

Trade was carried out by both land and sea routes. Goods were transported by boats on the Nile and by camels and donkeys on land.

9. What did Egyptians export and import?

Answer:

- **Exports:** Linen, wheat, glassware, jewellery, and furniture
- **Imports:** Gold, ivory, copper, and cedar wood

10. What system of exchange was used in trade?

Answer:

The barter system was used, where goods were exchanged without money.

11. What is hieroglyphic script?

Answer:

It is the ancient Egyptian writing system using pictorial symbols to represent words and sounds.

12. What were the features of Egyptian writing?

Answer:

- Used pictures of objects and creatures
- About 2,000 symbols were used
- Later simplified into an alphabet with 24 consonants and no vowels

13. What was the religion of ancient Egyptians?

Answer:

They worshipped many gods and goddesses related to nature.

14. Name two important Egyptian gods.

Answer:

- Ra – the sun god
- Osiris – the god of the dead

1. Why did Egyptians preserve dead bodies?

The Egyptians believed in **life after death**, so they preserved the bodies to ensure the soul could live on. The preserved body is called a **mummy**.

3. What were pyramids used for?

The **pyramids** were used as **tombs of the pharaohs**.

4. Write any four achievements of the Egyptian civilization

- They made **paper from papyrus**.
- They developed the **first solar calendar (365 days)**.
- They created an advanced system of **mathematics**.
- They developed **astronomy** and instruments to study stars.
- They invented the **water clock**. (*any four*)
-

5. What was the Egyptian system of writing?

- They wrote **from right to left**.
- They used a **reed pen** and **ink made of soot, gum, and water**.

6. What led to the decline of the Egyptian civilization?

Foreign invasions (Babylonians, Assyrians, Persians, and finally Alexander the Great)

- **Internal revolts** weakened the empire

1. Describe the religious beliefs and burial practices of the Egyptians.

The Egyptians believed that their pharaohs were gods and worshipped many gods and goddesses. Each city had its own favourite god, and animals like the jackal, crocodile, bull, and hawk were also considered sacred. They strongly believed in life after death. Because of this belief, they preserved the bodies of the dead through a process called embalming. The body was treated with spices and wrapped in fine linen to make a mummy. They placed food, clothes, jewellery, and other useful items in the tombs, thinking the dead would need them in the afterlife. The pyramids were built as grand tombs for the pharaohs.

2. Explain the major achievements of the Egyptian civilization.

The Egyptian civilization made many important contributions in different fields. They first wrote on stone and clay tablets and later invented paper made from papyrus. They developed a system of writing using a reed pen and ink, and wrote from right to left. The Egyptians also created the world's first solar calendar of 365 days, divided into 12 months. They were highly skilled in mathematics, which helped them in

building pyramids and measuring land. Their study of stars led to the development of astronomy, and they invented the water clock to measure time at night. They also had advanced knowledge of medicine and human anatomy, as seen in the preservation of mummies.

3. Discuss the decline of the Egyptian civilization.

The decline of the Egyptian civilization began after the fall of the New Kingdom. By around 1000 BCE, the power and glory of Egypt had reduced significantly. Internal revolts weakened the empire, and it became vulnerable to foreign invasions. Egypt was invaded several times by powerful empires such as the Babylonians, Assyrians, and Persians. Finally, it was conquered by Alexander the Great. He founded the city of Alexandria, which later became an important cultural centre. After his death, Ptolemy I Soter established the last dynasty of Egypt. These invasions and political instability led to the final decline of the Egyptian civilization.

4. Explain why the Egyptians are considered innovative.

The Egyptians are considered innovative because they made effective use of natural resources and developed advanced knowledge in many fields. They used papyrus plants to make paper, which improved writing and record-keeping. Their development of a solar calendar helped in agriculture and festivals. They advanced in mathematics and engineering, which enabled them to construct massive pyramids and monuments. Their knowledge of astronomy helped them understand the movement of stars and seasons. They also showed innovation in medicine by preserving bodies as mummies. All these achievements show their creativity and scientific thinking