Building Ancient Egypt

Trace how resources, beliefs, and leaders shaped a kingdom.

SS24.7.7 "Analyze the economic, political, and social structures of ancient Egypt. 7a Describe the role of the Nile River and Mediterranean Sea in supporting the economic and cultural growth of ancient Egypt..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two ways the Nile or Mediterranean helped Egypt, circle two examples of how Egyptians managed resources, and write 1 and 2 beside the rulers' different ways of gaining resources.

How Egypt Grew

1. Each summer, the Nile rose and left rich soil on fields along its banks. Farmers grew grain there, and workers dug canals to guide water to more fields. Boats carried harvests and stone along the river, tying settlements together. Egypt also faced the Mediterranean Sea to the north. Ships crossing it connected Egypt with other lands, where merchants exchanged goods and people shared ideas and crafts. The river fed farms and linked towns; the sea widened Egypt's trading and cultural connections beyond the river valley.

2. Water alone could not build a kingdom. Officials measured fields and collected grain as taxes, while farmers, craftworkers, and laborers produced food and goods. Scribes kept written records with hieroglyphs, a writing system that used signs. Skilled workers shaped stone temples and carved painted scenes on their walls. These artworks showed rulers making offerings to gods, reflecting a belief that gods influenced life and the afterlife. Temples gave priests important religious duties, and written records helped officials manage the grain that supported large building projects.

3. At the top of this social order stood the pharaoh, who was regarded as a link between people and the gods. Pharaoh Hatshepsut sent a fleet along the Red Sea to trade with Punt, bringing back valuable goods such as incense. Her trade mission added wealth and materials used in religious ceremonies. Later, Thutmose III led armies that expanded Egyptian control into lands east of the Mediterranean Sea. Conquered areas paid tribute, sending goods to Egypt. Both rulers increased resources, but Hatshepsut did so through trade while Thutmose III used military campaigns.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the Nile and the Mediterranean Sea help Egypt grow in different ways?

2. How did written records and temple art serve different needs in Egyptian society?

3. How did farmers, scribes, officials, and priests each help Egyptian society function?

4. How did Hatshepsut and Thutmose III each increase Egypt's resources? What was different about their methods?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a year when the Nile floods less than usual. In four sentences, explain how one achievement or leadership choice from the passage could help Egypt respond, how your plan would affect two different social roles, and one limit of your plan.

ANSWER KEY

Building Ancient Egypt

GRADE 7 · SS24.7.7

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two ways the Nile or Mediterranean helped Egypt, circle two examples of how Egyptians managed resources, and write 1 and 2 beside the rulers' different ways of gaining resources. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Nile and the Mediterranean Sea help Egypt grow in different ways?	**The Nile provided fertile soil and a route for carrying goods between settlements. The Mediterranean connected Egypt to other lands for trade and the exchange of ideas and crafts.**
2	How did written records and temple art serve different needs in Egyptian society?	**Written records helped officials manage grain. Temple art showed religious beliefs, including rulers making offerings to gods.**
3	How did farmers, scribes, officials, and priests each help Egyptian society function?	**Farmers grew food, scribes kept records, officials measured fields and collected grain taxes, and priests carried out religious duties.**
4	How did Hatshepsut and Thutmose III each increase Egypt's resources? What was different about their methods?	**Hatshepsut gained valuable goods through trade with Punt. Thutmose III expanded Egyptian control through military campaigns, and conquered areas sent tribute.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

If the Nile flooded less, officials could use scribes' written records to check how much tax grain they had. Officials could then give some of that grain to farmers with poor harvests. Scribes could record the amounts so officials knew what remained. Written records would help manage a shortage, but they could not make more grain grow.

For the marking job, accept any two accurate geographic benefits, two examples of resource management, and marks beside Hatshepsut's trade mission and Thutmose III's military campaigns. For Your Turn, accept a plausible four-sentence plan grounded in the passage that explains effects on two social roles and identifies a realistic limit.