Built and Beautiful

Explore the tools, buildings, and art of ancient Egypt

SS24.7.7b "Identify major technological and artistic achievements of ancient Egypt."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB As you read, underline achievements that helped Egyptians do practical work and circle achievements they made to express ideas or beliefs. You may mark an achievement both ways.

What Egyptians Made

1. Each year, the Nile flooded nearby fields and left rich soil behind. Egyptian farmers needed water after the flood ended, so workers dug canals to guide river water toward crops. A shaduf, a pole with a bucket and a counterweight, helped a person lift water from a canal to higher ground. Surveyors used measuring ropes to mark field boundaries after floods washed away markers. These tools did not stop the flood. Instead, they helped people use its water and organize farmland for growing food.

2. Building on a huge scale required other skills. Workers built pyramids as royal tombs by cutting and placing massive stone blocks. Centuries later, builders raised stone temples with tall columns and walls. Artists carved scenes and hieroglyphs into temple walls, then often added color. The walls showed rulers honoring gods and taking part in important events. Skilled builders made the temples stand, while artists filled them with images and writing that expressed Egyptian beliefs. A temple could be both a feat of construction and a work of art.

3. Not every achievement was made of stone. Egyptians made papyrus sheets by pressing strips cut from the papyrus plant together. Scribes wrote on these sheets to keep records and copy stories. Craftspeople also made faience, a glazed material with a bright blue or green surface, into beads and small figures. In tombs, painters created colorful scenes of farming, feasts, and other activities. These paintings offer clues about what Egyptians valued, although a tomb painting does not show every part of ordinary life.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Identify two tools or methods that helped Egyptians farm after a flood. What did each help them do?

2. Identify two kinds of Egyptian art in the passage. What did each show?

3. Which achievement in the passage used both building skills and artistic skills? Give one detail that shows each kind of skill.

4. Which achievement gave scribes a surface for writing, and which produced colorful beads? Identify one as a technology and the other as an artistic craft.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a museum display that pairs one Egyptian technology with one artistic achievement from the passage. Write four sentences that name your pair, explain what each helped people do, and tell how seeing them together would help visitors understand Egyptian life.

ANSWER KEY

Built and Beautiful

GRADE 7 · SS24.7.7b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

As you read, underline achievements that helped Egyptians do practical work and circle achievements they made to express ideas or beliefs. You may mark an achievement both ways. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Identify two tools or methods that helped Egyptians farm after a flood. What did each help them do?	**A shaduf lifted water to higher ground, and measuring ropes helped surveyors mark field boundaries again.**
2	Identify two kinds of Egyptian art in the passage. What did each show?	**Temple carvings showed rulers honoring gods and taking part in events. Tomb paintings showed activities such as farming and feasts.**
3	Which achievement in the passage used both building skills and artistic skills? Give one detail that shows each kind of skill.	**Stone temples used building skills to raise columns and walls and artistic skills to carve and color scenes on those walls.**
4	Which achievement gave scribes a surface for writing, and which produced colorful beads? Identify one as a technology and the other as an artistic craft.	**Making papyrus sheets was a technology that provided a writing surface. Making faience beads was an artistic craft.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

My display pairs a shaduf with a tomb painting of farming. The shaduf helped farmers lift water to their crops. The painting shows an activity that artists chose to include in a tomb. Together, they help visitors see how farming shaped both practical work and Egyptian art.

Accept other accurate achievements and uses supported by the passage. For the museum display, look for a clear connection between the chosen technology and artwork, not just two separate descriptions.