

Egypt's Lasting Achievements

Read for achievements and the effects they had on Egyptian civilization.

SS.6.W.2.5 "Summarize important achievements of Egyptian civilization."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three achievements of Egyptian civilization, number them 1, 2, and 3, and circle words that tell why each achievement mattered.

Building Life Along the Nile

- ① Egyptian civilization grew along the Nile River, where yearly floods left rich soil for crops. Farmers learned to use the river's water through canals, basins, and dikes. These systems helped them guide water to fields and store some water after floods. With more dependable harvests, people could feed larger communities. Not everyone needed to farm, so some people became craftspeople, builders, traders, scribes, and government workers. Managing land and water was an important achievement because it supported life in a dry region.
- ② Egyptians also developed hieroglyphic writing, which used pictures and signs to represent words and sounds. Scribes used writing to record taxes, trade, laws, religious beliefs, and events. They wrote many documents on papyrus, a paperlike material made from a Nile plant. Written records helped rulers organize a large kingdom and allowed ideas to last beyond one person's lifetime. Egyptians also used mathematics to measure fields, plan buildings, and keep accounts. These skills made government, trade, and construction more organized.
- ③ Egyptian builders produced huge stone temples and pyramids. The pyramids were tombs for pharaohs, and their construction required careful planning, measurements, tools, and the work of many skilled laborers. Egyptians also practiced mummification, preserving bodies for religious reasons because they believed people could have an afterlife. Their art, carvings, and painted scenes showed daily life and religious ideas. Together, these achievements reveal a civilization with organized leaders, specialized workers, shared beliefs, and lasting cultural traditions over many centuries.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How did Egyptian water systems help civilization grow?

2 How did hieroglyphic writing help Egyptian rulers and their kingdom?

3 What achievement showed that Egyptians could organize many skilled workers? Use evidence from the passage.

4 How did mathematics support Egyptian civilization?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a three-sentence museum label titled "Egyptian Achievements." Name three achievements from the passage, and explain how one achievement helped Egyptian civilization grow or stay organized.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three achievements of Egyptian civilization, number them 1, 2, and 3, and circle words that tell why each achievement mattered. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Egyptian water systems help civilization grow?	Canals, basins, and dikes guided and stored water, helping farmers have dependable harvests that could feed larger communities.
2	How did hieroglyphic writing help Egyptian rulers and their kingdom?	Scribes recorded taxes, trade, laws, beliefs, and events. These records helped rulers organize a large kingdom and preserve ideas.
3	What achievement showed that Egyptians could organize many skilled workers? Use evidence from the passage.	Building pyramids showed this ability. Their construction required planning, measurements, tools, and many skilled laborers.
4	How did mathematics support Egyptian civilization?	Egyptians used mathematics to measure fields, plan buildings, and keep accounts, making government, trade, and construction more organized.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Egyptian Achievements Egyptian farmers used canals and basins to make harvests more dependable. Scribes kept records with hieroglyphic writing, while builders created pyramids and temples. Water management helped Egypt grow because it provided food for larger communities.

Accept other accurate achievements from the passage, including mummification, art, papyrus documents, and mathematics. Student summaries should name three achievements and explain a passage-supported effect of one of them.