

Leaders of the Nile

Trace how Egyptian rulers shaped a civilization.

SS.6.W.2.6 "Determine the contributions of key figures from ancient Egypt."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each leader's name, circle words that tell what the leader did, and write a number beside each contribution you find.

Egyptian Leaders Leave Their Mark

- ① About 3100 BCE, King Narmer helped unite Upper and Lower Egypt into one kingdom. Artists showed him wearing crowns linked with both regions, a symbol of his rule. Uniting the regions gave Egypt one ruler and a stronger central government. Officials could collect taxes, organize workers, and manage resources across a larger area. Narmer's contribution was not simply winning a battle. His lasting impact was helping create a unified state that later pharaohs ruled from along the Nile.
- ② During the New Kingdom, Pharaoh Hatshepsut ruled Egypt and directed a trading expedition to Punt, a land likely on the Red Sea coast of Africa. The expedition returned with gold, ebony, ivory, incense, and myrrh trees. These goods supplied temples and added to Egypt's wealth. Hatshepsut also ordered major building projects, including her mortuary temple at Deir el-Bahari. Its terraces and inscriptions showed her power and honored the god Amun. Her trade and construction strengthened Egypt's economy, religion, and royal image.
- ③ Pharaoh Akhenaten tried to change Egyptian religion. He promoted worship of the Aten, connected with the sun's disk, and moved the capital to a new city called Akhetaten. After his death, later rulers restored the older religious traditions and left Akhetaten. His changes did not last, but they showed that a pharaoh could challenge powerful customs. Ramses II, another New Kingdom ruler, led military campaigns and built many monuments. His temples and statues displayed Egypt's strength and celebrated his rule for later generations.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did Narmer's unification of Egypt help the government?

2 Give two ways Hatshepsut's expedition to Punt benefited Egypt.

3 Why does the passage say that Akhenaten's religious contribution did not last?

4 Compare Narmer and Akhenaten. Which leader's change lasted longer, and what details support your answer?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

In exactly three sentences, compare Hatshepsut's and Ramses II's contributions. Describe one contribution from each ruler, then state which contribution you think helped Egypt more and explain why.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each leader's name, circle words that tell what the leader did, and write a number beside each contribution you find. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Narmer's unification of Egypt help the government?	It put both regions under one ruler and created a stronger central government that could collect taxes, organize workers, and manage resources.
2	Give two ways Hatshepsut's expedition to Punt benefited Egypt.	It brought valuable goods, such as gold, ebony, ivory, incense, and myrrh trees. The goods supplied temples and added to Egypt's wealth.
3	Why does the passage say that Akhenaten's religious contribution did not last?	After Akhenaten died, later rulers restored the older religious traditions and left his capital city, Akhetaten.
4	Compare Narmer and Akhenaten. Which leader's change lasted longer, and what details support your answer?	Narmer's change lasted longer. He helped create a unified state that later pharaohs ruled, while Akhenaten's religious changes were reversed after his death.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Hatshepsut strengthened Egypt by bringing valuable trade goods from Punt and building a temple that honored Amun. Ramses II used military campaigns and monuments to display Egypt's strength. I think Hatshepsut's contribution helped Egypt more because it added wealth, supported religion, and showed royal power.

Accept answers that accurately connect each figure's action to its effect on Egypt. For the open response, accept either ruler as more helpful when the student supports the choice with accurate passage evidence.