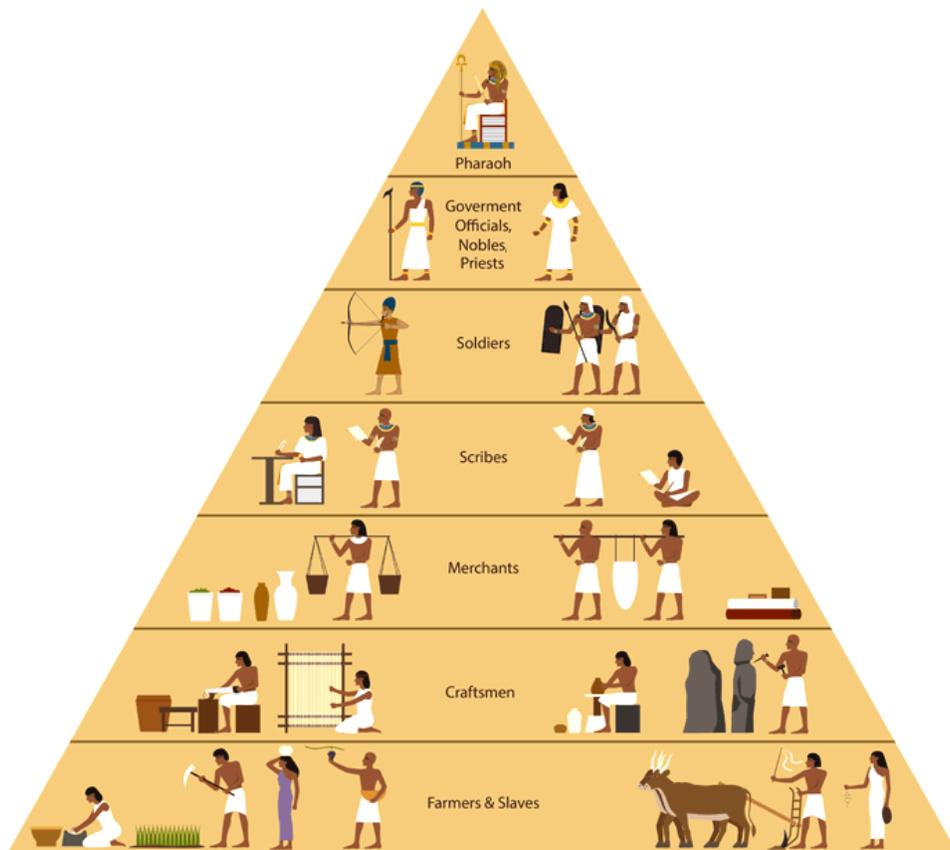


Ancient River Civilization of Egypt Module Project

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Hello! In this issue of *World Historical* we will be exploring the history of ancient Egypt through the lenses of S.P.R.I.T.E. Now you may ask what is S.P.R.I.T.E? S.P.R.I.T.E is an acronym for Social, Political, Religious, Intellectual, Technological and Economics. These are the five aspects that make up a society and these aspects correlate perfectly with history. So now since you are educated on the term, buckle up and enjoy the ride.

Social



The society in Ancient Egypt is pyramidal—the highest font of power being the pharaoh who governed the entire kingdom or region. Now we move on to government officials who helped the pharaoh make decisions, advise, and oversee development in their kingdoms. They also could govern large parts of territory. Religious officials and priests consolidated religious power, often claiming to have special powers, and could rule temples, which were major parts of Egyptian society. Nobles who had royal or aristocratic blood often had power and authority in Egyptian society and had large wealth and abundance. Soldiers were the next step down, who worked to protect estates owned by the pharaoh and government officials.

They also guarded the kingdom's walls and defenses from intruders. They were an honored rank in the social class, and some high-class generals consolidated some power—even if in the form of military commandment. The next class is merchant traded with the pharaoh and commonfolk with spices, objects, weapons, and anything you could possibly imagine.

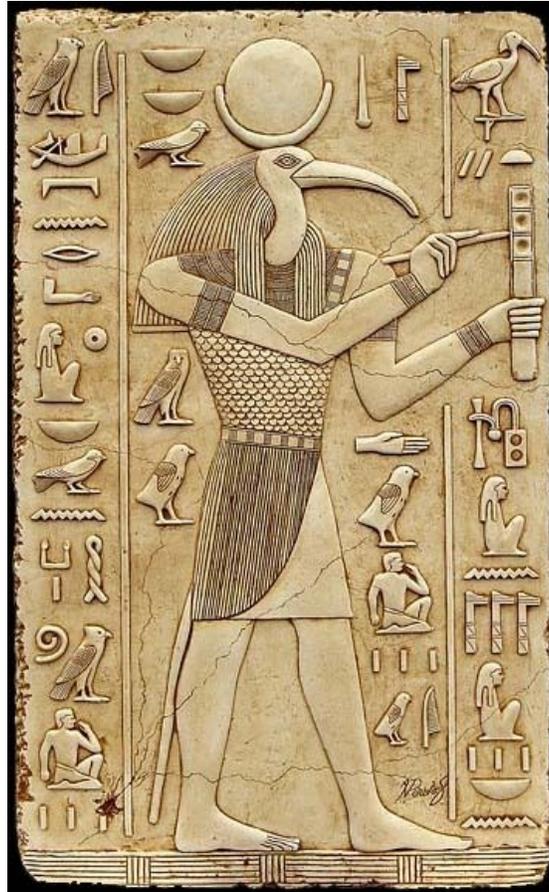
Merchants traded with the kingdoms and thus helped their economies. Then we move onto craftsmen created rare artifacts of objects of value, they also could create tools used in farming and other common activities. They sold their tools to citizens and people of higher class alike. Farmers were the most common out of the jobs that freemen had, they contributed greatly to the economy by growing and selling crops. The final class and the lowest are slaves, they are not free and are property of other people, in most of Egypt's history they were not very popular, but as Egypt rose into the New Age, they became more popular due to needs for more buildings and a growing economy. Slaves are often former citizens of populations they conquered and have thus become displaced. The society of Egypt defined its region uniquely.

Political



The political aspect of Egyptian society is rich, with the pharaoh leading the government, it almost resembles the president and prime minister of modern-day countries. In Ancient Egypt, the highest power in the government was the pharaoh—the leader of the kingdom or region they governed. The pharaoh was a vital part of the Egyptian government, as he elected government officials, and had the highest power possible. The politics of Ancient Egypt were complex, the pharaoh governed the kingdom, with their court, they helped the pharaoh make decisions, there were also government officials who helped create laws, oversee development, such as building projects, and economic growth. The government of Ancient Egypt was a theocratic monarchy as the pharaoh ruled by the mandate of the gods and was viewed as a demigod. The government appointed taxes on the citizens, they oversee trade and migration to their region with an iron fist. The politics in ancient Egypt were very complex for their time and are a basis of what is our modern-day politics.

Religious



Religion was an extremely important part of Egyptian culture. It was ever-present and permeated throughout their culture. Religion was practiced throughout different kingdoms, and during different eras, certain gods could attain more power, and others fall into obscurity. In Ancient Egyptian religion, the main god that was worshipped for most of Ancient Egypt, was Ra the God of the Sun, kings and order. Another influential god was Bennu, a heron god that like Ra was also the God of the Sun, but also creation and life. In most mythologies he was considered the first god, who created life. His soul split into different pieces, which birthed Ra. Ra's brother Sobek was the god of crocodiles, the Nile and power. Ra birthed many children, such as Bastet the goddess of cats and protection. The pharaoh the leader of ancient Egypt was considered a demigod, half human, half god. And it was their right to rule Egypt because of their holy blood. People in Ancient Egypt worshipped and prayed to the gods in times of need and droughts. The citizens also made offerings to gods in temples, usually food, clothing, or

weapons like swords and scythes. Some even sacrificed animals to appease the gods. Religion was an important part of Ancient Egyptian's everyday lives, and even the Ancient Greeks' gods were based of the Egyptian gods.

Intellectual



The Ancient Egyptian's contributions to modern-day society are revolutionary. Their philosophy has integrated to most countries in the world nowadays. The Ancient Egyptians were obsessed with life, they believed it to be the most important part of their lives. They built colossal pyramids for just that. To aid their pharaohs and religious leaders to the afterlife. They believed life to be all-knowing and imbue everything, they also believed it had a will of its own, as it bound the world together. Even the lower class of Egypt appreciated their life and what little they had. This is exemplified in the concept of gratitude and the ritual known as The Five Gifts of Hathor in which the poor laborers were encouraged to regard the fingers of their left hand (the hand they reached with daily to harvest field crops) and to consider the five things they were most grateful for in their lives. Ingratitude was considered a 'gateway sin' as it led to all other types of

negative thinking and resultant behavior. Once one felt ungrateful, it was observed, one then was apt to indulge oneself further in bad behavior. The Cult of Hathor was very popular in Egypt, among all classes, and epitomizes the prime importance of gratitude in Egyptian culture. Beyond the philosophy of Ancient Egypt, two other breakthroughs pushed by Ancient Egyptians, were mathematics and astronomy. With the construction of pyramids, the builders had to learn a lot about astronomy—as these buildings were made to align with stars and certain constellations. These breakthroughs in astronomy helped them build pyramids as well as building the basis of modern astronomy. Mathematics were also revolutionized by Ancient Egyptians, they created systems to measure items, tell time, and identify and record seasons.

Technological



Technology is a huge part of the modern-day world. It is all around you, your laptop, your phone and so much more. Ancient Egyptians expanded technology greatly, and a lot of what you use today is made by the Ancient Egyptians. For example, hieroglyphics were an invention of Egyptian

society, and still is one of the most popular and touristic aspects of Egypt. It is one of thing that pop in your head when you imagine Egypt, along with pyramids and pharaohs. In every way, they were the primordial ancestor of common writing. They depicted simple sentences with animal avatars and common symbols. Hieroglyphics are the basis of most common alphabets and writing, so they effected the world's technology. Ancient Egyptian also created the ramp and lever, that helped their construction process greatly and ours. Ramps and levers are still used to this and help building construction immensely. Egyptian paper—papyrus—was the first paper ever made, it was far easier to use than hieroglyphics and again revolutionized writing across the globe. Shipbuilding was a huge part of Egypt's construction business, they sold their well-made ships across the continent, that was a huge technological advancement in shipbuilding the Egyptians' advanced. In conclusion, technology was advanced immensely by the Egyptians. And our thanks are for them.

Economics



The economy of Ancient Egypt was the best and most successful economy in the world at that time. They imported many things and exported nearly as much. Most Ancient Egyptians were farmers, they grew crops and supplied their kingdom with those crops. They also commonly supplied their crops to other outsiders. Ancient Egypt's main exports were gold, grain, linen, papyrus, and finished goods, such as glass and stone objects. They imported lots of woods because Egypt was mostly either desert or river marshes. There were few trees and the ones that existed were usually stubby and harsh, they were not suitable for buildings and construction. Egyptian's imported wood (commonly cedar), ebony and ivory, slaves, incense, timber, bronze and olive oil. Sailing ships travelled to lands like Punt, what is modern-day Afghanistan, and Lebanon. Punt was rich in myrrh and oils like incense, merchants travelled there to buy such materials and bring it back to Egypt. In Egypt's early days there was a rather good abundance of gold, but as thousands of years passed, the Egyptians nearly used all of it, with their tombs and palaces. Now with too much demand for gold and too little supply, they traded with other regions like Nubia for gold. They also sold ships and pottery to other regions. Ancient Egypt's economy was great, and their exports and imports balanced themselves out well. Egypt's economy is a large basis of modern-day economies.