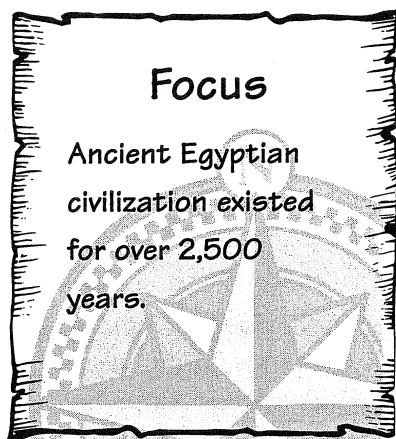


# Ancient Egyptian Society

## Brief #2



The ancient Egyptian civilization existed for thousands of years. It changed dramatically over that amount of time. Just think how much the United States has changed since 1776, and that's less than 250 years ago!

The ancient Egyptian civilization is dated from about 3100 B.C. to about 395 A.D.



### The Unification of Upper and Lower Egypt

In the earliest stage of Egyptian civilization, the Nile River Valley was divided into two separate countries with their own kings. These countries were called Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt.

In about 3150 B.C., both Lower and Upper Egypt became unified or one country. No one is really sure how this happened. There is a legend that says a powerful king named Menes of Upper Egypt marched into Lower Egypt and conquered it. There are no records from this period in time.



### The Old Kingdom

During Egypt's first dynasty, Memphis was made the capital of the kingdom. A **dynasty is a period in history where members of the same family govern or rule**. It is during these first few dynasties that the ancient Egyptians built their famous pyramids. This period in ancient Egyptian history is also called the Old Kingdom. **The Old Kingdom dates from about 2686–2181 B.C.**



### The Middle Kingdom

**The years between about 2025 B.C. and 1782 B.C. are called the Middle Kingdom. During this time the Egyptians conquered Nubia, the country located to the south of ancient Egypt.** It was during the Middle Kingdom that art and literature flourished in ancient Egypt.

### Vocabulary

1. *dynasty*
2. *Old Kingdom*
3. *Middle Kingdom*
4. *Nubia*
5. *New Kingdom*

# Ancient Egyptian Society

## Brief #2 (cont.)



### The New Kingdom

The period between about 1539 B.C. to 1070 B.C. is called the **New Kingdom**. This period is often referred to as the “golden age” because ancient Egypt had powerful and effective rulers that expanded the empire and created stability and wealth. Some of these rulers were Ramesses II and Hatshepsut, a powerful female ruler. It is during the New Kingdom that construction in the Valley of the Kings was begun.



### Life in Ancient Egypt

- **Family and Work**

The ancient Egyptians lived in family units. The father was responsible for making sure the family had a shelter, food, and clothing. The mother took care of the household, preparing meals and keeping up the home. If you were from a wealthy family, you might have lessons in reading and writing from a scribe, a kind of tutor. If you were from a farming family, you would go with your father to the field to learn how to plant crops. If your father was a craftsman, you might become his apprentice. Ancient Egyptians married between the ages of 17 and 20, although it was not uncommon for girls as young as 13 to wed.

- **Fun and Games**

The ancient Egyptians played many different kinds of games. One of them was a game very similar to hockey in which they used long branches from palm trees as sticks. They played many games using balls, and board games called “Senet” and “Dogs and Jackals.”

- **The Home**

Houses in ancient Egypt were built out of bricks, which were made from mud. This method was used by many cultures of the past, including Native Americans living in the Southwest of the United States. The ancient Egyptians lived along the banks of the Nile River. Because the river flooded once a year, the houses were built up high. The houses of wealthier people could have two or three stories. The ancient Egyptians didn’t have a lot of furniture. One of the most common pieces was a three- or four-legged stool that had a seat covered in leather. The ancient Egyptians decorated the walls of their homes with paintings and used clay tiles on the floors.