Lesson 3: Nubia and Egypt

DIRECTIONS: Read the summary about the Egyptians and Nubians interacting with each other and with other peoples. As you read, underline important details in each section that relate to that section’s title. Think about what you already know, what you want to know, and what you have learned after reading the summary.

Vocabulary

independent: free

Lands South of Egypt (p. 93)
Nubia was a kingdom south of Egypt. Part of Nubia now makes up the African country of Sudan. Archaeologists believe people have been living in Nubia since about 3200 B.C. Unlike in Egypt, tall cliffs of granite rock surrounded parts of the Nile in Nubia. The soil in Nubia was rockier than in Egypt. Like the Egyptians, the Nubians built irrigation canals to get water from the Nile to their crops. The written Nubian language was called Meroitic. It was much like Egyptian hieroglyphics. People today are still unable to read Meroitic. Most of what we know about Nubia comes from Egyptian writings. Both the Nubians and the Egyptians worshipped many gods. The Nubians may have also worshipped Egyptian gods. Nubians believed in an afterlife and built pyramids. Nubian pyramids were smaller and shaped differently than Egyptian pyramids.

Interaction (p. 94)
By about 2575 B.C., the Egyptians invaded Nubia looking for resources. Egypt depended on Nubia for trade goods such as gold, ivory, cattle, and ostrich feathers. Egyptians also cut blocks of granite form Nubia’s northern cliffs to use in building their temples. Egypt built trading centers and forts to protect its trade routes in Nubia. In the 1800s B.C., Egypt took over land in northern Nubia. This land included Kush, a Nubian kingdom. In about 1650 B.C., during the Hyksos rule of Egypt, Kush became independent, or free. In the 1400s B.C., Egypt took over Nubia again. At the end of the New Kingdom, Egypt became weak and Kush again became independent. Kush began to take over all of Egypt by about 750 B.C. The Kushite kings then became pharaohs of Egypt.

Kush Rises (p. 95)
Many groups tried to take Egypt from the Kushite kings. In about 670 B.C., the Assyrians attacked Egypt. The Kushites moved south to their capital at Nepata. After 600 B.C., the Egyptians regained power and destroyed Nepata. The Kushites founded a new capital at Meroë and trade grew. Meroë was rich in iron. Traders from other lands wanted tools and weapons made out of iron. Egyptians used bronze tools when they built pyramids. Women in Kush became queens as they did in Egypt. Egypt grew weaker and influenced Kush less. Meroë remained a great trade center until A.D. 350.
Lesson 3: Nubia and Egypt

DIRECTIONS: All of the statements below are false. Rewrite each statement to make it true (see #3 for an example). You will use your textbook and/or summary (other side) to find your answers.

1. Mesopotamia was a kingdom to the south of Egypt.  
   
2. English was the Nubian written language.  
   
3. Just like hieroglyphics, Meroitic was translated using the Rosetta Stone.  
   Unlike hieroglyphics, no one has been able to translate Meroitic.  

4. The Nubians worshipped only one god.  
   
5. The Nubians invaded Egypt in search of resources.  
   
6. Egypt cut blocks of cheese from Nubia’s northern cliffs.  
   
7. Egypt built cars in Nubia.  
   
8. Nubia expanded its borders into northern Egypt during the 1800s B.C.  
   
9. After the 1400s B.C., Kush became so weak that Egypt won its independence.  
   