

Chapter 5
Lesson 1
The Nile River

The Nile River Valley

- While empires in Mesopotamia flourished and fell, two civilizations developed
 - Egypt
 - Kush

Valley Civilization

- Egyptians called their land *Kemet*- "black land"
- enormous Sphinx, Pyramids, and mummies

The Gift of the River

- arid area
- river was "lifeblood"
 - provided fertile soil
 - water to drink, bathe, water crops
- 4,000 miles long
 - White Nile (tropics in Central Africa) and Blue Nile (snowy mountains) join together just south of Egypt
 - cataracts**-a waterfall or rapids in a river

A Protected Land

- delta**, fan-shaped area of silt, empties into Mediterranean Sea
- Nile borders the largest deserts in the world, called the "Red Land"
 - deserts protected from enemies
 - cataracts prevented ships from entering
- Nile flows North
 - winds blow south
 - could travel both ways on the river

People of the River

- seasonal flooding was consistent

Predictable Floods

- took advantage of flooding to become great farmers

How Did Egyptians Farm?

- dry season they irrigated their crops
- used geometry to recalculate land
- papyrus**, a reed plant, was used to make paper

How Did the Egyptians Write?

- hieroglyphics**-a writing system made up of a combination of pictures and sound symbols
- wrote or painted on papyrus, not clay tablets

Uniting Egypt

- villages along Nile traded
- traders learned ways of life and governments from other societies

Forming Kingdoms

- farming and trading increased the need for organized government
- villages merged into small kingdoms, ruled by a king
- 4000 B.C.- Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt

Who Was Narmer?

- king of Upper Egypt
- married on of Lower Egypt's princesses
 - unified the kingdoms of Egypt
 - ruled by one king
- dynasty-right to rule was passed from father to son to grandson
- dynasties broke into three
 - Old Kingdom
 - Middle Kingdom
 - New Kingdom