

**READING ESSENTIALS AND STUDY GUIDE 2-3 (continued)**

**The Middle Kingdom** (pages 179–180)

**Main Idea** The Middle Kingdom was a golden age of peace, prosperity, and advances in the arts and architecture.

The Middle Kingdom lasted from about 2050 B.C. to 1670 B.C. It was a golden age of restored stability, prosperity, and achievement.

<p><b>Academic Vocabulary</b></p> <p><b>restore:</b> to put back into order or to fix (p. 179)</p>
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**The Drive for More Land** During the Middle Kingdom, Egypt took control of new lands. Egyptian soldiers captured Nubia and attacked what is now Syria. The conquered peoples sent **tribute**, or forced payments, to the pharaoh. With the payment, pharaohs built dams, increased farmland, and built a canal between the Nile and the Red Sea.

**The Arts Blossom** During the Middle Kingdom, arts, literature, and architecture flourished. Painters covered tombs and temples with colorful scenes. Sculptors created large carvings of the pharaohs. Poets wrote works that praised the pharaohs.

Instead of building pyramids, pharaohs had their tombs cut into cliffs. This area became known as the Valley of the Kings.

**Who Were the Hyksos?** The Middle Kingdom ended as nobles plotted to seize power from the pharaohs. Egypt also faced invaders from western Asia—the Hyksos.

The Hyksos army was superior to the Egyptian army. The Hyksos rode horse-drawn chariots into battle. The Egyptians went on foot. Hyksos arms were made of bronze and iron. This made them stronger than the Egyptians' copper and stone weapons.

The Hyksos ruled Egypt for about 120 years. Then, around 1550 B.C., an Egyptian prince named Ahmose drove them out of Egypt.

7. Why were the Hyksos able to defeat the Egyptians?

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**READING ESSENTIALS AND STUDY GUIDE 2-3 (continued)****The New Kingdom** (*pages 180–181*)

**Main Idea** During the New Kingdom, Egypt acquired new territory and reached the height of its power.

Ahmosé's reign began a period known as the New Kingdom. From 1550 B.C. to 1080 B.C., Egypt grew richer and more powerful.

**A Woman Ruler** About 1473 B.C., a queen named Hatshepsut came to power. First, she ruled with her husband. After he died, she governed for her young nephew. Finally, she made herself pharaoh. Hatshepsut became the first woman to rule Egypt in her own right.

Hatshepsut was interested in trade more than conquest. During her reign, Egyptian traders exchanged wheat, metal tools, and paper for wood and furniture from the Phoenicians.

Egyptian goods were then traded by the Phoenicians to other people across the Middle East.

**Expanding the Empire** When Hatshepsut died, her nephew Thutmose III became pharaoh. Thutmose's armies expanded Egypt's borders north to the Euphrates River. His troops also regained control of Nubia, which had broken free from Egypt earlier.

Thutmose's empire grew rich. It claimed gold, copper, ivory, and other valuable goods from conquered peoples. Egypt also enslaved prisoners of war. These slaves were put to work building palaces, temples, and monuments. However, slaves could also own land, marry, and eventually gain their freedom.

8. What made Hatshepsut's rule different from that of her nephew Thutmose?

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**READING ESSENTIALS AND STUDY GUIDE 2-3 (continued)****Legacies of Two Pharaohs** (pages 183–184)

**Main Idea** Akhenaton tried to change Egypt's religion, while Tutankhamen is famous for the treasures buried with him in his tomb.

About 1370 B.C., Amenhotep IV came to the throne. He and his wife, Nefertiti, tried to lead Egypt in a new direction.

**A Religious Reformer** The pharaohs were losing power to the priests. In an attempt to maintain his own power, Amenhotep started a new religion. People could worship only one god, called Aton. When the priests protested, Amenhotep removed many from their positions, seized their lands, and closed their temples. He changed his name to Akhenaton, or "Spirit of Aton." He began ruling Egypt from a new city.

Most Egyptians resisted Akhenaton's changes. They refused to accept Aton as the only god. Meanwhile, Akhenaton neglected his duties. He took no action when enemies attacked Egypt from what is now Turkey. These people were called the Hittites. Their invasion cost Egypt most of its lands in western Asia.

**The Boy King** When Akhenaton died, his son-in-law inherited the throne. The new pharaoh, Tutankhamen, was only 10 years old. He relied on help from palace officials and priests. He restored the old religion. After nine years, Tutankhamen died.

In 1922, Howard Carter, a British archaeologist, unearthed Tutankhamen's tomb. Besides the king's mummy, he found a gold mask of the pharaoh's face. Most royal tombs in Egypt had been looted by robbers. Carter's find enabled the boy king to capture people's imaginations. He became known as "King Tut."

9. Why was Akhenaton's new religion so unpopular?

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**Academic Vocabulary**

**maintain:** to keep control of a situation (p. 183)

**READING ESSENTIALS AND STUDY GUIDE 2-3 (continued)**

**The End of the New Kingdom** (pages 184–186)

**Main Idea** Under Ramses II, Egypt regained territory and built great temples, but the empire fell by 1150 B.C.

Ramses II reigned for 66 years, from 1279 B.C. to 1213 B.C. During this time, Ramses regained lands in western Asia and constructed several new temples.

**Why Were Temples Built?** Under Ramses II and other New Kingdom leaders, many temples rose throughout Egypt. Many were built by slaves. The most magnificent temple was Karnak at Thebes. Karnak has a huge hall that impresses visitors today.

Egyptian temples were different from modern churches, temples, and mosques. They did not hold regular services. Most Egyptians prayed at home. Temples were houses for the gods and goddesses. Priests and priestesses performed daily rituals there. They washed statues of the deities and brought them food.

The temples also served as banks. Inside, Egyptians stored valuables such as gold jewelry, sweet-smelling oils, and finely woven cloth.

**Egypt's Decline and Fall** After Ramses II, Egypt's power faded. Using strong iron weapons, groups from the eastern Mediterranean attacked Egypt by sea.

By 1150 B.C., Egypt had lost its empire. Starting in 900 B.C., one outside group after another ruled Egypt. The first conquerors were Libyans, who came from the west. In 750 B.C., the people of Kush, a land to the south, seized power. The Kush ruled Egypt for the next 80 years. Finally, in 670 B.C., Egypt was taken over by the Assyrians.

**10.** Why did Egyptians not use their temples for regular prayer services?

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<p><b>Academic Vocabulary</b></p> <p><b>construct:</b> to build or put together (p. 184)</p>
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