

Chapter 3 Section 4 Notes

Egyptian Culture

I. Everyday life

A. Social Classes

1. Pharaoh: top of social class "pyramid"
2. Small upper class: priests, members of pharaoh's court, nobles
3. Middle Class: merchants, skilled workers
4. Peasants: largest class; farmed built roads and temples
5. Slaves: prisoners captured in war; could own personal items, inherit land, and be set free

B. Roles of Women

1. Had most rights men had: could own property, run businesses, enter into legal contracts
2. Held many occupations: farmer, hunter, priestess, dancer
3. Noble women could be in charge of temples or act as regents

II. Achievements

A. Writing

1. Hieroglyphs: picture-like symbols stood for ideas, things, or sounds
2. Used to keep track of kingdom's wealth, ideas
3. Switched from writing of clay and stone to papyrus, early form of paper

B. Time

1. Astronomers studied stars to predict when Nile would flood
2. Figured out length of year to be 365 days

C. Medicine

1. Able to perform surgery, set broken bones, treat spine injuries
2. Practiced herbalism to ease stomachaches, headaches, fevers
3. Ancient Greeks and Romans learned from Egyptian medical knowledge