

THE HUMANITIES: The Ancient World and the Classical Past

Chapter 3 – THE STABILITY OF ANCIENT EGYPT: Flood and Sun

What was the lifeblood and heart of the Egyptian culture? Why? What made Egypt one of the most productive cultures in the ancient world? Identify the difference between the “Black Land” and the “Red Land”.

What are the three main periods of achievement of Egyptian history?

What kind of government was found in Ancient Egypt? Which god did the Egyptians believe the king personified? What did the Egyptians believe was the aim of the individual, the state, and the gods?

Why did the Egyptians believe that a good deity like Osiris required a bad deity like Seth?

What god descended into the realm of the dead to rescue Osiris?

Why was the Palette of Narmer created? In what was it similar to the Royal Standard of Ur? Why did Egyptian artists paint human’s faces, arms, legs, and feet in profile?

How was the Egyptian preoccupation with burial and the afterlife expressed? What role did their concern with the ka and ba play in this?

Who was Imhotep? Why is he significant?

Identify the importance of the Rosetta Stone.

How do we know that Egyptians considered sculpture to be of monumental importance? Why did Egyptian sculptors idealize rulers in their sculptures? Why was the choice of material important and symbolic?

How did literature change during the Middle Kingdom?

What does a clenched fist have to do with Egyptian art of the Middle Kingdom?

Who were the Hyksos? What did they contribute? What impact did they have on Egyptian history?

How are the reliefs on Ramses II on the pylon gate at Luxor an example of art as propaganda?

Who introduced a form of monotheism focused on Aten? Why? What impact did this have on visual arts?

Why was Howard Carter’s discovery of Tutankhamun’s tomb so “wonderful?”

What is an Ammit? What was its purpose? What text was to help Egyptians survive the ritual of judgment?

How did the Kushites come to rule Egypt in the eighth century BCE?

What evidence suggests Egypt had contact with other civilizations?

Vocabulary:

ankh

ka

serekh

ba

pharaoh

theocracy

hieroglyphic

sarcophagus

votive