Egypt

The Old Kingdom
Vocabulary:

- Narmer (Menes)- King that united Upper and Lower Egypt

- Old Kingdom – Began around 2600BC, rise of Egyptian cities as centers for religion and government

- Artisans- someone who is skilled at a craft

- Pharaoh – “Great House”, Egyptian Kings
Vocabulary (continued):

- Granaries – buildings used for storing grain
- Pyramids – “Houses of Eternity” tombs for pharaohs
- Hapi – Egyptian River God
- Re – Egyptian Sun God
- Osiris – Egyptian God of Harvest and Eternal Life
Vocabulary (continued):

- **Isis** – Wife of Osiris, ruled underworld with Osiris

- **“Book of the Dead”** – Egyptian Holy Book, studied for Egyptians to gain eternal life

- **Embalming** – preserving dead bodies

- **Natron** – chemical used by ancient Egyptians during the embalming process

- **Mummy** – Linen wrapped embalmed body
I. Intro to the Old Kingdom

- Egypt was originally 2 separate kingdoms Upper and Lower Egypt, until united by the Egyptian King Narmer
  - Conquered lower Egypt and married a princess from lower Egypt to unite the two kingdoms
  - Narmer wore a double crown
  - Established Memphis as Capital City
I. Intro to the Old Kingdom (continued)

- During the Old Kingdom Egyptian cities become centers for religion and government

- Most Egyptians lived on estates owned by wealthy land owners along the Nile
  - Estate owners of estates lived in wood and brick houses with gardens and pools, and the walls were decorated with colorful paintings
  - Estate owners households consist of the owners family, servants, and artisans
Farmers (most Egyptians) lived in small villages that were built on the large estates

- Their houses were made of reeds and sun baked bricks, and were built on higher ground
- Farmers worked in the fields and raised cattle, during the off season they built religious monuments, dug ditches, repaired roads
II. The Pharaoh

• Pharaoh was ruler, priest, and a god to the Egyptians

• Pharaoh owned all the land in Egypt
  – He gave gifts of land to wealthy Egyptians and Priests
II. The Pharaoh (continued)

• Pharaoh’s Responsibilities:
  – In charge of irrigation systems
  – In charge of storing grain for off season
  – Chose government officials, such as tax collectors
  – In charge of foreign trade
  – Served as high priest, had to make gods happy

• Pharaoh’s Perks:
  • People bowed down to worship Pharaoh
  • People played music for Pharaoh
  • Pyramids were built for Pharaoh
III. Pyramids

• Tombs built for the Pharaohs, “Houses of Eternity”
• Built on the west bank of the Nile River to symbolize the sunset
• Most famous of the Pyramids are found at Giza
III. Pyramids (Continued)

• Built to protect the Pharaoh’s body from wild animals, robbers, and floods

• The pharaohs personal belongings were placed inside with the body
Farmers built the Pyramids in the off season, when the fields were flooded.

Pyramid Building Process:

1. Large blocks of limestone were cut from the quarries, by hand with copper tools.
2. Blocks were tied to sleds and floated across the Nile River.
3. Workers unloaded them and drug them into place using large ramps made of mud and brick.
IV. Religious Beliefs

- Polytheistic – belief in many gods

- Hapi (River God) and Re (Sun God) were responsible for making crops grow
IV. Religious Beliefs (Continued)

- Osiris (God of Eternal Life) and Isis (Wife of Osiris) ruled the Underworld

Osiris  Isis
IV. Religious Beliefs (Continued)

- Egyptian Entry to Eternal Life:
  1. During life a person studies the “Book of the Dead”
  2. After a person dies they stand before Osiris and Isis, their heart is placed on a scale and weighed against feathers, if the person studied the “Book of the Dead” and knew all the spells the scale balanced
  3. IF the scale balanced they were granted eternal life
IV. Religious Beliefs (Continued)

• Egyptians believed that the soul could not exist without the body, so the bodies were preserved through a process called embalming.

• This began a something that was only done for Pharaohs and eventually became something that was done for every Egyptian.
IV. Religious Beliefs (Continued)

• Egyptian Embalming Process:
  1. Organs were removed
  2. Body was covered in Natron to dry out the body and shrink the skin
  3. The embalmed body was then wrapped in linen, this is called a mummy