

CHAPTER  
**2**  
SECTION 3

# Note Taking Study Guide

## KINGDOM ON THE NILE

**Focus Question:** How did the Nile influence the rise of the powerful civilization of Egypt?

*As you read this section in your textbook, complete the outline below to identify the main ideas about the Nile kingdoms under each heading.*

|      |       |
|------|-------|
| I.   | _____ |
| A.   | _____ |
| B.   | _____ |
| II.  | _____ |
| A.   | _____ |
| B.   | _____ |
| III. | _____ |
| A.   | _____ |
| B.   | _____ |
| IV.  | _____ |
| A.   | _____ |
| B.   | _____ |

## CHAPTER

## 2

## SECTION 3

## Section Summary

## KINGDOM ON THE NILE

## READING CHECK

What are the three main periods of Egyptian history?

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## VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *displaced* mean in the underlined sentence? The prefix *dis-* means "away," or "apart." The root *-place* means "a spot or position." Use these clues to help you figure out what *displaced* means.

## READING SKILL

**Identify Supporting Details** Find two details in this Summary that support the statement, "Geography helped to shape Egypt."

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Fertile land along the Nile brought early peoples to Egypt, and over time, a powerful Egyptian civilization arose. Farming flourished in the rich soil deposits from annual river floods. The surrounding desert served as a buffer from frequent invasions. Early governments formed to organize an irrigation system.

Egypt was made up of two regions. Upper Egypt began at the Nile's first **cataract**, or waterfall, in the south. Lower Egypt covered the Nile's **delta**, the triangular marshland where it emptied into the Mediterranean. About 3100 B.C., King Menes united both regions, forming one of the world's first unified states. Though leadership passed from one **dynasty**, or ruling family, to another, Egypt generally remained united. Egypt's history is divided into three main periods: the Old Kingdom, the Middle Kingdom, and the New Kingdom.

During the Old Kingdom, **pharaohs**, or Egyptian kings, organized a strong central government and established a **bureaucracy**, with different jobs and authority levels. A **vizier**, or chief minister, was the pharaoh's chief of government business. The Great Pyramids stand at Giza today as a lasting reminder of Old Kingdom achievements.

The Middle Kingdom saw unpredictable flooding and rebellion. Yet, strong leaders expanded farmable lands, dispatched armies into gold-rich Nubia, and sent traders to the Middle East. However, by about 1700 B.C., foreign invaders, called the Hyksos, conquered the Nile delta using a new military technology: war chariots.

After more than 100 years of Hyksos rule, powerful Egyptian leaders ushered in the New Kingdom, an age of expansion. One of these leaders was **Hatshepsut**, the first female pharaoh. She sent trading expeditions along the eastern Mediterranean and Red Sea. Her stepson, **Thutmose III**, a great military leader, stretched Egypt's borders to their greatest extent. Much later, **Ramses II** pushed north into Syria. During his reign, Egypt battled the Hittites, but ultimately signed a peace treaty. This treaty is the oldest surviving document of its kind.

After 1100 B.C., Egyptian civilization slowly declined. The Assyrians and then the Persians invaded. In 332 B.C., the last Egyptian dynasty ended as Greeks took control. Finally, in 30 B.C., Roman armies displaced the Greeks.

## Review Questions

1. How did Egypt benefit from the Nile River?

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2. Who was Hatshepsut?

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