

UNIT 11: EARLY CIVILIZATIONS

1. THE FIRST CIVILIZATION

2. MESOPOTAMIA

- a. Mesopotamian civilization. Timeline
- b. Mesopotamian society: social pyramid
- c. Mesopotamian cultura

3. ANCIENT EGYPT

- a. The Nile
- b. The pharaohs
- c. Ancient Egyptian society
- d. Ancient Egyptian chronology
- e. Egyptian religious beliefs
- f. Egyptian art

1. THE FIRST CIVILIZATIONS

a. The invention of writing.



Writing appeared in Mesopotamia over 5000 years ago (3000 b. C). This invention was so important that it marks the end of Prehistory and the beginning of History.

As villages grew into towns, writing was a way of storing information about taxes, trade and population.

TYPES:

- Cuneiform:



<p>- Hieroglyphic:</p>	
<p>- Ideograms</p>	

b. The first civilizations

- 5000 years ago: Mesopotamia, Egypt, India and China.
- These are called **river civilizations** developed along large rivers with fertile land:
 - Mesopotamia: Between the Tigris and Euphrates



- Egypt: the Nile



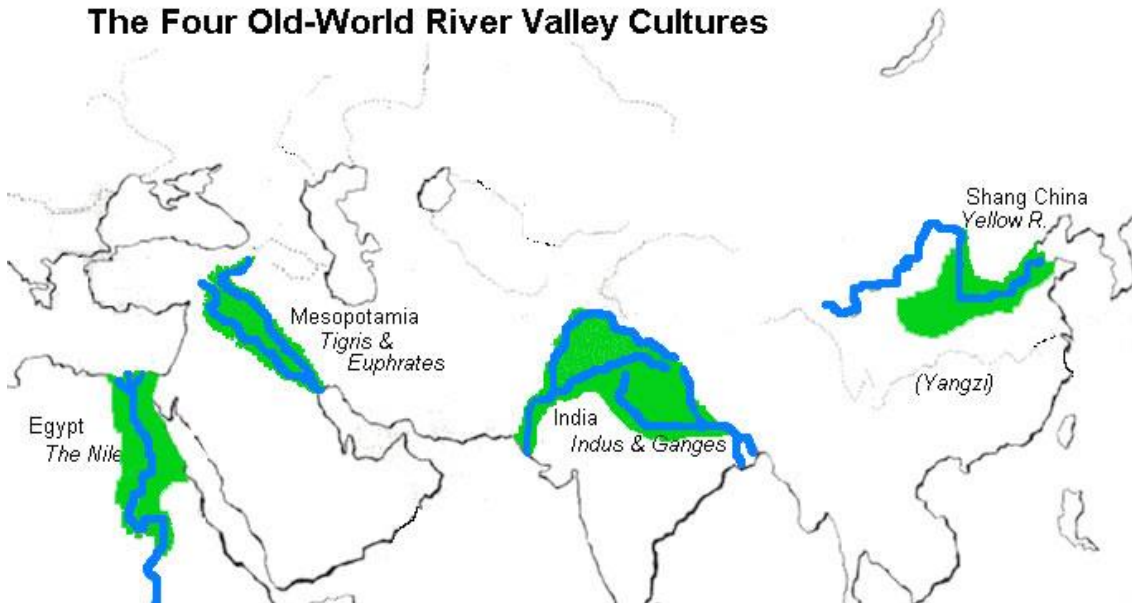
- India: the Indus River



- China: the Yellow (Huang He) and Blue (Yangtze) Rivers



The Four Old-World River Valley Cultures



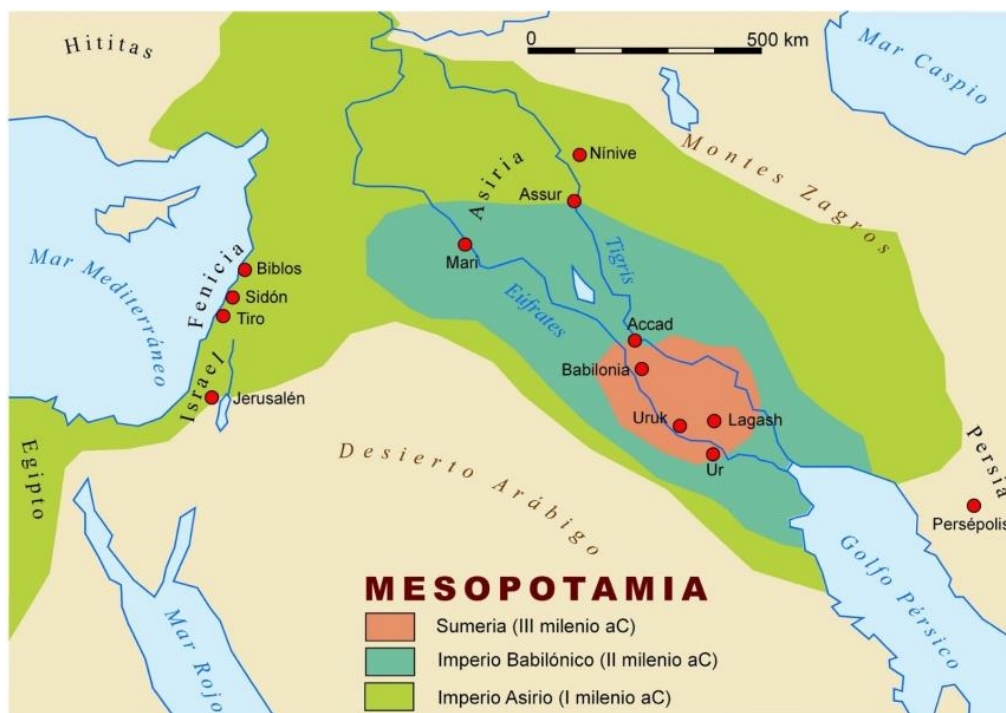
c. Main features:

1. The **king** was the most powerful person. He made laws, led the army and had a religious functions.
2. Society was **hierarchical**. It was divided into different groups:
 - Privileged people: owners of the lands, wealth and with important posts in public institutions.
 - The majority of the population was much poorer.

3. They built **large buildings** such as palaces, temples and tombs.

2. MESOPOTAMIA

An eye for an eye...



a. Mesopotamian civilization. Timeline

- **Meaning:** Mesopotamia means “between rivers” Tigris and Euphrates.
- **Mesopotamia area:** is a dry area. However (sin embargo), the rivers and Canals allowed them to cultivate. Also, Mesopotamia was in

the middle between Asia Minor and the Mediterranean, so they used to trade.

- **Cuneiform writing:** They were the first to use writing about 5000 years ago.
- **Timeline:**

3000 b.C.	2330 b.C.	1800 b.C	1356 b.C.	612 b.c	539 b.C.
Sumerian Period	Arkadian Empire	Babylonian Empire	Assyrian Empire	Neo-Babylonian Empire	Persian Conquest

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- **Hammurabi**

code: It was one of the earliest law code. It was based on the law of “an eye for and eye”.

"Si un hombre golpea a otro libre en una disputa y le causa una herida, aquel hombre jurará "Aseguro que no lo golpeé adrede" y pagará el médico".

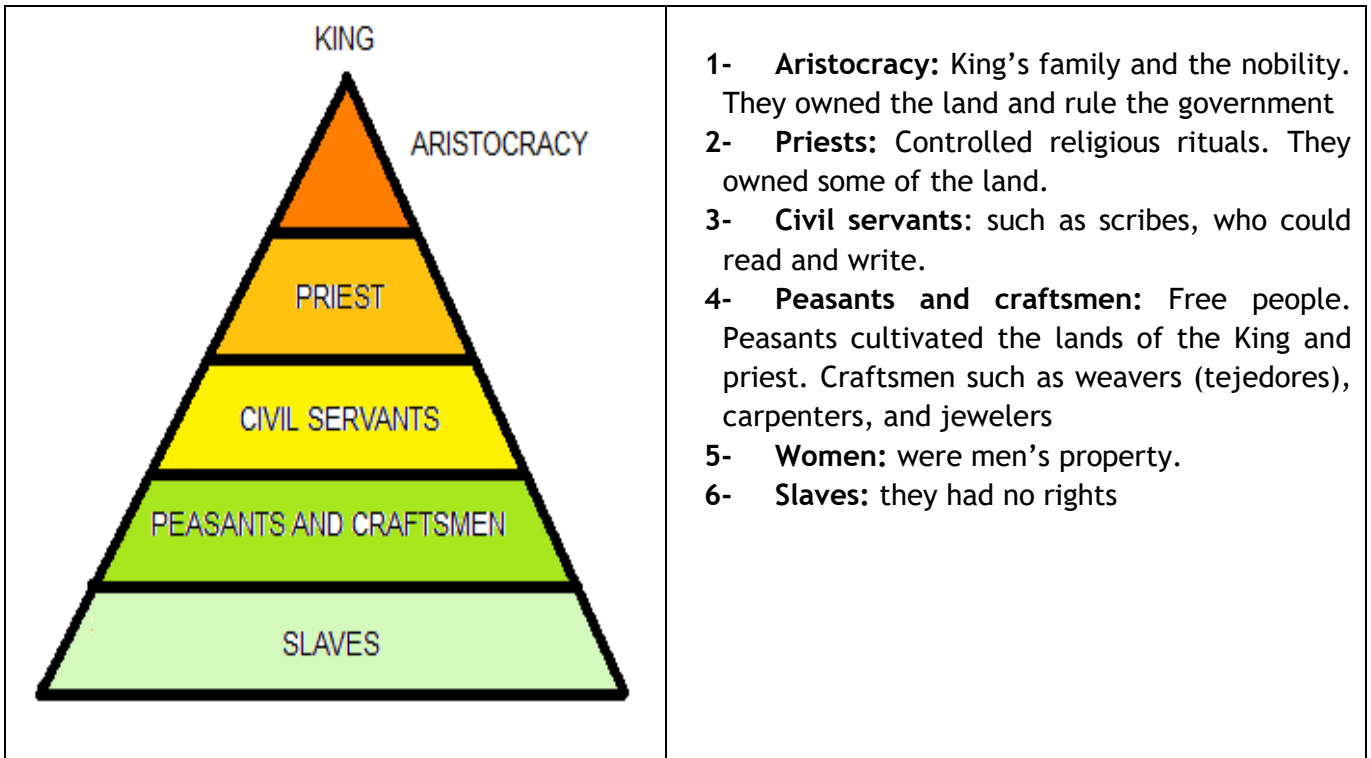
"Si un hombre ha ejercido el bandidaje y se le encuentra, será condenado a muerte."

"Si un hombre ha acusado a otro hombre y le ha atribuido un asesinato y éste no ha sido probado en su contra, su acusador será condenado a muerte."

"Si un hombre ha reventado el ojo de un hombre libre, se le reventará un ojo."

PG. 180 TEXT

b. Mesopotamian society: social pyramid



Example: The Standard of Ur

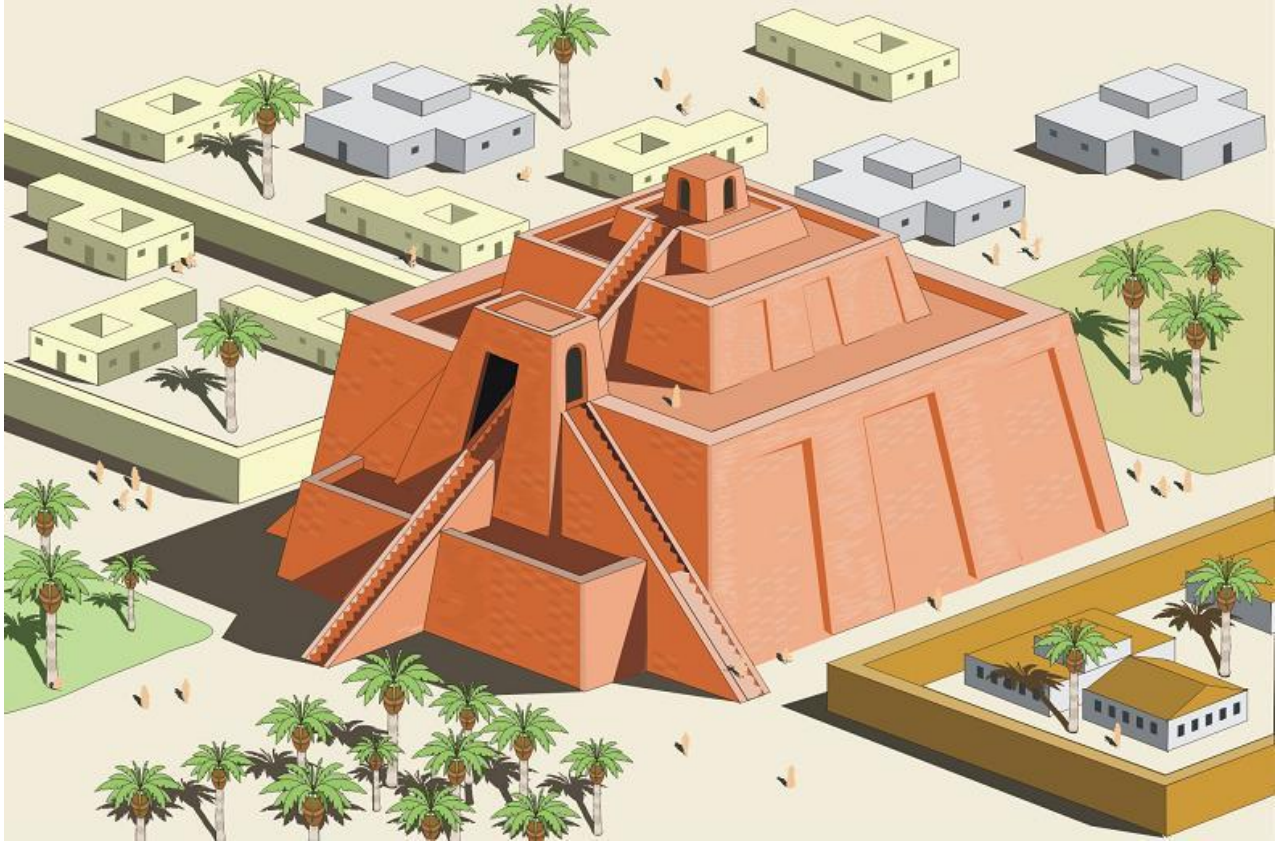


c. Mesopotamian culture

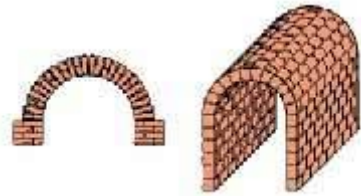
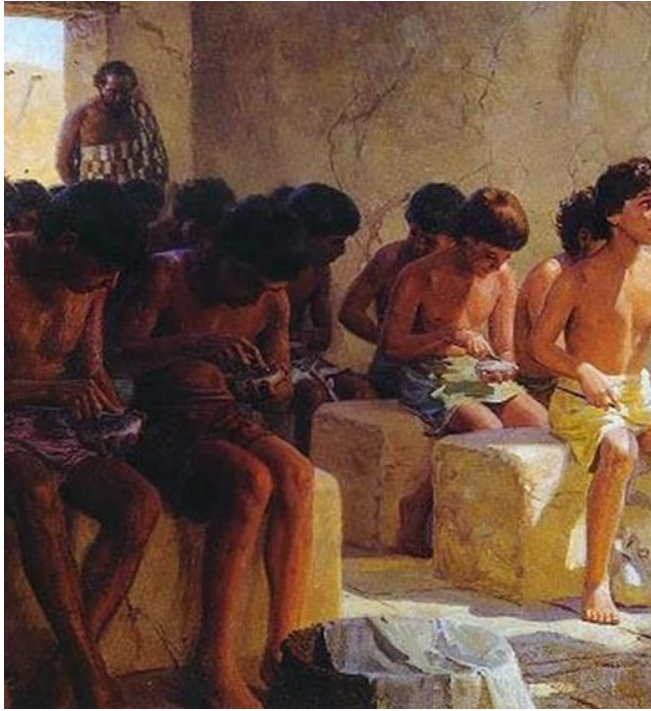
1- Religion

a. POLYTHEISTIC: They believed in many gods, similar to human beings but immortals

b. Ziggurats: Gods' residences on Earth. "The staircase to heaven"



2- The first schools: were in Mesopotamia. They taught scribes, scientists and theologians. Only male children from rich families went to school.



3- Art

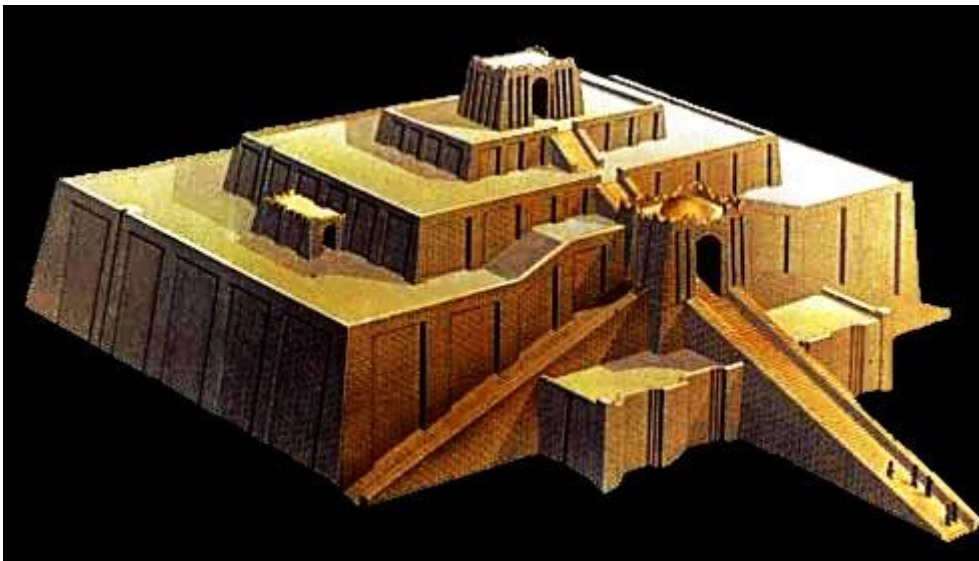
a. Architecture: They invented the arch and the vault and they used brick and adobe.

Example: Ishtar Gate.





Zigurat de Ur (fotocopia 67)



LECTURA pg 159



b. Sculpture: They made Stone statues and reliefs of kings, gods, animals and bulls.

3. ANCIENT EGYPT

Do you know? Mummy, pyramid, sphinx, tutankamon

a. The Nile

Ancient Egypt is one of the most important civilizations in History. The origins date back to about 3100 b. C. until the conquer of the Romans in the first century.

Why was the River Nile so important?

- The land was fertile there. It flooded the area each year and it left mud which made the fields fertile
- The Egyptians built dams and canals to hold and to carry water inland.
- The River Nile was also the main "motorway". Sailing ships transported people and goods.
- Egyptians Civilization would have not existed without the Nile.



b. The pharaohs

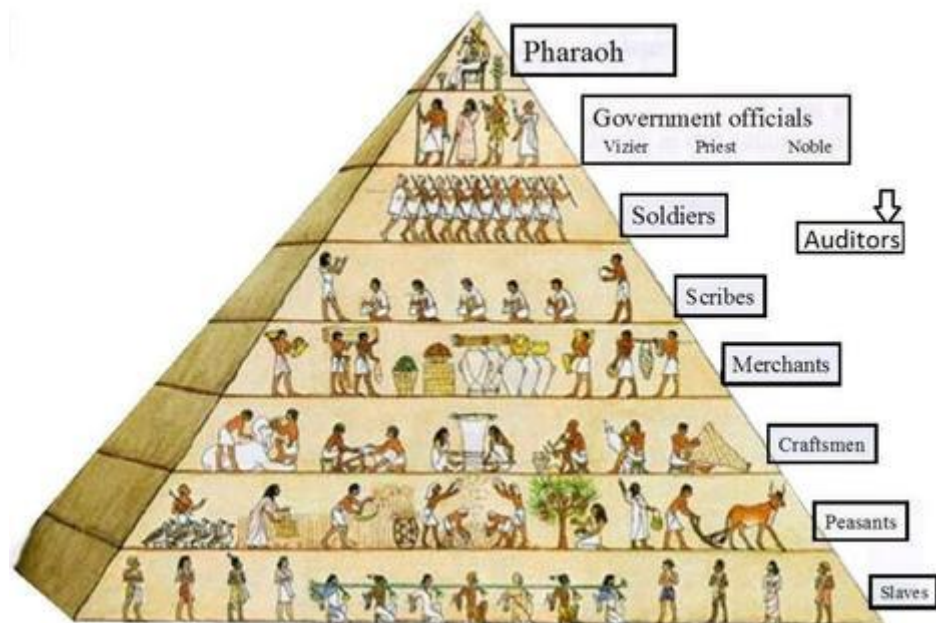
- **The origins:** King Menna united all the territories along the River Nile. Their king was called Pharaoh.
- **The power of the pharaoh:** Egyptians believed that the pharaohs were gods. He passed laws, ruled the country, owned the land, controlled trade and led the army.
Nobody could look at the pharaoh in the eye or touch his body.

PG. 182

c. Ancient

Egyptian

society



- **Elite:**
 - a. Noblemen: Received land and treasures from the pharaoh. They ruled the provinces.
 - b. Priest: They also owned lands
 - c. Soldiers
 - d. Scribes: They were able to read, write and count. They were very important.
- **The majority of the population:**
 - a. Peasants: They cultivated the lands of the pharaoh, the priests and noblemen.
 - b. Craftsmen: They made sculptures, pottery, papyrus and linen.
 - c. Merchants: they sold wood, minerals, perfumes, ...
 - d. Servants: were free people who worked for a salary.
 - e. Slaves: were war prisoners without rights. They built monuments, worked in mines or fought as soldiers.
- **Women:** most of them worked in house, as peasants or servants. They had some rights, more than in Mesopotamia.

d. Ancient Egyptian chronology

1- The old Kingdom (3100 bc to 2200 bc):
Capital Memphis.

2- Middle Kingdom (2050 bc to 1800 bc): Capital Thebes. The country expanded its frontiers to the south.

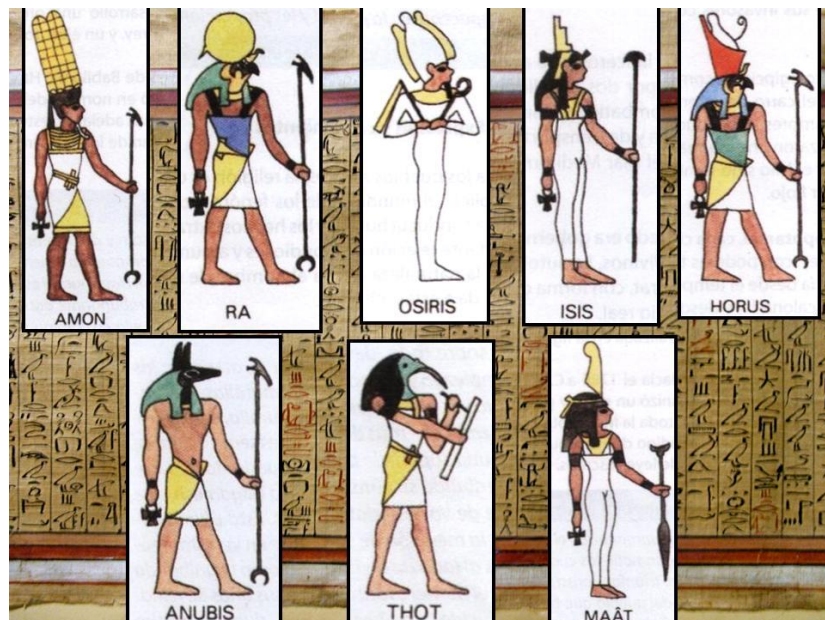
3- New Kingdom: (1580 bc to 1100 bc): Egypt conquered Libya and Syria. Some of the most famous pharaohs reigned in this period such as Amenhotep I, Akhenaten, Tutankhamun and Ramesses II.

4- Foreign invaders (1100 bc to 31 bc): Egypt was invaded by the Assyrians, the Persians, the Greeks and the Romans.

e. Egyptian religious beliefs

1- Gods:

- **RA:** The sun. It was the principal god.
- **OSIRIS:** God of the other life
- **ISIS:** Goddess of fertility and motherhood
- **HORUS:** God who protected the monarchy
- **ANUBIS:** God of the deads
- **SETH:** God of the chaos



2- Also worshipped:

- *Animals: such as the crocodile*
- *Natural features: such as the River Nile*
- *People: such as the pharaoh*

3- Afterlife: *Egyptians believed that there was an afterlife and they needed their dead body there, so they made **mummies** to preserve their bodies, which was put in **sarcophagus**. A tomb **needed** to contain things for the afterlife (food, jewels, statues of servants)*

ACT. 194-5



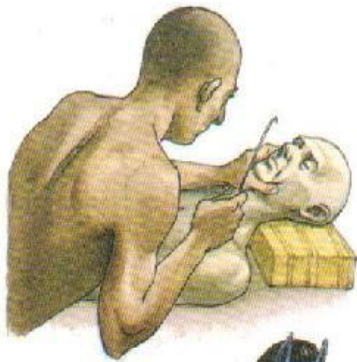
El proceso

▶ Primero, se lavaba el cuerpo del muerto con agua o con aceite de palma aromático.

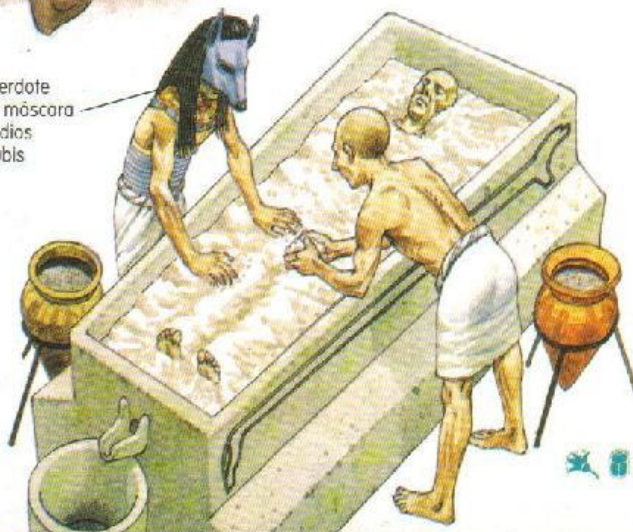
▼ El cerebro se sacaba en pedazos por la nariz con un largo gancho de bronce.



▶ El corazón se quedaba en el cuerpo, pero se extraían los intestinos, el hígado, los pulmones y el estómago. Se secaban con una sal llamada natrón. Luego se cubrían con la goma de un árbol, se les vendaba y se ponían en los "vasos canopes".



Sacerdote con máscara del dios Anubis



◀ El cuerpo se sumergía en natrón para secarlo. Lo sacaban después de 40 días. Rellenaban el interior con tela de lino, serrín o arena. A veces le metían los intestinos, el hígado, el estómago y los pulmones ya vendados.



Activity:

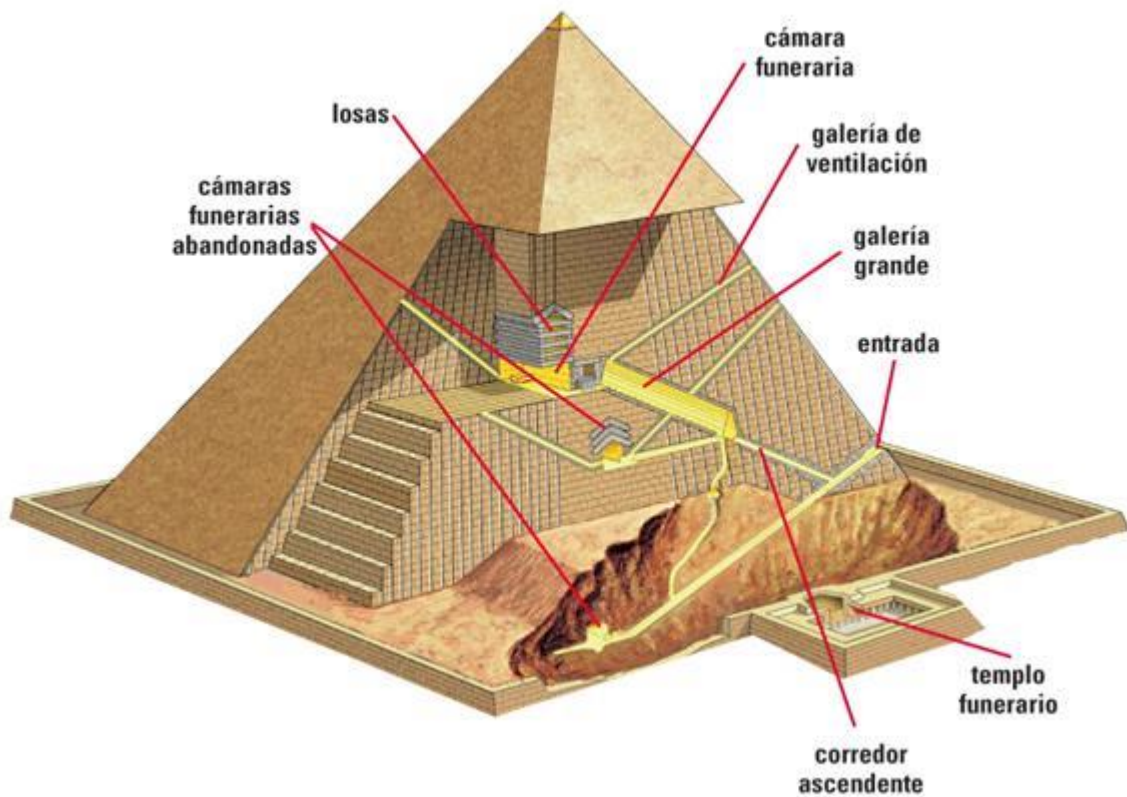
Who and what did the Egyptians worship?

Why did tombs have treasures in them?

Write a short description about mummification

4- Egyptian Tombs: PG 190

- **Pyramids:** The biggest tombs, were built for the pharaohs.

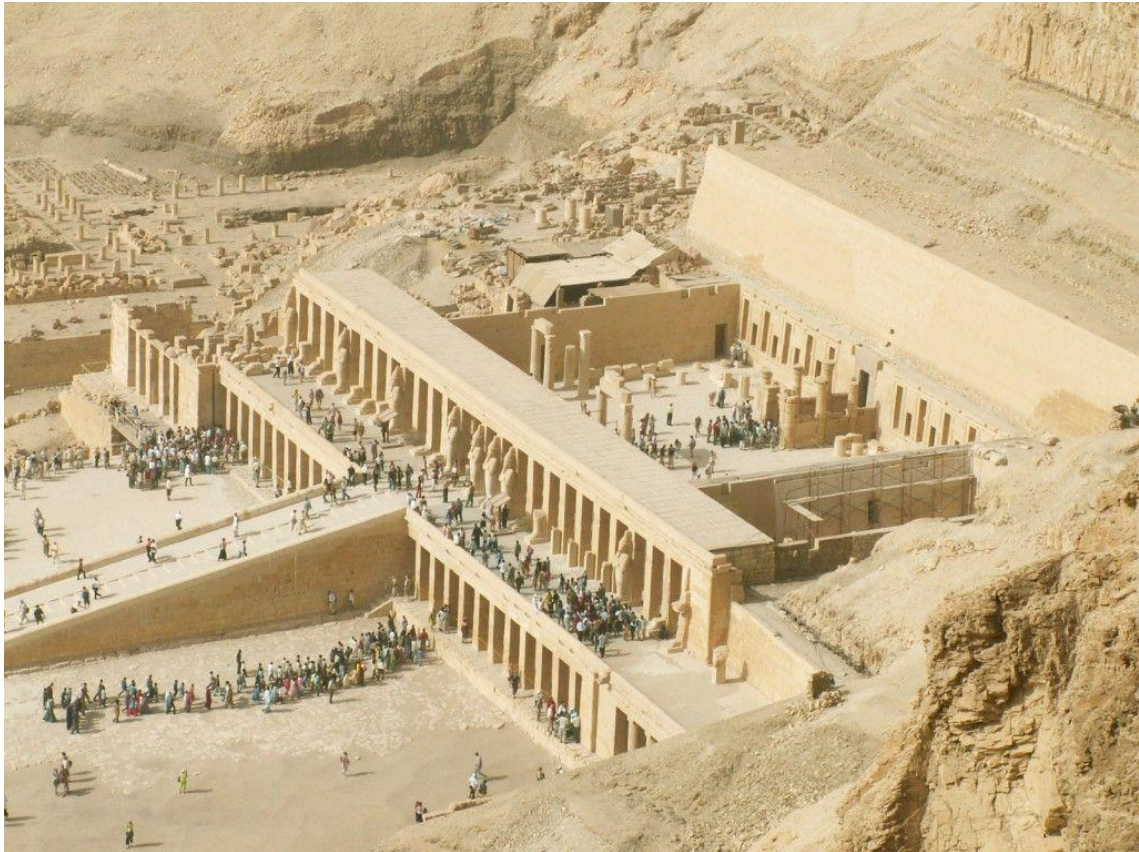


ACT. 192 -1

- **Mastaba:**



- **Hypogeum:**



f. Egyptian art

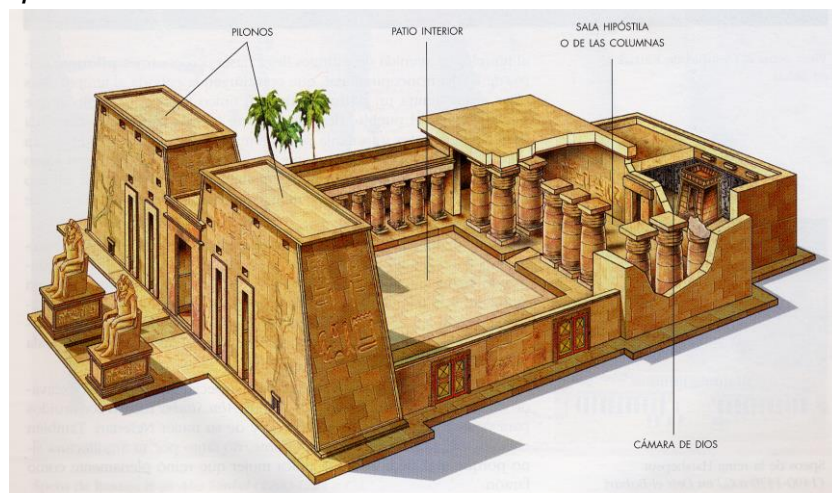
- **Meanings:**

- 1. Religious meaning: Temples and tombs decorated with paintings and reliefs.**

2. Political meaning: Large statues.



- **Temples:** Dedicated to gods. The most famous is the temple of Karnak with its big columns and the sphinxs.



- **Painting:** They painted with strict rules:

- 1.** Without perspective
- 2.** The human body is shown from the front, but the head, arms and legs are seen in profile.
- 3.** The person was idealised. They were always young and beautiful.
- 4.** Human figures are static, without movement.

Activity: Write a short description of the painting here. Use some of the language from the paragraph on painting.

