Ancient Egypt Study Guide

Vocabulary:

cataracts — river rapids

pharaoh — ruler of Egypt, means “great house”

delta — a triangle-shaped area of land made by soil deposits from a river

dynasty — a series of rulers from the same family

nobles — people from rich and powerful families

afterlife — life after death, (Egyptians believed in it)

mummification — way of preserving dead bodies by wrapping them in cloth

pyramids — huge stone tombs for pharaohs

hieroglyphics — Egyptian writing system that used symbols

papyrus — paper made from reeds (plant)

Rosetta Stone — stone slab discovered in 1799 that contained hieroglyphics and Greek language

sphinxes — huge Egyptian statues with heads of people and bodies of lions

obelisk — tall, 4 sided pillar that is pointed on top
Key Ideas:

- Egyptian life revolved around the Nile River
- Land along the Nile River was rich for growing crops
- Nile River is the longest river in the world
- Life was organized into two kingdoms - Upper Egypt (South) and Lower Egypt (North)
- Upper Egypt contained cataracts, flooded in midsummer
- Lower Egypt was located in the delta, flooded in fall
- pharaoh was considered king and god
- pharaoh owned everything and was responsible for anything that went wrong
- pharaoh was at the top of the social order
- most people in Ancient Egypt belonged to the lower class, they did most of the work
- bodies of pharaohs and other wealthy people were given mummification
- they preserved the bodies for the afterlife
- pyramids were built for dead rulers
- Egyptians invented first writing system called hieroglyphics that used symbols to represent sounds
- hieroglyphics were first carved on stone, then written on papyrus
- Rosetta Stone was discovered in 1799 and helped archeologists understand hieroglyphics
- sphinxes and obelisks were found at the entrances to the temples
- King Tutankhamen’s (King Tut) tomb was discovered in 1922,
  1. we learned a lot about Egyptian art and burial practices through the discovery of his tomb
  2. one of the few tombs that robbers had left untouched
Directions: Choose the best answer to each question.

1. The Ancient Greek short stories that offer life lessons are called
   a. gods
   b. mythology
   c. fables

2. What is the Greek word for city-state called?
   a. myth                          b. democracy
   c. polis                        d. fable

3. Why did the Ancient Greeks build their forts on top of hills?
   a. so they wouldn't flood from the waters
   b. to protect them from attacks
   c. to watch over their farms

4. The Ancient Greeks used to mythology to
   a. teach their children about religion
   b. write down their stories
c. explain natural events
d. create their own language

5. Aesop was famous for what?
   a. creating heroes and gods
   b. ruling Ancient Greece
   c. being a landowner
   d. writing fables

6. Who was one of the most famous women poets in Ancient Greece
   a. Sappho
   b. Hercules
   c. Athena

7. What did being a citizen mean to the Ancient Greeks?
   a. they could rule Greece
   b. they could own lots of land
   c. they could have a say in their government

8. True  or  False  (circle one)

   Ancient Greece was located on an island.

9. Ancient Greeks were skilled at which of the following:
   a. hunting
   b. shipbuilding
   c. conquering other nations
   d. inventing fireworks

10. What is an acropolis?
    a. Ancient Greek language
    b. tool used by the Ancient Greeks
c. a fable

d. a fortress on top of a hill