

Chap-4 / The Egyptian Civilisation / class-6

(A) Fill in the blanks : -

(1) King Menes (2) Emmer (3) Flykros

(4) Osiris (5) Pyramids (6) Hieratic and Demotic

(B) Tick the sentences that are true. Correct the others : -

(1) True (2) False / The Nile flooded from September to October.

(3) False / The early Egyptian domesticated cows, asses, pigs and geese.

(4) False / The Egyptians made linen out of flax plant. (5) False / The Egyptian wrote on papyrus. (6) True.

(C) Multiple Choice questions : -

(1) Herodotus (2) Cheopatra (3) Thoth (4) 5.

(D) Match the following : -

- ① gold death mask → Tutankhamen
- ② Isis → goddess of the Earth
- ③ Pharaoh → ruler
- ④ Sphinx → half-lion, half-human
- ⑤ loincloth → short-skirt

Ⓔ Answer in brief :-

① Why is Egypt known as the gift of the Nile?

ans/ Egypt is known as the gift of the Nile because,

① The river Nile would flood its banks and cover the valley floor in thick layers of fertile alluvium.

② This rich soil was ideal for agriculture and it contributed to the rise and growth of the Egyptian civilisation.

③ What gods did the Egyptians pray to?

ans/ ① The Egyptians worshipped and prayed 'Ra', the sun god, Thoth, the Moon god, Horus, the god of the sky.

① They also prayed, 'Isis', the goddess of the Earth and 'Osiris', the god of the afterworld.

④ Which were the animals domesticated by the ancient Egyptians? What were they used for?

ans. ① The Egyptians domesticated cows, asses, pigs, geese etc.

② These animals supplied meat, milk, hide and dung. Oxen were used to plough the land. Dogs and cats were kept as house pets.

⑤ What is a mummy?

ans. The Egyptians took a great care to preserve or embalm the dead bodies in spices and then wrapped up in linen. Such a preserved body was called a mummy.

Answer in detail

E

② Taken from the brief question: —

"The flooding of the Nile Valley was a source of both anxiety and relief for the farmers settled in the Nile Valley." Write in 3 points.

ans)

"The flooding of the Nile Valley was a source of both anxiety and relief for the farmers settled down in the Nile valley because,

① They had to flee for safety from the swirling waters.

② But the floods made their land rich and fertile.

③ The floods taught the people to build dams for storing water and construct canals for irrigating the fields.

① Write in three sentences about the nature of Egyptian society?

The nature of the Egyptian

society is,

(i) The 'pharaohs' were human gods, their words taken as divine law, their deeds and victories were recorded in inscriptions and carved out on temple walls.

(ii) There were nobles, priests and scribes. Government officials were drawn from the nobility.

(iii) The peasants, labourers, artisans, unskilled workers, traders, merchants came next in the social order. There were slaves also who were forced to work in mines, houses of the nobles.

(2) Was agriculture in Egypt advanced? Write three reasons for your answer?

ans) Agriculture in Egypt was advanced because, —

(i) The farmers build dams for storing water and construct canals for irrigating the fields.

(ii) They used oxen to plough the land as early 3000 BCE. The people used sickles made of Flint flint.

mounted on sticks to harvest the grain.

(iii) The farmers grew <sup>barley</sup> emmer, millet, flax, cotton, dates, apples, mulberries and the harvested grains were stored in the granaries.

(3) Write in three sentences about the Egyptian style of architecture?

ans) The Egyptian style of architecture are as follows, -

(i) The classic Egyptian pyramids were built with massive blocks of stone. For example, the pyramids at Giza, the first one built for the pharaoh 'Khufu' which is about 150 metres high and covers an area about 5 hectares.

(ii) The tomb walls were adorned with pictures, telling the life of the people, scenes of battle, hunting, sacrificial processions etc.

(iii) The Great Sphinx has been sculpted out of a single block of

stone. It has the head of a human being and the body of a lion. It is situated at Giza near the Great Pyramid.

(A) Write three sentences on the ancient Egyptian system of burial?

ans/ The ancient Egyptian system of burial are as follows, —

(i) The dead body was embalmed in spices and then wrapped up in linen which was called a mummy.

(ii) The mummy was put in a wooden box, decorated with paintings enclosed in a stone coffin and then buried in a tomb.

(iii) Food, drinks, clothes, furniture etc were put into the grave for use in the afterlife. Pharaohs were buried in grand and elaborate tombs known as pyramids.

⑤ Trace the evolution of writing in ancient Egypt. How is hieroglyphics different from the hieratic and demotic scripts?

ans) ① The first Egyptian script was known as hieroglyphics, meaning sacred writing.

② It consisted of 24 signs, each of which stood for one consonant.

③ There were no vowels. The next development was the use of two flowing scripts — hieratic and demotic.

④ These scripts are different from hieroglyphics and were used by priests and the common people.

⑥ What are the causes that led to the decline of the ancient Egyptian civilisation?



ans) The causes led to the decline of the ancient Egyptian Civilisation are as follows, —

(i) According to the historians, the constant wars by Ramesses II with the Hittites put a strain on the royal treasury.

(ii) Successive attacks from the Nubians, the Assyrians, the Persians and the Greeks weakened the Egyptian civilisation further.

(iii) Egypt was finally absorbed into the Roman Empire in 30 BCE and was reduced to the status of a mere province.

### Picture-Study

Look at the picture at the page no - 42

(i) What is it?

ans) It is the earliest stone pyramid.

(ii) In whose honour was it built?

ans) (ii) It was built for King Zoser at Saggara.

(iii) In which way is it different from the pyramid of Giza?

ans) It is different from the pyramid of Giza because it is the step pyramid built for the king.