

МИНОБРНАУКИ РОССИИ

**ФЕДЕРАЛЬНОЕ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОЕ БЮДЖЕТНОЕ
ОБРАЗОВАТЕЛЬНОЕ УЧРЕЖДЕНИЕ ВЫСШЕГО
ПРОФЕССИОНАЛЬНОГО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ
«ВОРОНЕЖСКИЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ»
(ФГБОУ ВПО «ВГУ»)**

Учебно-методическое пособие для вузов

ANCIENT HISTORY

Составители:
Крымова Г.В.
Фомина И.В.,

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UNIT I

HISTORY

- *What do you remember about West Asia? What is its significance? What nationalities used to inhabit it in Ancient times?*

Look through the text, divide it into four parts and match them to their titles given: **Greek History; Egyptian History; Roman History; West Asian History.**

Read the whole text and think of its possible title.

West Asia is also sometimes called the Near East or the Middle East: it is the part of Asia that is closest to the Mediterranean Sea. It covers all the land between modern Turkestan in the north, Afghanistan in the east, the Persian Gulf in the south, and the Mediterranean Sea in the west. West Asia was one of the first places where people farmed and lived in towns; it was also one of the first places that had kings and built cities. Historians and archaeologists disagree about whether the Egyptians or the Sumerians (the first people to build a civilization in West Asia) came first, but it was about the same time.

After the Sumerians, many other groups of people came to power in West Asia. Some of them, like the Assyrians or the Persians, stayed in power for hundreds of years, others, like the Acadians, only for a short time. Sometimes these groups ruled all of West Asia, like the Assyrians, the Greeks, the Parthians, or the Arabs. Other times West Asia was broken up into many small kingdoms: Israel, Phoenicia, Jordan, Babylon, Troy. The history of West Asia is pretty complicated, but mostly it is the story of some people trying to stay independent while other people try to get power over them.

Egypt is one of the most fertile areas of Africa, and one of the most fertile of the countries around the Mediterranean Sea. Because it is so fertile, people came to live in Egypt earlier than in most places, probably around 40,000 years ago. At first there were not very many people, but gradually Egypt became more crowded, so there was more need for a unified government. Around 3000 BC (5000 years ago), Egypt was first unified under one ruler, who was called the Pharaoh.

From that time until around 525 BC, when Egypt was conquered by the Persians, Egypt's history is divided into six different time periods. These are called the Old Kingdom, the First Intermediate Period, the Middle Kingdom, the Second Intermediate Period, the New Kingdom, and the Third Intermediate Period.

Germany as well, so that by 800 Charlemagne was able to establish a German Holy Roman that extended over France, Germany, and much of central Italy. After Charlemagne died, his sons split his into three parts so they could each have some, but it was the branch of the family who got Germany who continued to call themselves the Holy Roman

The Holy Roman continued Germany, and to some extent Italy, all through the Middle Ages. At first they were very, but later they lost power to the smaller German and Italian lords in each region.

SPEAKING

Imagine you and your group mates are travelling in time. You find yourself in indent West Asia where you have to live for a month. Compare Greek. Roman and Egyptian territories and choose the most pleasant place for living. Explain your choice.

UNIT II

HISTORY OF ANCIENT EGYPT

Read the text and find the topic sentences.

Ancient Egyptian Civilization

The origins of ancient Egyptian civilization, which many regard as one of the fountainheads of Western culture, cannot be established with certainty. Archaeological evidence suggests that early dwellers in the Nile Valley were influenced by cultures of the Near East, but the degree of this influence is yet to be determined. Describing the development of Egyptian civilization, like attempts to identify its intellectual foundations, is largely a process of conjecture based on archaeological discoveries of enduring ruins, tombs, and monuments, many of which contain invaluable specimens of the ancient culture. Inscriptions in hieroglyphs, for instance, have provided priceless data.

The framework for the study of the Dynastic period of Egyptian history, between the 1st dynasty and the Ptolemaic period, relies on the Aegyptiaca of Manetho, a Ptolemaic priest of the 3rd century BC, who organized the country's rulers into 30 dynasties, roughly corresponding to families. General agreement exists on the division of Egyptian history, up to the conquest of Alexander the Great, into Old, Middle, and New kingdoms with intermediate periods, followed by the late and Ptolemaic periods, but chronology and genealogy are continually being refined in light of new evidence and by the use of increasingly sophisticated dating techniques.

Answer the following questions:

1. What civilization do many researchers regard as one of the fountainheads of Western culture?
2. What does archaeological evidence suggest?
3. What is the process of describing the development of Egyptian civilization based on?
4. What does the frame work for the study of the Dynastic period of the Egyptian history rely on?
5. What do you know about Manetho?
6. Why are chronology and genealogy continually being refined?

VOCABULARY

1. *Give Russian equivalents to the following paying attention to the context:*

fountainheads, archaeological evidence, specimens of the ancient culture, inscriptions in hieroglyphs, priceless data, chronology and genealogy, in light of new evidence, sophisticated dating techniques.

2. Give English equivalents to the following:

Ближний Восток, Династический период, Манефон, Старое царство, Среднее царство, Новое царство, Птолемей

- What is meant by “prehistoric period”?

Prehistoric Period

Some 60,000 years ago the Nile River began its yearly inundation of the land along its banks, leaving behind rich alluvial soil. Areas close to the floodplain became attractive as a source of food and water. In time, climatic changes including periods of aridity, further served to confine human habitation to the Nile Valley, although this was not always true. From the Chalcolithic period (the Copper age, beginning about 4000 BC) into the early part of the Old Kingdom, people apparently used an extended part of the land.

In the 7th millennium BC, Egypt was environmentally hospitable, and evidence of settlements from that time has been found in the low desert areas of southern, or Upper, Egypt; remains of similar occupation have been discovered at Nubian sites in modern Sudan. Enough pottery has been found in Upper Egyptian tombs from the 4th millennium BC (in the Predynastic period) to establish a

relative dating sequence. The Predynastic period, which ends with the unification of Egypt under one king, is generally subdivided into three parts, each of which refers to the site at which its archaeological materials were found: Badarian, Amratian (Naqada I), and Gerzean (Naqada II and III). Northern sites (from about 5500 BC) have yielded datable archaeological material of apparent cultural continuity but no long-term sequences such as those found in the south.

Answer the following questions:

1. Why did areas close to the floodplain become attractive?
2. What confined human habitation to the Nile Valley?
3. Where has evidence of settlements from the 7th millennium BC been found?
4. How many parts is the Predynastic period generally subdivided into?

VOCABULARY

1. *Give Russian equivalents to the following paying attention to the context:*

inundation of the land, rich alluvial soil, floodplain, periods of aridity, environmentally hospitable, tomb, unification of Egypt under one king, datable archaeological material.

2. Give English equivalents to the following:

Энеолит, Бронзовый век, Бадарийский период, Амритский период, Герзенский период, Додинастический период

- What do you know about Early Dynastic (or Archaic) Period?

Read these texts and try to find the key sentences.

Early Dynastic (or Archaic) Period

Archaeological sources indicate the emergence, by the late Gerzean period (about 3200 BC), of a dominant political force that was to become the consolidating element in the first united kingdom of ancient Egypt. The earliest known hieroglyphic writing dates from this period; soon the names of early rulers began to appear on monuments. This period began with a 0 Dynasty, which had as many as 13 rulers, ending with Narmer (about 3100 BC), followed by the 1st and 2nd dynasties (about 3100-2755 BC), with at least 17 kings. Some of the earliest