Chapter 2  Africa: Gods, Rulers, and the Social Order, c. 3100 - 330 B.C.E.
Study Sheet - Part 1


1. Which direction does the Nile River flow___________________and approximately how long is it___________________?

2. Egyptian history was more stable than that of Mesopotamia because geographically Egypt was protect by ________________ and ________________.

3. If we consider that people’s religious beliefs in part reflect their environment, then the abundant sunlight and heat of Egypt made a _______god a natural choice for the place of honor in the Egyptian pantheon (the gods of a particular people).

4. The above god was called by several names: __________, ______________, or ______________.

5. The annual ________________of the Nile River became the basis of calculating the year and provided Egypt with a sense of order and security. It also enriched the surrounding land by depositing silt along the river banks.

6. The natural elements, and the flat landscape of Egypt, shaped Egyptian ________________, their ideas about the origin and structure of the universe.

7. Egyptian pharaohs are frequently depicted receiving their power from__________________.
(Also see Fig. 2.2 of Seostris I on p. 46)

8. Osiris, ruler of _______________ and god of the_________________ was slain by his brother Set. Set dismembered Osiris’s body and cast the pieces into the Nile. Isis, the wife of Osiris, collected the scattered pieces, enabling him to return to life. Their son was____________, who is depicted as a _______________ (see chart in left column of p. 46.)

9. The idea of ________________, central to ancient Egyptian belief, is dramatized in the Osiris myth.

10. The local settlements of Egypt along the Nile were united (give date) c. ___________ by ________________, the first pharaoh. The union of Upper and Lower Egypt is commemorated on the _______________ __ ________________.

11. The reed-like plants that grow along the Nile are ________________, used to make paper.

*Note the conventional manner of dividing Egyptian history into four different periods: Early dynastic, Old, Middle, and New Kingdoms (see p. 48, left column bottom.) Just remember that the Early Dynastic period begins c. 3100 B.C.E. and that Egypt was conquered by Alexander the Great in 332 B.C.E.*
12. Land in Egypt passed through the _____________________line, thus making it necessary for the king’s son to marry his own____________________________.

13. There were several female exceptions to male rule in Egypt. The most notable female pharaoh was __________________________(c. 1500 -1447 B.C.E.), who is often depicted in male clothes.

14. The notion that _________________ power descended to royalty legitimized a pharaoh’s rulership. One can say that rulership in Egypt was a _______________monarchy. 
*Note: Pharaohs were identified with Horus and the sun god.*

15. It was typical to express the power and might of rulers and gods by depicting them with attributes of ________________. Supply an example______________________________.

16. Unlike the situation in Mesopotamia, where Hammurabi had called for the codification of existing custom and law, in Egypt the unwritten decrees of the pharaohs were transmitted orally (by word of mouth) until they were finally written down during the ____________________________. *Note saying:* “The law of the land is the mouth of the pharaoh.”

17. Egyptian rulers (and other high-status individuals) expected to enjoy a life rich in pleasures and pastimes after death, similar to their earthly life. Thus elaborate preparations were made to supply them with all they would need in the afterlife. List at least five different provisions made for rulers to enjoy.

18. The technique of painting on dry walls of tomb chambers, such as the royal vault in the Great Pyramid of Khufu, is known as ____________________________. 

19. Most royal tombs were plundered (i.e., robbed of their contents). However, one fabulous tomb that was discovered in an untouched state belonged to _____________________________. It was discovered by Howard Carter in 1922.

20. A collection of funerary prayers that prepared and guided the individual for what occurred after death is known as _____________________________. The prayers may go back as far as 4000 B.C.E.

21. What gods and goddess preside over the weighing of the heart of the deceased? _______________ and _______________. Who does the actual weighing of the heart (look for his jackal-head)?
*Note: A heart found not to be “true” will be devoured by the monster Ament. We’ll see a picture of him in class, Osiris willing!*